



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING March 17, 2024

The regular Board Meeting of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association, Inc., was called to order by President Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT, at 2:11 pm on Zoom.

Present were Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT, President; Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, Vice President; Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ, Secretary; Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR, Repeater Trustee; Tom Savoca, K9TJS, Public Information Officer; and Joe McGee, NX4T, Director at Large. Dirk Basting, N4AN, Treasurer, joined the meeting at 2:54 pm.

Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting on February 25, 2025, was deferred until the next Board meeting.

The schedule of upcoming events was reviewed. Speakers for general meetings are scheduled through September. A discussion of working with other ham radio clubs on events led to a consensus that shared social events could work well, but combining field days would not, since clubs compete for points and new members.

The March dinner will be at Pizza Time at 11504 West Sample Road, Coral Springs and will begin at 6:30 instead of 7:00 pm since the restaurant closes at 9:00. Board members will look for additional possibilities for a new venue.

Repeater Trustee Ricky Eaton reported that the persistent problem of noise on the 146.610 repeater ended when the positions of the transmitting and receiving antennas were reversed. A new antenna has been ordered due to high SWR problem of the old receiver antenna, but installing it will necessitate moving the heavy 23-foot transmitting antenna to its new location, which is where the receive antenna is currently located and moving the receive antenna to where the transmitter antenna currently is located.

A 100 Watt amplifier has been donated to the club for the 146.82 Boca repeater and will be installed soon.

Access to the remote receive repeater has been hampered due to an apparent lack of internal communications within the Briarwood HOA board of directors, as the outgoing board does not make aware of the existence and authorized use of the building for remote receive site for the repeater. Ricky will persist in seeking to determine which person to contact.

The Board agreed that the remote HF station should be continued and authorized the purchase of an Icom 7300.

There was a discussion of Allstar and possible alternatives for linking repeaters.

PIO Tom Savoca said he needs to train a replacement for all or much of his job, due to conflicting obligations. Knowledge of WordPress is necessary, although Tom might be able to teach an otherwise appropriate person.

Joe McGee will send Tom brief articles about the remote HF station and Winter Field Day.

Dirk Basting gave the Treasurer's report, which showed:

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|---|-------------------|
| Beginning balance - 01/31/2024 | \$8,084.32 |
| Deposits, credits and interest | 548.27 |
| Checks | (55.70) |
| Other withdrawals, debits and service charges | <u>(171.06)</u> |
| Subtotal | \$8,405.83 |
| Transfer \$5,000 to CD at approximately 5% interest | <u>(5,000.00)</u> |
| Balance in checking account as of 02/29/2024 | \$3,405.83 |
| | |
| Individual members | 58 |
| Family memberships: | 6 |
| Lifetime members | 28 |
| Late payers | <u>12</u> |
| | 104 |

The Boca Raton club has meetings using a Zoom presentation with a remote speaker during which members can participate and ask questions whether in-person meeting or from home. Melanie will seek their advice on the logistics.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
Secretary