



Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

April 26, 2026

The regular Board Meeting of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association, Inc., was called to order by President Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, at 4:18 pm on Zoom.

Present were Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, President; Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ, Secretary; Dirk Basting, N4AN, Treasurer; Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR, Repeater Trustee; Tom Savoca, K9TJS, Public Information Officer; Jeff Stahl, K4BH, Director at Large, and Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB.

Old business: Regarding the need for a place to store club equipment used on field days, whether a closed trailer, about 12' x 6' x 6' or a storage locker, Carol reported that the trailer previously discussed had disappeared from the Deerfield Fire Station and is unlikely to be found. Dirk said that the storage company he uses as a community service provides one of their small storage locker free of charge to 501(c)(3) organizations. Dirk, who attended the meeting from a cruise ship, will inquire if one is available upon his return.

The discussion shifted to planning for Summer Field Day. Jeff Stahl said he will bring the same radios and antennas as in the past, but cannot be the person in charge of Field Day. The antennas include one for 40 meters, 15 meters, and 20 meters. He has other antennas, but not covering all bands. Again there will be three stations operating plus a go-to station. (Gold Coast was tops in Florida for Winter Field Day with three stations.) Jeff has a radio for UHF VHF contacts, and we would like to have someone who can make a satellite contact. Jeff anticipates that Dan Vasilca will be in charge of CW contacts.

Ricky Eaton, who has been bringing the digital station and working mostly FT8, said that he will not bring his radio this year, although he is willing to bring his computer set up with N1M1 for logging contacts.

There should be an educational activity related to ham radio at Summer Field Day, and Mark Blanchard, W4MMK, was suggested as someone who should be asked.

It was agreed that we should compile a list describing the jobs necessary for field day and that they should be broken down into small steps that people unwilling to take major responsibilities will agree to do. Carol will start the list and requested input.

It was agreed that the other clubs be invited to participate in Summer Field Day and that they should contribute to both the work and the financing. There will be a Finance Committee composed of the treasurers of participating clubs. All clubs that participate in the work and the cost will be welcome to put up their club's banner.

There was a discussion of the cost of food and the fact that so many people in recent field days have eaten without having paid. One reason is the number of people who have been invited to eat without paying because they have done some of the work. It was agreed that everyone who eats should pay and that the price will remain \$20 for the weekend. Dirk will provide vouchers and maintain a list of those who have paid in advance.

New Business: Carol and Tom proposed a banner for ARES/RACES that could be used by any club hosting an ARES/RACES event. The suggestion is six inch black block letters on a white background that would say

**AMATEUR RADIO
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
EXERCISE IN PROGRESS
PUBLIC WELCOME**

Board members agreed that Gold Coast should facilitate having the banner created. Since it was understood that the logos would be only ARES/RACES and that Carol and Jeff will have custody of the banner to keep it available for any appropriate event, other clubs will be asked to donate a share of the cost.

Diane Schwantes (who does the shirts and badges for Gold Coast and other clubs) responded to Carol's text saying she does not do banners. Carol will contact EDCO, the company that has probably made most of the banners we have, to get an estimate of the cost in order that we can talk to the other clubs.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
Secretary