



# **GULF COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

## **Newsletter**

### **MARCH 2026**



[www.gulfcoastarc.com](http://www.gulfcoastarc.com)

On Monday February 23rd, the club held its monthly membership meeting at Millenium Academy. The primary business at this meeting was to hold a special election to fill the positions vacated when the President and Treasurer resigned in January.

At the time of the resignations the board had right under Fla. Statute to appoint replacements to the vacated positions. The remaining board of directors decided it was best to let the membership decide who should fill those positions at a special election. Both Pam KQ4IOT and Gary W8GLL chose to run again for the positions they resigned from. Two other candidates, one for each position, ran against them. Al AJ4JA for President and Chuck K5KAZ for Treasurer.

There were twenty-nine voting members attending the meeting. The results of the election were as follows.

#### President

Al AJ4JA	18 votes	Pam KQ4IOT	11 votes
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#### Treasurer

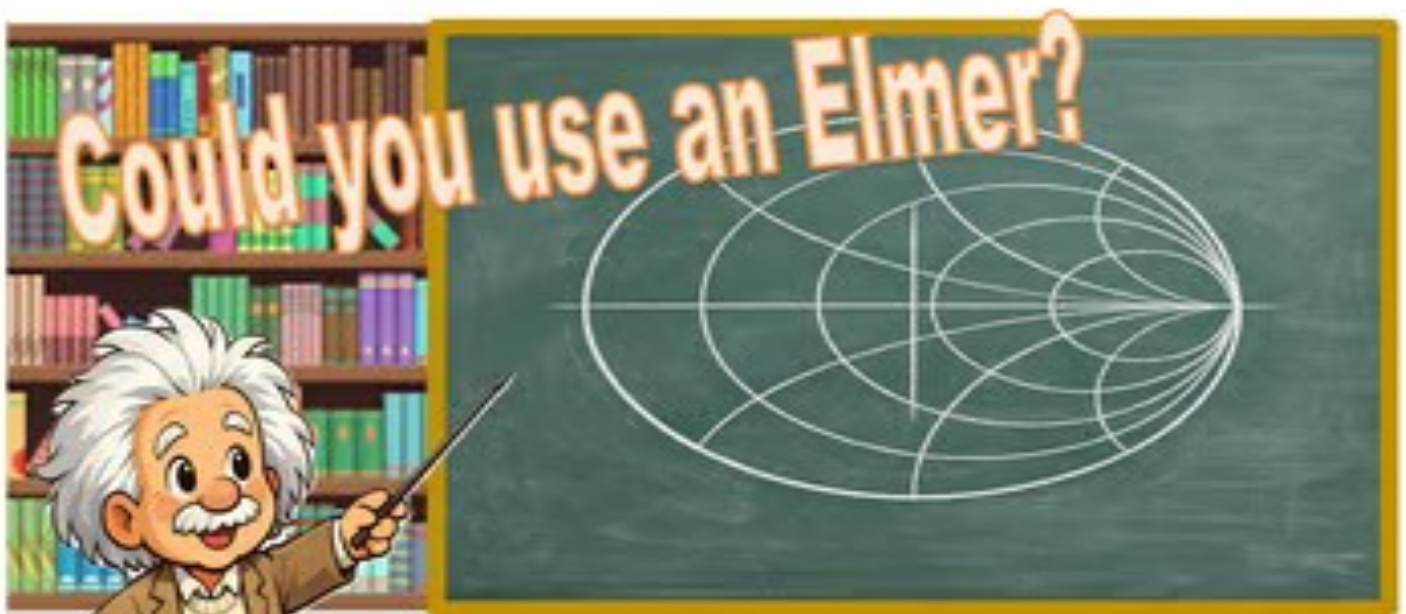
Gary W8GLL	15 votes	Chuck K5KAZ	14 votes
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Congratulations to Al and Gary. Thank you to all the members who attended the meeting and voted!

Also, at the meeting Gary W8GLL reiterated his warning from about a year ago that the club was endanger of suffering the same fate as the Suncoast ARC when they disbanded. The membership of Gulfcoast ARC is not growing at sustainable rate. This is an issue the “new” board of directors must address and try to implement some of the ideas developed by the committee that was formed at the time. Things like opening up the membership to GMRS operators, reaching out to the youth of the community to get them interested in the hobby.

We are looking for members to volunteer to be Net Control Operators for our Tuesday night “Trader and Information Net” See Nick’s article below! This is a GREAT way to get “on air” experience!

