

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 4, 2023



President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF opened the General Membership Meeting at 1930 Hours with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE :

- 33 in person
- 10 via Zoom

NEW MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE :

- Jim Ricketts KC3TYH from Media, PA
- Glen Guenther KE2BUO from Sewell, NJ

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Tech Saturday Forums begin 9 AM at the W2MMD Clubhouse on the Saturdays following the monthly General Membership Meetings. The October 7th Tech Saturday will feature **Jim Wright N2GXJ** continuing his presentation on Antenna Modeling and Simulation. Members are encouraged to download the free 4NEC2 software and bring their laptop computers for a hands-on session.

- Tech Saturday November 4th : **Mike Thompson KG4JYA** on Radio Astronomy
- Tech Saturday December 9th : **Jon Pearce WB2MNF** on "Raspberry Pi, From Zero to Hamclock"
- Tech Saturday January 6, 2024 : **Chris Prioli AD2CS** on Repair of the Club's Yaesu Satellite Antenna Rotator

We have a number of events in October :

- October 9 : TechNet ZOOM Forum at 8 PM
- October 18 : Board of Directors Meeting at the Clubhouse
- October 25 : Dinner at the Clubhouse
- October 28 : CQWW DX Contest, 9 AM - Noon

Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF asked Club members about their current activities :

- **Marc Federici WM2Y** brought in his experimental "Fox" that was used in the last Fox Hunt.
- **Chris Prioli AD2CS** bought a new QRP CW Transceiver kit.

The minutes of the September General Membership Meeting were approved.

TREASURER : **John O'Connell K2QA** reported YTD Budgeted items :

- Income : \$13,988
- Expenses : \$8,457
- Net Gain : \$5,531

Use of \$5,375 is restricted leaving \$17,438 unrestricted. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

New envelopes have been printed for use in paying dues, making donations, etc. Also, the hospitality fund that is used to pay for refreshments provided by **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** runs a monthly deficit of \$40 to \$50 so Club members are asked to chip in.

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CLUBHOUSE REPORT : **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** noted that the Clubhouse will need to be winterized. Planning for the new VHF towers is underway and he hopes that concrete bases can be poured before the weather becomes too cold. **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** reported progress in ridding the Clubhouse of old gear that never will be used. Among the items available are a Ten-Tec model 544 HF transceiver with 262G speaker/power supply, a Drake 2-A receiver with a 2-BQ speaker/Q-Multiplier, and an ELDICO R-104 receiver.

FUTURE PROGRAMS : **Ron Block NR2B** provided a slide summarizing topics for the upcoming General Membership Meetings :

- Tonight : **Jim Wright N2GXJ** on design of the Club's 160-meter loop antenna
- November 1st : **Mike Thompson KG4JYA** on Radio Astronomy
- December 6th : (nothing currently scheduled)
- January 3, 2024 : **Robert Welsh N3RW** on Radio Astronomy and the Radio Amateur

HAMFEST : **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** commented that the rain kept down attendance during the talk by **Jim Wright N2GXJ** and was so severe that it was difficult to hear at times. The talk by **ARRL Atlantic Division Director Robert Famiglio K3RF** was well attended. **Jonathan, Frank Romeo N3PUU** and **John O'Connell K2QA** took the opportunity to discuss several issues with **Robert** when he toured the W2MMD Clubhouse following the hamfest.

