



Minutes of Monthly General Membership Meeting October 28, 2025

Call to Order – The regular meeting of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association, Inc., on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, began at 7:33 p.m. The meeting was held in person at Imperial Point Hospital and was also available on Zoom.

The Board had been informed of the resignation of Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT, as President by email on September 28, 2025, a copy of which is attached. Pursuant to the Bylaws, Vice President Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, became the President for the remainder of the term.

Roll Call – Members and guests present in person were: Ben Echavarria, N7BBE President; Jeff Stahl, K4BH, Director at Large; Jerry Deitch, W4LST; Carol Shursen, KJ4AWB; Allan Karden, N4ALK; and Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ, Secretary Pro Tem. Attending by Zoom were: Melanie Fernandez, KJ4VCT; Todd Greenstein, KC0NNL; William Polera, KR4GEN; and Karin K. Thompson, KD4DXX.

Reports – Dirk Basting, N4AN, had supplied the Treasurer's Report by email, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR, was absent and the report of the Repeater Trustee was not available. Jeff Stahl said no one had taken a license test before the meeting. Carol Sjursen said she will be contacting Boat Parade volunteers shortly, and shelter volunteers are still needed.

Ben reported that Tom Savoca, who had resigned as Public Information Officer, had expressed a willingness to resume the position, and the Board had approved his reinstatement. A picnic for members is scheduled for November 8th at Vista View Park. Ben paid for a reprinting of business cards for the club to correct misinformation on a previous batch, and a tri-fold flyer to distribute at club events is planned.

Life Member Marty Falk, KI4IQZ, became a Silent Key this month. In appreciation of his service to amateur radio, it was agreed to order an ARRL memorial brick with a Lucite replica for his widow, Edna Falk.

Jeff mentioned the extreme damage already caused by Hurricane Melissa to Jamaica and anticipated in Cuba, with the most effective way to help being donations of money to reputable charities. Carol said amateur radio is being used in Jamaica to report weather conditions using two frequencies in the 20 meter band.

Speaker - Karin K. Thompson, KD4DXX, of RT Systems gave a presentation about programming options and techniques for radios and provided a code for a 10% discount on RT Systems products: GCARA2025.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
Secretary Pro Tem

Treasurer's Report September 2025

Account summary

Previous balance as of 08/28/2025	+\$ 3,009.27
Checks	-\$30.00
Withdrawals	-\$323.42
Deposits	+\$373.18
New balance as of 09/30/2025	+\$3,028.98
+CD 5307.62	Total = + \$8336.60

- Major Expenses web \$91.24,Cameras \$ 100
- Major Income : *Donations Rhonda brick \$325 anonymous 3 donors'*
- Members: Single 52, Gratis 6,Family 8, Lifetime 30, Late Payees: 15 Total: 113

Subject: GCARA *****Resignation of Presidency

From: Melanie Fernandez <earthymel1950@gmail.com>

Date: 9/28/2025, 1:46 PM

To: Ben E <ben_e_productions@msn.com>, Jeff Stahl <k4bh@arrl.net>, Ricki Witte <rickiwitte4@gmail.com>, N4AN <n4an.gcara@gmail.com>, Ricky Eaton <kd4hgr@bellsouth.net>, M E Fernandez <earthmother1950@gmail.com>, Barry Porter <barryp13@mac.com>, mikesamo <mikesamo@protonmail.com>

Dear Board,

On September 25, 2025, I penned an apologetic note of my resignation to Dr. Dirk Basting. I have suffered an unanticipated stress reaction which I am now trying to heal from. In my 15 years on the Board in one capacity or another, I have always tried to lead with grace, kindness and careful consideration of the needs of those around me. In my present state of physical duress, I find I can no longer continue my leadership in a valuable way and I WILL NOT do a disservice to the GCARA, a club I have loved and led for so many years.

I believe that Ben Echavarria, my Vice President, is more than capable of leading the club in the final three months of this year. He not only has a large notebook of certifications for assorted community skills, he is certainly more technical than I in Ham Radio. I feel I am leaving the club in very good hands and know that he will be able to draw from his many friends both on and off the Board to help him should he need it.

I wish no ill will to anyone I have been dealing with on club matters and those items I felt paramount to this club's success and forward movement. We live in a land that gives us freedom to agree or disagree and that should always be remembered first and foremost in raising different points of view. I respect all of my peers and remain open to help with supplying any information I am in possession of. I am just a phone call or email away.

Thank you to all who remain for your dedication to our club.

73,
Melanie KJ4VCT