

HOBBYISTS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – April 2, 2026

Birthdays: The April birthday slide was displayed as members arrived. 40 Hobbyists have birthdays in April, including 5 lifetime members: John Donohue (95), Louis Hinchliffe (94), Gene Parker (94), Howard Sirota (97) and Hugh Tuomey (93). One member is celebrating his birthday today, April 2: John Donohue (95).

Meeting called to order by President Peter Weinstein at 10:02 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Bill Healy.

Speakers – Steve Friedman

- Today's speaker is Hobbyist Ed Houlihan, who will make a presentation on "The Life and Death Experiences of US Navy Destroyer Veteran LTJG Ed Houlihan". Ed's presentation will cover some of his experiences during his 3-year commission from May 1963 – May 1966, an eventful period in US Navy history.

Hobbyists Concerned – Peter Philip

- Happily, no deaths or medical concerns to report.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Engelhardt

- Our CD earned \$124.38 in March. For the four months in our fiscal year to date, interest totaled \$495.40.

Membership – Bob Mosher

- There are 99 members present at this morning's meeting, with one more participating on Zoom.
- As of today, there are 449 total Hobbyists members, including 78 life members.
- The average age for all Hobbyists is 79. The average age for regular members (under age 90) is 74.
- We have had 20 new members join so far this year, with average age of 73.6.
- The annual Fellowship Luncheon will take place on April 23 in the church auditorium. The cost to attend is \$20. We have 41 attendees who have signed up so far. Please contact Bob Mosher (mosher895@aol.com) if you are interested in attending. It is recommended that attendees send their checks to Bob in advance so that there is not a wait at the door for sign-up. Tables are arranged in groups of 10, hopefully resulting in a mix of old friends and new acquaintances at each table.
- Parking: reminder to park only in spaces marked "CH" in the parking lot on Van Dien.
- Roster: Please be patient with the brief time lag between new member application and the appearance of the new member's name and photograph in the Hobbyists roster. Also, we have experienced some problems posting photographs of members taken against a white background.
- Unsubscribe: please do not click the "unsubscribe" button on a Constant Contact e-mail that you receive. Even if the e-mail pertains to an activity where you don't participate, hitting the "unsubscribe" button will cause you not to receive any Constant Contact e-mails.
- Bob introduced Steve Fonder as his co-chair for the Membership Committee. Steve encouraged Hobbyists members to take the business cards (placed on each chair in today's meeting) and to

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hand them out to guys they meet who could be potential new members. These cards have proven to be effective tools to advertise the Hobbyists club to people in our community.

- There are 3 new members inducted today:
 - Harry Katz, introduced by Dick Boswell
 - David Hartmann, introduced by Anders Maxwell
 - Tom Cassidy, introduced by Bob Reilly

Activity Chairman Reports:

- Beer Appreciation - Rick Rosenthal: Next gathering is on Thursday April 9 at 6:30 pm at Gearblock Brewing Co., located at 140 Franklin Turnpike in Waldwick. Note that there is no food served at Gearblock, but food is available at Perusia Pizza a few doors down. Please contact Rick Rosenthal ([rickrosenthal@icloud.com](mailto:rnickrosenthal@icloud.com), 201-675-1870) if you plan to attend.
- Bocce – Steve Friedman: Opening day of the bocce season will be tomorrow, Friday April 3, 9:30 to 11:30 am at Borough Park in Waldwick. Please bring a rake to help clean up the court, and a lawn chair. Bocce will continue on Fridays throughout the season at the same time and place. If you are not already on the mailing list, please contact Steve Friedman (stefri4@yahoo.com).
- Book Club – Pat Donohue: The Book Club meets on the third Friday of each month at 10:00 am in the church library. The next meeting is on Friday April 17. The book being discussed is “Family of Spies” by Christine Kuehn, a true story of a woman who discovers that her grandfather and other family members were Nazi spies sent to Hawaii to provide information to the Japanese in preparation for Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor. The April Book Club meeting will be joined by the Military History group. The meeting will probably be held in the church auditorium, as the church library may be too small to hold all participants. Please let Pat Donohue (pjdonohue1221@gmail.com) or Jon Sterling (jsterling287@gmail.com) know if you plan to attend so they can gauge the amount of space needed for this month’s meeting. Ridgewood Library has multiple copies of the book available.
- Camera Club – Tom Heed: The next meeting of the Camera Club will be on April 27 at 2:00 pm in the church auditorium. The assignment for members is to get photos of your beloved four legged pet or (if you have no pet) your beloved two legged companion. Photos should capture the personality of the subject. The meeting will also discuss computer programs available to catalog digital photos.
- Chess Club - Rick Pascal: The chess club meets on Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon in the rear of the auditorium at the church. All levels of skill are welcome. The group is growing, with 10 - 16 players at the most sessions.
- Cornhole – Stu Levine: The cornhole group recently had its first outdoor session at Borough Park in Waldwick. The group expects to continue meeting there during spring and summer, weather permitting. Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Please contact Stu Levine (stulevine25@gmail.com) if you would like to join.
- Cribbage – Don Dexter: The cribbage group met most recently on March 19 and had a fun session. The group meets the first and third Thursday of each month at Don Dexter’s house in Ridgewood from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. There will be no meeting on April 2. The next meeting will be Thursday April 16. Contact Don Dexter (donaldcdexter@gmail.com) or John Peterman (petermanj@wpunj.edu) if you are interested in joining.

