

HOBBYISTS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – June 4, 2026

REMINDER: THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST.
THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER

Birthdays: The June birthday slide was displayed as members arrived. 38 Hobbyists have birthdays in June, including 6 lifetime members: Richard Ramge (94), Richard Oswald (91), John Cancalosi (92), Eli Bordowitz (91), David Shaw (92) and Walter Fitzgerald (97). Two members are celebrating their birthdays today, June 4: Warren Gordon (81) and Keith Hinrichs (76).

Meeting called to order by President Peter Weinstein at 10:04 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Joe Burns led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hobbyists Concerned –Steve Rubin

- John Waters, Hobbyist since 2011, passed away at age 83.
- Allen Demby, Hobbyist since 2003, passed away at age 92
- Ann Leahy, wife of Hobbyist Bill Leahy, passed away.
- Ed Daly is recovering from open heart surgery and is doing well.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Engelhardt

- Our CD earned \$124 interest in May.

Membership – Steve Fonder

- There are 86 members present at this morning's meeting
- As of today, there are 448 total Hobbyists members, including 76 life members.
- Members are encouraged to tell their retired friends about the Hobbyists and to invite them to join if they appear interested. The Hobbyists business card has proved to be a very handy recruiting tool, as it lists available sports and activities and provides the club's website address. The Membership Committee is happy to provide further support and information to potential recruits.

Speakers – Steve Friedman

- Today's speaker is Tom Heed, who will make a presentation on Artificial Intelligence.

Activity Chairman Reports:

- Beer Appreciation - Rick Rosenthal: Next gathering is on Thursday June 11 at 6:30 pm at Hackensack Brewing, 78 Johnson Ave, Hackensack. No food is provided inside the facility, although there may be some food trucks outside that sell food. You can also bring your own food. Please contact Rick Rosenthal (rickcroenthal@icloud.com, 201-675-1870) if you plan to attend.
- Bocce – Steve Friedman: The Bocce group meets every Friday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at Borough Park in Waldwick. The group will continue meeting throughout the summer. If you are not already on the mailing list, please contact Steve Friedman (stefri4@yahoo.com).
- Book Club – Jon Sterling: The Book Club meets on the third Friday of each month at 10:00 am in the church library. The next meeting will be on Friday June 19. The book being discussed is "Culpability" by Bruce Holsinger. It is about Artificial Intelligence, including AI's capabilities, ethical concerns, impact on society, etc. The June book discussion will be facilitated by Jon

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Sterling. This will be the last book club meeting before the July – August break, when the church will be closed to Hobbyists. The book club will resume meetings in September.

- Bowling – Peter Weinstein (standing in for Gary Don): Congratulations to the Sharks, winners of the 2025-26 bowling season championship. Team members are Bill Raftery (captain), Les Anderson, Wayne Lemme and Bob Paoli. Team members were presented with plaques recognizing their first place achievement.
- Camera Club – Tom Heed: The camera club is not meeting this month. We will take the summer off and re-convene probably in October. Members are encouraged to take lots of photos during the summer. Possible subjects for photographers this summer include celebrations of the 250th anniversary of US independence. There will be a flotilla of tall ships sailing in New York City, among other celebratory events.
- Chess – Rick Pascal: The chess club continues to thrive, with over 20 total members and as many as 12 coming to play on a given day. Players with all levels of skill and experience are welcome. The chess group meets every Wednesday from 9:30 – 12:00 in the church rear auditorium. The last indoor meeting of the chess group will be Wednesday June 24. Meetings in July and August will be in a park in Ridgewood, to be determined and communicated to group members by co-chair Jeff Kresky.
- Fishing – Peter Weinstein: Hobbyists fisherman recently went out on a party boat, the Dark Horse. Gary Engelhardt caught 3 “immense” stripers, each about 40 inches long. Next week, 5 group members will be going on a fishing trip to Lake George. There is also a group of up to 6 members going out on a private charter from either Atlantic Highlands or Belmar to fish for fluke or striped bass. The cost per person will be about \$200. Spots for 2 people are still open for this trip. Anyone interested, please contact Peter Weinstein.
- Golf – Gary Engelhardt: The most recent Travel Tuesday outing saw about 20 men taking an 82 mile drive into Pennsylvania to play at the Great Bear golf club, designed by Jack Nicklaus. Next Tuesday, the golf group will hold its first tournament of the year. Forty men are signed up. They will be organized into ten 4-man teams with each team having players with a range of skill levels. The format of the tournament will be a scramble, where the best shot of each 4-man team on each hole is played by all team members. This format often results in teams scoring under par. In past years this has been one of the most enjoyable tournaments for all members.
- Habitat for Humanity – Bob Becher: Things have been slow at the Paterson work location. There was a small amount of work to be done a week ago Wednesday and 5 members went down. Bigger projects are expected in the fall, or in the spring of 2027. Members interested in putting their names on the list of volunteers for future projects can contact Bob Becher at bobpeg451@gmail.com.
- Hiking - Ed Lundell: The hiking group will have a picnic on Tuesday June 23 at the Watchung Reservation in north central Jersey. We will have a catered lunch featuring subs and sides, drinks and dessert. There will be a short hike for people so inclined. For those who would like to make a longer day of it, there are two options for other activities. One is the Trailside Nature Center at the Watchung Reservation. This has displays that examine the flora and fauna of the area, as well as the history of the Lenni Lenape native Americans. The other option is Bell Labs, one of the premier research institutes for science and technology. If you are interested in attending the picnic, please contact Ed Lundell (edlundell4@gmail.com, 612-865-5381).
- Hobbyists Songs – Steve Friedman: Shared a new song from the Hobbyists Songs webpage: “Visit to the Urologist”
- Investments – Ron Reedy: The next quarterly meeting of the investments group will be on Wednesday July 22. As the church will be closed, it will be a Zoom-only meeting. Topics will