DX and CONTESTS : **Tony Starr K3TS** noted the following contests :

- October 7 - 8 : California QSO Party
- October 14 - 15 : Pennsylvania QSO Party
- October 21 - 22 : New York QSO Party
- October 28 - 29 : CQ WW DX SSB

PUBLIC SERVICE : **Karl Frank W2KBF** reviewed the plan for the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) that will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2023. This will be a joint exercise between ARES and the New Jersey American Red Cross (NJ-ARC) with an emphasis on use of Winlink to transmit data on Red Cross Forms. **Greg Ciraula W5DO** and **Bob Keogh KD2NEC** attended a SKYWARN training session in Mount Holly. Greg has published an article about SKYWARN in The Crosstalk and is interested in revitalizing SKYWARN locally. **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** noted that the Bike MS City to Shore Ride on September 30th and October 1st was supported by a number of GCARC members.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** said that he and **Mike Thompson KG4JYA** are attempting to reactivate the GOES station, which receives information from weather satellites. The topic for the next GCARC TechNet ZOOM Forum will address Local DMR Operation. The ISS is transmitting SSTV on 145.800 MHz in the PD-120 format. See www.heavensabove.com or www.N2YO.com for pass times. The Raspberry Pi 5 will be available soon for approximately \$60. Also, Jon showed a project testing horizontal vs vertical antenna polarization for working satellites.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : **Ron Block NR2B** said the Committee is almost finished making changes. Club members will receive the finished draft which will be discussed at the General Membership Meeting next month with the goal of taking a vote to adopt the revised draft in December.

OLD BUSINESS : None

NEW BUSINESS : The Nominating Committee has identified a slate of candidates for 2024 :

- **President : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF**
- **Vice President : Ron Block NR2B**
- **Treasurer : John O'Connell K2QA**
- **Recording Secretary : John Zaruba Jr K2ZA**
- **Corresponding Secretary : Frank Romeo N3PUU**
- **Director : Alan Arrison KB2AYU**
- **Director : Bill Price NJ2S**
- **Trustee : Carl Wittig N2CRW**
- **Trustee : Sheldon Parker K2MEN**
- **Trustee : Leonard Rust W2LJR**

The floor was opened for nominations but none were received.

John O'Connell K2QA said the Club was \$600 over budgeted expenses. A motion to approve this increase was passed.

Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF reviewed the progress toward recovering from the tornado damage of 2 years ago and noted that we are rebuilding the stations to be better than before. Through the efforts of **Tony Starr K3TS** and **Alan Arrison KB2AYU**, used towers in repairable condition were found, saving tens of thousands of dollars in cost compared to the cost of purchasing new towers and hardware. By use of sweat equity from Club members, the HF tower with beam antenna is complete but, despite generous donations and funding of grant applications, the Club does not have sufficient funds budgeted to complete installation of the two VHF towers and it would not be wise to draw down the Club treasury below projected operating expenses for next year. The cost to install the two VHF towers is estimated to be \$12,000 and approximately \$2,800 remains earmarked for this purpose. As recommended by the Board of Directors, Jonathan asked the membership to approve an additional \$2,200 of Club funds for the VHF Tower Project at this time so that work can continue, which leaves \$7,000 to be raised. This proposal was approved by the membership. **Jim Clark KA2OSV** asked how soon the rest of the funds would be needed. Jonathan said "as soon as possible" so that we can get as much done as possible before cold weather arrives.

Frank Romeo N3PUU proposed to raise funds for the VHF towers by holding a Holiday Dinner at the **Pfeiffer Community Center** on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. This is to be a family event and tickets will sell for \$32 per person. Food will be prepared and donated at no cost to the Club. Three persons, **Phyllis Martin W2PDB**, **Kathy Romeo, XYL** of **Frank Romeo N3PUU** and **XYL** of **Ron Block NR2B** have volunteered to prepare the food. Phyllis expressed concerns over the lack of refrigerator space available at the **Pfeiffer Community Center**, limited stove capacity and setup not being permitted until after 4 PM. **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** said he will find out if an earlier set up time would be permitted.

MISCELLANEOUS : **Lee Marino N2LAM** brought radio equipment for sale and will contribute proceeds toward the VHF Tower Project.

The Business Meeting concluded at 2053 Hours and was followed by a presentation from **Jim Wright N2GXJ** on his use of antenna modeling software to design the Club's 160 meter antenna.

Karl Frank W2KBF,
GCARC Recording Secretary