

# Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, November 1, 2023



Vice President Ron Block NR2B opened the General Membership Meeting at 1930 Hours with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### ATTENDANCE :

- 31 In-Person
- 12 ZOOM

VISITORS : (none)

#### NEW MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE :

- David Danichkin KD2UXC from Vineland, NJ
- Lance Appel KE2UC from Vineland, NJ
- Melissa Guenther KE2BWZ from Sewell, NJ
- James Foster K3JNF from Springfield, PA (via Zoom)

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS :

- Tech Saturday Forums begin at 9 AM at the W2MMD Clubhouse on the Saturdays following the monthly General Membership Meetings. The October 7<sup>th</sup> Tech Saturday featured **Jim Wright N2GXJ** continuing his presentation on Antenna Modeling and Simulation.
- November 4<sup>th</sup> : Tech Saturday Forum : **Mike Thompson KG4JYA** on Radio Astronomy.
- November 11<sup>th</sup> : **Anthony Cerami N2OAC** has arranged a demonstration of Apollo Lunar Lander Radios at the RCA Museum at Rowan University. 20 people expressed interest by a show of hands. Anthony asked them to assemble in the parking lot by 9:45 AM.
- November 13<sup>th</sup> : GCARC TechNet ZOOM Forum, 7:30 PM, on operating during meteor showers.
- November 15<sup>th</sup> : GCARC Board of Directors Meeting at the Clubhouse, 7 PM.
- November 27<sup>th</sup> : A "Got my License - Now What?" session at the Clubhouse, beginning at 6 PM. This will be a multi-hour overview of the many aspects of Amateur Radio.
- November 29<sup>th</sup> : The Club is holding a Holiday Dinner at the Pfeiffer Community Center from 7:00 to 9:30 PM in order to raise funds for the VHF towers. This is to be a family event and tickets are \$32 per person. A handout advertising the event has been circulated. The deadline to pay is Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ron Block NR2B asked Club members about their current activities :

- **John Zaruba Jr K2ZA** has ordered a new Elecraft KH1 QRP transceiver.
- **Lance Appel KE2UC** provided the tip that if radials for a ground mounted vertical antenna are laid down this time of year and held down with lawn staples, the grass will grow in the Spring, hiding the radials without the need to dig trenches.

#### CLUB NETS :

- **Jim Clark KA2OSV** said things have been slow on the 10 meter Net, with an average of 3 to 4 check ins.
- **Bob Keogh KD2NEC** reports an average of 8 on the Skywarn Net and 15 on the ARES Net.

*November 2023 General Membership Meeting Minutes - Continued on page 2*

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

The minutes of the October General Membership Meeting, as published in Crosstalk, were approved.

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

- Income : \$14,607
- Expenses : \$10,105
- Net Gain : \$4,502
- Use of \$5,013 is restricted leaving \$16,645 unrestricted

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**CLUBHOUSE REPORT : Alan Arrison KB2AYU** reported that grounding rods and straps have been installed for the VHF room. Rotors for the satellite antennas have failed and **Chris Prioli AD2CS** found and repaired the bad transformers and voltage regulators in the rotor control boxes. The rotators still would not move and it was found that the motors were burned-out. New rotators were purchased and remain to be installed. Chris plans to re-wind the old motors. Alan noted that we still need to raise about \$7,000 to complete the installation of two VHF towers and that it is unlikely that pouring of the concrete foundations can occur before Spring.

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

- Tonight : **Mike Thompson KG4JYA** on Radio Astronomy
- December : **Sheldon Parker K2MEN** on Radio Controlled Model Aircraft
- January 3 : **Robert Welsh N3RW** on Radio Astronomy and the Radio Amateur

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

- November 4 - 5 : ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
- November 11 - 12 : OK/OM DX Contest
- November 18 - 19 : ARRL Sweepstakes, Phone
- November 25 - 26 : CQ WW DX, CW

**PUBLIC SERVICE : Bob Keogh KD2NEC** and **Karl Frank W2KBF** reviewed the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 14<sup>th</sup> that was 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. Bob and Karl submitted an article with photos to The Crosstalk.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE : Chris Prioli AD2CS** announced the next round of licensing classes to begin January 8<sup>th</sup> (Mondays) for Technicians, January 9<sup>th</sup> (Tuesdays) for Generals and January 12<sup>th</sup> (Fridays) for Extras. Exams will take place the week of March 12<sup>th</sup>. Chris reminded everyone that ARRL dues will go up next year. You can renew now at the current rate and the Club receives a commission from the ARRL if ARRL membership is new or renewed thru the Club.

## **OLD BUSINESS :**

**Ron Block NR2B** reviewed the slate of candidates for 2024 office that the Nominating Committee has identified :

- **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. The nominations are now closed and elections will take place at the December 6<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting.

**CODA :**

**CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : Ron Block NR2B** reviewed the proposed new draft of the GCARC Constitution, which had been circulated previously to the membership, and addressed questions that were received. This draft will be reviewed again at the December 6<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting, at which time we will seek a vote from the membership for approval (75% positive rate required).

The Business Meeting concluded @ 2053 Hours and was followed by a presentation from **Mike Thompson KG4JYA** on Radio Astronomy.

**Karl Frank W2KBF,**  
**GCARC Recording Secretary**