



Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association Minutes of Monthly General Membership Meeting May 26, 2026

Call to Order: The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Vice President Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR (President Ben Echeverria, N7BBE, was present but suffering from laryngitis). at 7:31 pm. The meeting, exclusively in person, was held in Classrooms 7 and 8 at Broward Health North. Following the salute to the flag, members introduced themselves by name, call sign, and city.

Present: Ben Echeverria, N7BBE; Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR; Dirk Basting, N4AN; Jeff Stahl, K4BH; Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ; Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB; Allan Kardan, N4ALK; Jerry Deitch, W4LST; Jesse Shannon, KJ4FKK; Tom Savoca, K9TJS; Kenny Hollebeck, KE4NC; Nigel Richards, KB4F, and his friend Kimberly Smartt; Joe McGee, NX4T; Jim Schwantes, KJ4GJB, and Diane Schwantes; Tom McCain, N3HPR; Aurora Figueiredo, WD4AGF; Jeff Ronner, W4AEQ; Mark Blanchard, W4MMK; Melanie Fernandez, KF4FCT; Chris Kolb, K4CLK; Howard Groveman, W6HDG; David Crane, K4RU; Allan Karden, N4ALK; Jerry Deitch, W4LST; Kara Basting and Jean Marie Basting; Fred Rosenbaum, NF1U; and Shirley Ritchie, N4JKI.

Reports: Treasurer Dirk Basting reported total balance on hand of \$7,273.42; a copy of his report is attached hereto. He announced the new trailer to hold the club's equipment, most of which is used only on summer or winter Field Day or for picnics. It will be parked in Kenny Hollenbeck's yard.

Jeff Stahl gave the VE's report, stating that three people had been tested, and there are two new Technicians and one General, Aurora Figueiredo.

As Repeater Trustee, Ricky Eaton said that all three repeaters are working well; the HF station occasionally shuts down, requiring a manual restart. Members suggested a meeting presentation of how to use the HF station. All Star is working.

Jeff Stahl said volunteers are needed for Field Day, and a sign-up sheet is online. As usual, there will be three stations, a single sideband station, a digital station, and a CW station. A go to station for visitors is also planned, and Jim Schwantes said he will bring the appropriate equipment and attempt a satellite contact. Jeff encouraged people to stay late, even overnight, when the contacts are easier to make. Jeff will bring the radios and antennas, but will need assistance with items too large to fit into his vehicle. Kenny Hollenbeck agreed to be the chairperson, and there was a discussion of the logistics of getting the coolers to the people doing the shopping and getting the food to Field Day. Dirk Basting said that his family members, Kara Basting and Jean Marie Basting, have graciously volunteered to take care of the food for Field Day.

Carol Sjurson, who works with PIO Tom Savoca, reported that Margate will give a proclamation honoring amateur radio and the Mayor of Margate agreed to visit Field Day on Saturday or Sunday, which would provide public official bonus points. She thanked those who had participated in the recent Simulated Emergency Test (SET) and said that several members of the emergency management team had observed and appreciated the SET.

Jeff Stahl said that there is an upcoming CERT training through Coral Springs for anyone interested in becoming a member of CERT, and completion of this standard nationally accredited course will equip an individual to join any municipality's CERT program. The Coral Springs course is primarily online but includes four Saturday mornings.

Kenny Hollenbeck provided diagrams and measurements of the new trailer and invited suggestions for the most efficient way to store all the items.

Following the business meeting, Shirley Ritchie gave a presentation about her late husband, Chuck Ritchie, who was the primary founding member of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Society. He and his colleague managed to get an antenna and a repeater on the hospital and realized they needed a club to support it. His call sign, W4BUG, is now the club's call sign.

Diane Schwantes then showed a variety of items she has created for the club with the new logo she also created and she donated samples to be raffled off.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
Secretary