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surely include the SpaceX initial public offering, for which the currently estimated market valuation is \$1.8 trillion. We will cover other general topics as well, prompted by recent business and economic developments.

- Military History – Tom Heed: The next meeting of the Military History group will be in September, when we will examine recent developments in the war in Ukraine.
- Movie Lovers – Dick Oswald: The movie this month is “Mrs. Henderson Presents”, a British comedy based on a true story. Mrs. Laura Henderson, a wealthy widow living in the 1930s acquires a rundown theater and hires a man name Vivian Van Damm to manage it. They develop a successful program consisting of musical reviews. When competitors pop up who threaten their continued success, their answer is to keep the musical numbers but remove the clothes. The charm of the film is in the witty dialog between main characters played by Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins. The film will be shown in the Ridgewood Village Hall on Tuesday June 9 at 1:30 pm.
- Navigating Retirement – Mitchell Milch: Our group identifies challenges and opportunities that arise in this phase of our lives and examines how to best navigate these challenges and opportunities. Our last meeting before summer break was yesterday, June 3. We will resume in September. If you haven’t attended one of our sessions yet, please consider joining. Meetings are held in the church auditorium on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 pm.
- Newsletter – Rick Pascal: We hope you all enjoyed the 60th Anniversary newsletter. There will be a short newsletter issued at the end of June to catch up on any recent activity highlights. Members are encouraged to submit inputs of news items, photos, etc. to Rick Pascal and Steve Rubin as soon as possible.
- ROMEO – Cliff Matthews: The next ROMEO will take place on Friday June 19 at 12:00 noon at Fiona’s, located at 118 Godwin Avenue in Midland Park. If you are interested in joining, please contact Cliff (cematthews0914@gmail.com).
- Trips and Tours – Bob Wong: The Trips and Tours committee is beginning to gain traction. It consists of both longstanding Hobbyists and some newer Hobbyists. The first trip organized by the group will be an excursion to the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ on Wednesday June 24. The cost will be \$18 per person and is open to Hobbyists and their guests. Transportation will be by carpool. The tentative plan is to meet at Graydon parking lot at 8:30 with a departure time of 9:00. Entry is timed, so drivers will need to arrive at the appointed time, which should be about 10:30. We will walk the grounds until about 12:30 and then break for lunch. There are 3 options for lunch: an upscale restaurant called Rat’s, the Van Gogh Café, and the recently opened Peacock Cafe. An email will go out to all members shortly explaining the trip details. Future events being considered by the committee include a dinner and show and also a possible trip to Atlantic City.
- Wine Appreciation – Alex Baron: The wine appreciation group has increased the frequency of our events to monthly, and has also broadened the selection of restaurants we visit. You don’t have to be a wine connoisseur to come to our luncheons. You don’t even have to drink wine. You can come just to socialize (and we won’t charge you for the wine). Our next get-together is tomorrow, June 5 at Andrea’s in Waldwick. The cost is \$50 per person, wine included. At the end of June, we’re going to check out a new Greek restaurant in Ridgewood, Meltemi. All are welcome to join us.

Update on Coming Events –

- Hobbyists Picnic - Cliff Matthews : The annual Hobbyists picnic will be held on Wednesday August 26 (rain date: August 27). Cost is \$5 per person. Bring your own lunch and non-alcoholic

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beverage. Ice Cream will be provided by Van Dyck's. More information will be coming later this summer via Constant Contact.

The business meeting concluded at 10:50 a.m.

June program: Tom Heed made a presentation on Artificial Intelligence.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dick Boswell, Secretary