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- Fishing – Peter Weinstein: There is a small group going out on a charter boat on May 4. The boat is small and can only accommodate a group of four. We're looking for a bigger boat for the next charter, hopefully sometime in April. There are also party boats going out for stripers in April and May. The party boats (which sometimes are a little crowded) typically charge \$90 per person plus gratuity. Charters tend to be more expensive, sometimes between \$160 and \$200 per person plus gratuity.
- Golf – Paul Fazio: Golf starts April 10th for Friday golfers and April 14th for Tuesday golfers. There are 97 members currently signed up for golf. Please visit the website for detailed information. If you are not sure about something there, contact Paul Fazio (faz90@optonline.net).
- Hobbyists Songs – Steve Friedman and Dick Boswell: The team shared a new song "Fellowship Luncheon" which provides a timely advertisement for the upcoming luncheon event on April 23 (discussed in Membership above).
- Investments – Rod Reedy: The next quarterly meeting of the Investments group will be on Wednesday April 22 at 1:30 pm in the church auditorium. We'll talk about the current market, which continues to be volatile, reflecting domestic and geopolitical developments. Members may also participate by Zoom. A reminder will be sent by Constant Contact.
- Military History – Tom Heed: The next meeting of Military History will be in May. As the fourth Monday (usual meeting date) is Memorial Day, the group will meet on the third Monday, May 18. The subject will be a comparison of Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley campaign in 1862 and Napoleon's Italian campaign in 1796 – 97. There are interesting parallels that illustrate the skill of these military leaders, who were both extraordinary students and teachers.
- Movie Lovers – Rick Pascal (standing in for Dick Oswald): The movie this month is "Young Frankenstein", written by Gene Wilder and Mel Brooks and starring Gene Wilder, Marty Feldman, Cloris Leachman, Terri Garr and Peter Boyle, with a hilarious cameo by Gene Hackman as the blind hermit. The film will be shown in the Ridgewood Village Hall on Tuesday April 14 at 1:30 pm.
- Music Lovers – Jim McKeown: The next Music Lovers presentation will be Friday April 10 at 10:00 am in the church auditorium. The theme will be A Night at the Opera (for Haters of Opera). There will be selections of arias, choruses and marches from famous operas, accompanied by a brief synopsis of where each piece fits into the plot of the opera from which it is drawn. Looking ahead, the May meeting will focus on Rodgers and Hammerstein and the June meeting will feature Scottish music.
- Navigating Retirement – Mitchell Milch: This group had another good meeting yesterday (April 2), with all attendees being gracious and helpful. Meetings will continue being held in the church auditorium on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm. All Hobbyists are welcome, either as regular participants or as occasional participants interested in a particular topic. Mitchell also mentioned his willingness to provide personal one-on-one instruction sessions on mindful eating.
- Newsletter – Rick Pascal: The March newsletter is being combined with the special edition of the newsletter commemorating the Hobbyists 60th anniversary. The 60th anniversary committee will meet during the coming two weeks to finalize the newsletter and plan for its release.
- ROMEO – Cliff Matthews: The next ROMEO will take place on Friday April 17 at 12:00 noon at Due Fratelli located at 235 Diamond Ridge Avenue in Hawthorne. We already have 20 guys who

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have signed up. If you are interested in joining, please contact Cliff (cematthews0914@gmail.com).

- Wine Making – Paul Richert: The next winemaking project will feature a Chilean blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It will be priced at \$189 per case. We already have orders for 15 ½ of the 24 cases that will be produced. No money will be collected until all 24 cases have been sold out. If you wish to order wine from this new project, please contact Paul Richert as soon as possible (phriche7314@gmail.com).

Update on Coming Events – Don Peterfriend

- Woodloch Pines Trip (September 16 – 18) Anyone who is interested in attending the Woodloch Pines trip and has not yet signed up, please contact Don Peterfriend (dpeterfriend@yahoo.com) or Gary Engelhardt (garye569@msn.com). The cost is \$1,100 per couple, including bus transportation.
- 60th Anniversary Dance (Wednesday May 13 at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes): Thus far, about 210 people have either paid or said they plan to come. We have room for about 30 more people. Checks are due now from people who have signed up but have not yet paid. If you would like to attend, please contact Don Peterfriend (email: dpeterfriend@yahoo.com) or Bill Healy (email: whealy3741@aol.com) . The cost is \$215 per couple. Please send checks directly to Don Peterfriend (20 Knollwood Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446). Please address requests for table seating arrangements to Bill Healy.

The business meeting concluded at 11:04 a.m.

April program: Ed Houlihan presented “The Life and Death Experiences of US Navy Destroyer Veteran LTJG Ed Houlihan”.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dick Boswell, Secretary