Again, I would like to thank the members that attended the February meeting and ENCOURAGE any members who can, attend the March meeting. March 23rd, 7:00 pm, Millenium Academy, 10005 Ridge road, New Port Richey!



The Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club has knowledgeable Ham operators waiting and willing to answer your questions. Just click on the link below and fill out the form and we will put you intouch with someone who can answer your question or find you the answer.



Scan the QR code  
and  
fill in the Elmer request form!

### NEXT TEST SESSION!

Scheduled for Saturday, March 14th

10:00 AM

Millenium Academy

10005 Ridge Rd, New Port Richey

Contact Al at [AJ4JA@ICLOUD.COM](mailto:AJ4JA@ICLOUD.COM)



**CLUB POTA**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH**  
**HONEYMOON ISLAND STATE PARK**

*1 Causeway Blvd. Dunedin*

*9:00am til 12ish!*



**GCARC Luncheon**  
**Saturday, March 21st**

**8010 Old County Rd 54,  
New Port Richey**

**11:00**

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	AL ECKBLAD	AJ4JA	AJ4JA@ICLOUD.COM
VICE PRESIDENT	CHUCK MILLER	K5KAZ	CHUCK5KAZ@GMAIL.COM
TREASURE	GARY LAMUNION	W8GLL	W8GLL8@GMAIL.COM
SECRETARY	*WAYNE DECHIRICO	KD2UDU	WAYNESWWW@AOL.COM
DIRECTOR	CHUCK MARTIN	KA4CEM	CHUCK33@TAMPABAY.RR.CO
DIRECTOR	CHRIS MCULLOUGH	KC3CJU	KC3CJU@GMAIL.COM
DIRECTOR	BARRY KEAVENY	N2NVP	N2NVP@ARRL.NET

\* pending board approval!



# NET CONTROL OPERATORS!

<b>MARCH 3</b>	<b>NICK</b>	<b>KN4IKR</b>
<b>MARCH 10</b>	<b>BARRY</b>	<b>N2NVP</b>
<b>MARCH 17</b>	<b>CHUCK</b>	<b>K5KAZ</b>
<b>MARCH 24</b>	<b>NICK</b>	<b>KN4IKR</b>
<b>MARCH 31</b>	<b>BARRY</b>	<b>N2NVP</b>

The club is looking for members to be Net Controllers The Tuesday Night Net is an important function of the GCARC, and the Nets must have a controller to keep the flow of information orderly. Right now we need more Net Controllers, so the same few people aren't holding the Nets week after week. Being a Net Controller is fun, you get to practice your on-the-air skills, and you get to use your radio equipment in a live exercise. And you are helping the club by donating about 30 minutes of your time for maybe one night a month. You will even be furnished scripted dialogue, so you don't have to ad lib. If you are a member in good standing, and you have a radio rig that can reach the club repeater clearly and reliably, you can let us know if you'd like to be a Net controller by several means: you can post a message on our Facebook site, or send us a message through the "contact us" link on the web site, or just say so during a Net. Please give it some thought. We'd love to have you join us as a Net Controller.

Nick KN4IKR [stewartnick@erols.com](mailto:stewartnick@erols.com)

# MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNSDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<b>Fusion Net</b> 7:30 145.350MHz	<b>GCARC</b> <b>INFORMATION</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	<b>SKYWARN</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	<b>Fusion Net</b> 7:30 145.350MHz	<b>GCARC</b> <b>INFORMATION</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz		<b>10M HF</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		 TEST SESSION-10:00AM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	<b>Fusion Net</b> 7:30 145.350MHz	<b>GCARC</b> <b>INFORMATION</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	<b>SKYWARN</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz	<b>10M HF</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		<b>CLUB LUNCHEON</b> 11:00AM SUSIE'S TOO
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	<b>MONTHLY</b> <b>MEMBERSHIP</b> <b>MEETING</b>	<b>GCARC</b> <b>INFORMATION</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz		<b>10M HF</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		
29	30	31				
	<b>Fusion Net</b> 7:30 145.350MHz	<b>GCARC</b> <b>INFORMATION</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 146.670Mhz		<b>10M HF</b> <b>NET</b> 7:30 PM 28.430Mhz USB		

Club POTA, HONEYMOON ISLAND STATE PARK, SATURDAY, 3/7/2026, 9:00AM!

LICENSE TEST SESSION, SATURDAY 3/14/2026, 10AM. CONTACT AL AJ4JA@ICLOUD.COM

Club Luncheon, Susie's Too, Saturday March 21st, 11:00am