Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association

MINUTES OF MONTHLY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
September 22, 2026

Call to Order – The regular meeting of the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association, Inc., was called to order on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 7:34 p.m. by President Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, in person in the Conference Room at Broward Health North.

Roll Call – Seventeen members were present.

Minutes – The Minutes of the August 25, 2026, meeting were approved as submitted and are available on the Association's web page.

Reports – Treasurer Dirk Basting, N4AN, reported an ending balance of $6,826.21 as of September 14, 2026. The membership total remains 105. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Ed Wheeler, K4AAD, a long-time member who is now a Silent Key. Todd Macklin, K9TWM, has become a Lifetime Member, Copies of the Treasurer's reports for the periods ending 08/31/2026 and 09/14/2026 are attached.

Repeater Trustee Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR, reported that all repeaters are working. The DMR repeater is new and the repeater for the remote station has been replaced.

In the absence of both Tom Savoca, K9TJS, and Carol Sjursen, KJ4AWB, Dirk Basting gave the PIO report, a copy of which is attached. Upcoming events include a Ham Helpers Free Flea on September 26th at the First Christian Church in Wilton Manors, a social dinner at Peter Pan Diner on September 27th, a statewide Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 3rd, the ongoing Amateur Extra Class taught by Jeff Stahl, K4BH. Volunteers are still needed for the annual Boat Perade on December 12th.

Jeff Stah, K4BH, said one person had been tested before the meeting, but did not pass.

Speaker - Following the business meeting Ricky Eaton, KD4HGR, demonstrated the remote station, which can be used by any member.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Ricki Witte, KJ4FSJ
Secretary

Treasurer's Report August 2026

Account summary

Previous balance as 07/31/2026	+$3,850.99
Withdrawals	-$3,376.99
Deposits	+$844.76
New balance as of 08/31/2026	+$1,318.76
CD +5,475.37 Available Balance **Total =**	**+ $6,794.13**

- **Major Expenses: Web $45.62, Donuts $44.17, ARRL Brick $280, EDCO Awards $42.20, DMR Equipment (Highland Wireless) $2,965.00**
- **Major Income: Membership/Online (Stripe) $249.76, Donation Todd Macklin K9TWM, Zelle payment $65.00 in Person Meeting**
- **Membership: Single 71 , Family 8, Lifetime 26, Late Payees 4 Total: 105**
- **SK Marty Falk, KI4IQZ SK**
- **New lifetime Member: Todd Macklin K9TWM**

Treasurer's Report – September Update (as of 09/14/2026)

Account summary (checking ...8507)

Balance as of 08/31/2026		+$1,318.76
09/02 Stripe deposit	+$48.25	
09/08 Stripe – member overpayment refund + fee		-$45.00
09/10 Stripe deposit	+$28.83	
Current balance as of 09/14/2026		**+$1,350.84**

CD +5,475.37 (unchanged) Available Balance Total = +$6,826.21

September figures are month-to-date; the statement period closes 09/30/2026.

Membership counts, CD confirmation, and Highland Wireless purchase detail pending from July/August update.

In Memory of Edwin "Ed" Wheeler, K4ADD (SK)

A Ham for 76 Years • February 6, 1932 – August 30, 2026



- **First licensed in high school on Cape Cod in 1950**
- Upgraded to General while serving in the U.S. Air Force at Charleston AFB in 1954
- Pilot with Capital and United Airlines; retired as a United Captain after a 40-year airline career
- Operated a charter boat business for 42 years in Miami and Pompano Beach
- Served 35 years as a Miami-Dade Police Reserve Officer in the Aviation Section
- Active in numerous amateur radio nets and organizations, including GCARA and the Maritime Mobile Service Net

Memorial Service: Saturday, October 17, 2026

GCARA - Mail Chimp / PIO Report

1 message

Carol Sjursen <carolsjursen@gmail.com> Mon, Sep 21, 2026 at 09:29
To: Dirk Basting <N4AN@arrl.net>, Dirk Basting <dlbasting@gmail.com>, Ben_E_Productions@msn.com, TomSavoca@gmail.com

Good Morning Dirk and Ben,

Dirk, first of all, THANK YOU for sending out the Mail Chimp reminder! You did a great job on it and included lots of great information. Thank you again.

Tom and I both have other commitments for Tuesday night and neither of us will be at the meeting. Below is the PIO Report for you to read at the meeting:

PIO REPORT

Tom Savoca has been updating the website as he receives information. If you see anything that is incorrect, or that needs to be added, please let Tom know

We are very active on our social media accounts. Please help us boost our posts by liking, commenting, and sharing them.

Carol has secured the Bald Eagle pavilion for both Winter and Summer Field Day for 2027.

As you are aware, GCARA is hosting an Amateur Extra class, led by Instructor Jeff Stahl. There was a good turnout for the first class. If you are not signed up and would like to participate in the class, go to the club's website, under events, and sign up. Sessions are being recorded and Jeff can get you caught up.

The Statewide Simulated Emergency Test will be held on Saturday, October 3rd from 9:30 AM until 12:30 PM. The SET will begin on the GCARA repeater (the 61 machine) and further instructions will be given when you check in, just as if it were a real event. We are in the peak of hurricane season, so these exercises are important. Should a real event occur, we will all be better prepared.

Please save the date for the Winterfest Boat Parade which will take place on Saturday, December 12, 2026. We will also need help prior to the parade installing antennas on Monday, December 7th. The credentialing dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 9th for anyone working the parade. Carol will be sending additional information out, for now, just save the dates.

That concludes the PIO Report.

Carol

Carol Sjursen, ePro, CRS, CDPE, PMN