



Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association
Minutes of Monthly General Membership Meeting
March 24, 2026

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR, Vice President, since Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, was out of town. There were 29 persons present in person for the first meeting in a new location: Broward Health North, 201 East Sample Road, in the Conference Room directly across from the main entrance.

Present: – Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR; Dirk Basting, N4AN; Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ; Jeff Stahl, K4BH; Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB; Brandy Coolidge, N1HO; Al Nevares, N4ACN; Roger Johnson, AC4RL; Robert Rockwell, KN4QYG;

Minutes – Minutes of the January and February meetings were not yet available.

Treasurer's report: Dirk Basting distributed a treasurer's report that showed the months of December, January, and February and a Winter Field Day Financial Summary, copies of which are attached. Total membership as of the end of February is 100.

Testing: Jeff Stahl said no testing had been done before the meeting administered because of the new meeting site, but it was apparent that that location has everything needed and testing will be offered immediately before the general meeting in the future. Jeff said that GCARA ranked first in the three-radio class 3 in Florida. Classes to prepare for the general license exam will be scheduled soon, to be followed by classes to prepare for the extra exam, then another class for the technician level.

Repeater – Ricky Eaton and Eric Gonzalez report that a new, external controller has been installed to control the 146.61 repeater and will enable linking to other repeaters. It will make the repeater accessible by phone by hams outside the immediate repeater zone.

Announcements – Dirk Basting showed a sample of club shirts with our new logo, which can be ordered online. Additional ham radio items with our logo can also be ordered the vendors name is Diane. 15% of the price will be returned to the club.

Ricky Eaton said the club needs a small closed trailer to store and keep track of the field day equipment that is currently scattered among several members' garages.

Nigel picked the winning ticket for the 50/50 raffle which was won by guest Kimberly Smart.

Following a coffee break, Dirk Basting began presenting plaques honoring life members. The first to be honored was Melanie Fernandez who was asked to assist by saying a few words about each recipient.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
Secretary