



Meeting Date: November 7, 2021
PO Box 773
Pompano Beach, FL 33061-0773

Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association

Board Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order

Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) called to order the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association's Board meeting at 14:31 EDT (18:31 UTC) on November 7, 2021, on ZOOM. A quorum was present with six board members.

2) Old Business

a) Echo Link – Ricky Eaton (KD4HGR)

Ricky Eaton (KD4HGR) has not had a chance to work on it since he focused on the repeater issue.

b) Repeater Report – Ricky Eaton (KD4HGR)

Status of CAT Controller

Joe McGee (NX4T) will be running some tests later tonight.

Intention to Replace

To install AllStar, we need to go with a Pi-Star 3. According to Ricky Eaton (KD4HGR), the cost of Pi-Star 3 is around \$70.00 to \$120.00. Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) recommended using Raspberry Pi ZERO W if compatible with Pi-Star. Pi-ZERO can be as low as \$23.00

Since we do not have the internet at all repeater locations, Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) suggested getting MyFi for the repeaters. A MyFi would create a monthly cost for the club but would also open many opportunities and independence.

Erik Olmer (W4EJO) motioned to purchase 2 Raspberry-Pi 3 with Wi-Fi to do test runs on one UHF. Second by Charlie Artner (KN4VDW). Motion passed with no objections.



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PL Tone

The PL Tone will not prevent noise if somebody keys up with the correct PL tone. It will only stop the noise from keying up the repeater.

AC donated by Jerry Deitch (W4LST)

We still do not have received permission to install the additional A/C. Ricky Eaton (KD4HGR) will contact JKV again.

UPS replacement

UPS has been replaced

Donated Club equipment

All the equipment has been picked up by Jeff Stahl (K4BH), and everything from Mike's Electronics has been picked up by Ricky Eaton (KD4HGR)

c) WinLink – Charlie Artner (KN4VDW)

To replacement of the HD will cost between \$300.00 and \$500.00. That is about the price of a new laptop that would be more than enough to run WinLink

d) Winter Field Day Plans

Carol Sjursen sent a letter of intent on October 7, 2021, but has not heard back from Broward Emergency Management yet. She will follow up on Monday, November 8, 2021.

3) Communication issue on board

Nobody is answering emails. It should be possible to answer emails within a day, no more than two days. Erik Olmer (W4EJO) said that some emails are better discussed in the meeting, so he didn't answer some of the emails. Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) responded that he is sending emails to shorten the board meetings because complaints are made in every board meeting that the board meetings are too long. Most if not all things could be discussed via emails and worked out via emails so that the only thing left for the board meeting is to confirm what was agreed upon in the emails and vote. But if



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this is not desired anymore, email communication will be stopped, and board meetings will take until issues are resolved or tabled until the next meeting.

All club-related emails should have a subject line starting with [GCARA], and please try to respond in a timely manner.

4) Show Charlie Repeater Room

Ricky Eaton (KD4HGR) will take Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) to the repeater room next week. Jeff Stahl (K4BH) will join.

5) Tribute for Mike's Electronics (Mike Spivak)

Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) has obtained a beer mug on behalf of the club. A delegation of board members will go to *Mike's Electronics* on November 13, 2021, to present the award to Mike Spivak.

6) Club badges – Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) and Erik Olmer (W4EJO)

Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) and Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) spoke with the club's attorney regarding the wording on the order page for the name tags. As a 501(c), we have to be careful not to sound like we are selling the name tags but instead sending them as a thank-you gift for a minimum donation.

7) Boy Scout Camp Repeater Project

Up for discussion is the ways we can help John Quarquesso (KE4JQ) with his boy Scout project. Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) suggested considering offering to put one of our repeaters at the Scout Camp in Palm Beach County if they can provide the infrastructure. Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) added that working with local HAM clubs would be necessary due to the distance. The camp is in Martin County.

Jeff Stahl (K4BH) suggested contacting the Jupiter Tequesta radio club and asking if we can get them involved as a sponsor to provide better coverage for the boy scouts' camp.



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Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) clarified that his suggestion was not to donate the repeater to the boy scouts but to set it up at their camp as a W4BUG repeater.

After discussing the suggestion, the board concluded that some legwork has to be done by John Quarquesso (KE4JQ) and the boy scouts first, and until that happens, this suggestion is tabled.

8) New letter to welcome new members

Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) proposed an automated reply to new applicants, which will be sent after a new member submits their application. Suggestions from several board members have been implemented, and the letter was approved to be implemented.

The letter will be signed by the President of the association, Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT).

9) Last Board Meeting for this year

Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) asked if it is possible to have every project the board started in the last two years come to a closure. Ricky Eaton (KD4HGR) asked about the status of the memorial bricks, but no update was available at this time.

The last board meeting is December 12, 2021.

10) Review Bylaws

The board needs to review the bylaws on removing board members who are absent too frequently or ineffective and not accomplishing their duties.

Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) would like to review *Section 6.12 Removal* of an officer due to the continued absence of one of the board members. After reading *Section 6.12 Removal* the Club's President Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) asked Mike Wolf (K2HXC) whether he can honestly say that he can from here on forth attend every meeting (board and general) as well as execute his duties reliably. Mike Wolf (K2HXC) was unable to reply due to a problem with his internet. Due to the continued connection problems, Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) will call Mike Wolf (K2HXC) after the meeting. Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) would like Mike Wolf (K2HXC) to voluntarily resign from his position due to his inability to execute his duties and attend meetings.



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11) Winter Field Day

Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) appointed Joe McGee (NX4T) as the Winter Field Day Committee chair. Joe McGee (NX4T) will coordinate all active participants and volunteers to set up the Field Day stations and ensure we are on the air on time.

12) Project tracking

Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) suggested that we start creating a sheet per project, which will be the project manager's responsibility to update, get an estimated date of when the project will be finished, and report the progress of the project.

Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) suggested an online software called Smartsheet (cost involved: \$400/year). The advantage of such an online tool is that everybody can access it if an internet connection is available, and progress can be seen in real-time. This online collaboration is not possible with a physical sheet.

Joe McGee (NX4T) thinks Smartsheet sounds like a great tool but overkill for our purpose. His only reservation is that he does not want to get held back with his Winter Field Day project by having to learn new software.

Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) will rethink her idea with the paper sheets, and Charlie Artner (KN4VDW) will send Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) the link to Smartsheet so she can take a look at it.

Erik Olmer (W4EJO) offered to be the club's project manager, oversee all projects, create a report, and report to the board as required. Decisions have been tabled until further research has been done.

13) Adjournment

Melanie Fernandez (KJ4VCT) adjourned the meeting at 16:13 EDT (20:13 UTC).