



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

March 23, 2025

The regular Board Meeting of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association, Inc., was called to order by President Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT, at 3:21 pm on Zoom.

Present were Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT, President; Joe McGee, NX4T, Vice President; Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ, Secretary; Dirk Basting, N4AN, Treasurer; Tom Savoca, K9TJS, Public Information Officer; Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, and Jeff Stahl, K4BH, Directors at Large. Absent was Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR, Repeater Trustee.

For the March meeting, the speaker will be Patrick Bolan, KJ7ZSU, who will talk about Geochron, a clock that shows time around the world and can display an extensive amount of additional information. Dirk Basting has donated a Geochron to be auctioned off as a fund raiser for the club. The suggested starting price of \$200, is approximately half the cost of a new one.

The April meeting will be held on the 5th Tuesday (April 29th), since the speaker from NOAA would not be available on the 4th Tuesday, which will also solve a conflict with the hospital.

Tentatively, Jeff Stahl will speak at the May meeting on the N1MM logging program that is used on field day. For June, a speaker from ARRL will be requested, since the presentation can be on Zoom even though the meeting is in person.

Since, with in-person meetings where testing can occur, There was a discussion of reprinting, and perhaps redesigning, membership cards, that could be used to invite individuals who take tests to six months or a year of free membership in the association to encourage them to join. Jeff Stahl has a new chart to record information about individuals who test at our meetings, which we can also use to connect new hams with mentors. It was agreed that we need to recruit members to serve as mentors, particularly among experienced club members who are not otherwise busy with club activities.

Since the inventory and photographs of our equipment at John Knox village has yet to be done, Joe McGee agreed to take on that task since he is regularly at John Knox Village. Serial numbers can be recorded by taking pictures of the plate on each piece of equipment. The list will be provided to the secretary and treasurer, since it is necessary when renewing our insurance through ARRL.

The next picnic will be this coming Saturday, March 29th, at Vista View Park. Kenny Hollenbeck will bring international gear; Jeff Stahl will bring the fox [transmitter] for the fox hunt; and Ben will bring his sample go kit. Picnics for the remainder of the year have been scheduled by Melanie for August 9th and November 8th at the same park.

There was a discussion of food at field days and picnics. Melanie and others who have been handling the purchase, transport, and cooking are no longer able to do. Alternatives discussed included brown bagging your own food and having the events catered. Although we generally spend about \$1,000 for field day food, Melanie said previous investigations into catering indicated that would be even more expensive. Membership input on the subject will be requested at the next general membership meeting.

Dinners at GG's of New York are tentatively scheduled before the monthly meetings in months with no other events such as field days or picnics: The dates for the remainder of the year would be April 27th, May 25th, July 20th, September 21st, and October 26th.

Ricki Witte will have suggested amendments to the Bylaws to present at the next board meeting, which will ultimately need approval by the general membership.

it was discussed and agreed that we will publish the events of other radio clubs on our calendar and encourage cooperation among local clubs Melanie and Jeff will provide information on the activities of other clubs to uh Tom savoka to be added to our website.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
Secretary Pro Tem