



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING April 21, 2024

The regular Board Meeting of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association, Inc., was called to order by President Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT, at 2:03 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, was absent, excused.

Minutes of the Board Meeting on March 17, 2024, were approved as posted on the website.

The schedule of upcoming events was reviewed. Dinner gatherings will henceforth begin at 6:00 pm. The April dinner will return to Pizza Time on West Sample Road in Coral Springs, and the May dinner will be at Gigi's of New York on North State Road 7. The lucite replica of the memorial brick for silent key Joe Ruby will be presented at the April 21 dinner gathering. Charlie Artner, KN4VDW, who was a next door neighbor, will accept and deliver it to the family.

Dirk Basting, Treasurer, was out of the country but had emailed a report to Board members which, as of March 29th, showed:

Balance on 02/29/2024	\$3,405.83
Checks - payment for Zoom	(119.92)
Other expenses	(76.46)
Dues deposited	<u>96.20</u>
Ending balance 03/29/2024	\$3,305.65

Total membership is 104, of whom 28 are lifetime, and 15 are late paying dues.

Repeater Trustee Ricky Eaton reported that the DMR repeater had been down for slightly over a week (though no one had told at the time). Efforts to fix the problem were unavailing until an internet search revealed that Brandmeister had switched to a different server without letting anyone know that the IP address had changed. Other repeaters are working well, and efforts on AllStar continue. Ricky had found someone with experience, and they are trying to coordinate their schedules.

Joe McGee, Director at Large, gave updated information on two long-time members who are dealing with significant health issues.

PIO, Tom Savoca, suggested an announcement at the general meeting regarding failure to receive emails from the club. A member can enter or correct his or her own email address on the website. Tom is working at simplifying the website so that it can be more easily transferred to someone else.

The free one-year membership was revisited in connection with entitlement to voting on club decisions, a concern expressed by Joe McGee. After discussion, Ben Echavarria moved to continue the offer of a year of free membership, but without voting rights for the first six months. After further discussion, Ben amended the motion to apply the six-month delay in voting rights to all new members. The motion passed.

There was a discussion of a return to in-person general meetings, but with the ability for members to also opt to attend by Zoom. Due to a contact made by Dirk Basting, it may be possible to meet in one of the Broward Health hospitals. The main hospital had been tentatively offered, but Board members agreed that south of downtown Fort Lauderdale is not convenient for most of the membership. Broward Health North on Sample Road would be ideal, with Imperial Point as a second choice.

There was some discussion of the May 4th picnic and of Field Day. Ricky Eaton and Joe McGee have a plan for two antennas in an arrangement that will be easier to set up and manage.

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.

Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
Secretary