



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

February 25, 2024

The regular Board Meeting of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association, Inc., was called to order by President Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT, at 2:23 pm on Zoom.

Present were Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT, President; Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, Vice President; Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ, Secretary; Dirk Basting, N4AN, Treasurer; Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR, Repeater Trustee; Tom Savoca, K9TJS, Public Information Officer; and Joe McGee, NX4T, Director at Large.

The Minutes of the January 14th Board Meeting were approved as circulated by email to Board members. The Board agreed to Ricki Witte's suggestion to add a generic disclaimer on the Minutes portion of the web site stating that minutes when posted are a draft for review until approved at the following meeting.

Melanie Fernandez announced:

- The permanent memorial brick honoring Joe Ruby was installed last year; the Lucite brick to be given to family is being ordered.
- GCARA members may eat free of charge at Parrot Club events as a thank you for donating left over food from Winter Field Day.
- A membership chair or committee is needed.
- The club will obtain a Zoom subscription for club use when the current one in Melanie's name expires.

Upcoming events, which had been listed on the Agenda, were discussed. To avoid conflicting with other ham-related events, the spring picnic at Vista View County Park has been tentatively rescheduled for May 4th. It was clarified that the talk at the June general meeting by Dave Howard will be about ham radio and communications, not his candidacy for elective office.

Dirk Basting as Treasurer's reported:

Beginning balance - 12/29/2023	\$8,622.40
Deposits, credits and interest	966.15
Expenditures and service charges	<u>1,504.32</u>
Balance as of 01/31/2024	\$8,084.32

Since in recent years the club's balance has averaged around \$8,000, Dirk moved \$5,000 into a CD at 5% interest (\$250 a year). The deficit for Winter Field Day was \$725. Current membership is 100, consisting of 47 single members, 4 family members, 28 lifetime members, and 21 who have not yet paid dues. Dirk Basting and Tom Savoca will try to ascertain whether an automated email dues payment reminder can be sent before the date of expiration using the computer programs currently used for bookkeeping and maintaining membership records. The Board agreed on a policy of providing a membership roster to all members, but it will not include telephone number for privacy considerations.

Ricky Eaton reported that the radio used to give free HF access to club members is deteriorating and not worth the cost of repair. A new radio will cost approximately \$1,000, possibly less, depending on where purchased. Usage of the station is low, although it has been increasing. Access to HF stations is a benefit unique to GCARA, so feedback from the membership will be requested before deciding whether it is worth maintaining the station beyond the end of the year. Tom Savoca suggested adding information about the HF station to the website.

Joe McGee reported that Winter Field Day had gone smoothly. Scheduling of time on the air led to 19 active participants, and other activities were provided to inform and entertain people waiting for their turn.

There was a discussion of issues related to dues. It was agreed to continue the practice of offering a year of free membership to new people who take radio licensing tests with GCARA. Tom Savoca will find out if the Stripe program can be used to send reminders to lapsed members.

There was a discussion of forms on the website for ordering shirts and badges.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
Secretary