

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting

Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association (GCARA)

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Broward Health North – Conference Center

Pompano Beach, Florida

1. Call to Order

President Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and welcomed the 27 members and guests in attendance. The membership joined in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by introductions of the Board of Directors and officers.

2. Secretary's Report

In the absence of Secretary Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ, Dirk Basting, N4AN, served as Acting Recording Secretary. The minutes of the previous General Membership Meeting, as published on W4BUG.org, were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report and Membership Report

Treasurer Dirk Basting, N4AN, presented the financial and membership report. Field Day 2026 produced the club's first operating surplus in many years. Special recognition was given to Jean-Marie and Cara for their outstanding purchasing, planning, and cost-control efforts, reducing food expenses while serving more than 70 visitors.

4. Repeater Trustee Report

Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR, reviewed the repeater systems, remote station and DMR operations. He reported that the current repeater site at Boca Raton Regional Hospital will no longer be available because the older section of the hospital is scheduled for demolition and that he is actively seeking a replacement site. Ricky then recommended replacing the aging DMR repeater with a Motorola SLR5700. Following discussion, the membership unanimously approved the purchase of a Motorola SLR5700 DMR repeater for approximately \$2,950.

5. Director / Public Information Report

Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB, presented the report on behalf of Tom Savoca, K9TJS, highlighting social media activities, club announcements, and upcoming events.

6. Director-at-Large / VE Report

Jeff Stahl, K4BH, reported that the recent VE session resulted in one new Technician Class license and one new General Class license. He also announced his upcoming online Amateur Extra Class License Course and encouraged members interested in upgrading to participate.

7. Field Day 2026

Dirk Basting, N4AN, reviewed the financial and attendance results while Kenny Hollenbeck, KE4NC, presented the operating statistics. Kenny Hollenbeck KE4NC (Field Day Chairman)

highlighted the tremendous value of the club trailer, noting that it greatly simplified transportation, delivery, storage, and setup of equipment. He announced that additional improvements are planned before future events. Joe Nord, KQ4JFG, generously offered to transport the club trailer with his truck whenever needed for future club events, and his offer was gratefully acknowledged.

8. Announcements

President Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, announced the return of Quarterly Social Meetings and encouraged members to participate in upcoming club activities, including Jeff Stahl's Amateur Extra Class course.

9. 50/50 Drawing

The evening's 50/50 drawing generated \$110 in ticket sales. Art Lewis won the drawing and generously donated his entire winnings back to GCARA. Jeff Stahl, K4BH, successfully bid \$10 for a beautiful commemorative '250 Years of America' plaque designed and produced on a 3D printer by Allan Karden, N4ALK. A coffee break followed before the evening program.

10. Guest Speaker

Howard Groveman, W6HDG, presented 'DX101 – Working the World on HF,' featuring live DX audio examples together with many practical DX and contesting tips.

11. Adjournment

President Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, adjourned the meeting at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dirk Basting, N4AN
Acting Recording Secretary
Treasurer, GCARA