



RADIO AMATEURS OF SKAGIT COUNTY

PO Box 814
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-0814

www.RASOnline.net

RASOnline@gmail.com

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 10, 2026

Meeting Location: Skagit PUD Aqua Room, 1415 Freeway Dr, Mount Vernon, WA.

Officers present: Bob Ramborger K7JNV; John Bellinger K7LVJ; Chris Davis KB7CX; Rick Gilbert KG7JVB; Dan Hildebrand W7ILR.

Officers absent: None.

Total number in attendance: 21 members, 3 guests.

Dan W7ILR opened the meeting at 1900 hrs and led everyone in reciting the pledge of allegiance. Everyone was given a chance to introduce themselves.

Dan asked for any announcements. Bob K7JNV advised that the March RASC Luncheon will be Friday, April 21st, 11:30 AM, at Bob's Burgers & Brew in Burlington.

Rich N7FDM gave a briefing about several items of radio equipment that have recently been listed on the buy-sell-trade page on the club website. The items are being sold by our club and Rich can be contacted for further information.

Chris KB7CX provided a review of the minutes from the March meeting.

Rick KG7JVB presented the Treasurer's report. A copy of the treasurer's reported is included at the end of this document. Dan entertained a motion from the floor to accept the minutes and treasurer's report. Rich N7FDM made a motion and it was seconded by Marlene KD7YAA. The vote to approve both reports was unanimous.

Rob McPeak KG7HIZ was not present for this meeting, so there was no N7GDE repeater report. There have been no reports of operational issues concerning the repeater. Dan advised that, to date, Skagit County DEM has taken no action to assume control of the repeater.

Michael Sterba KG7HQ provided an update from the ARRL. He has been visiting clubs around Northwest Washington. He advised that the ARRL is trying to defend the Amateur Radio frequency allocation in the 70 cm band. A commercial interest had previously received an experimental license to test high-powered drone control in Southern California. This caused harmful interference to the 70 cm

band. The FCC had to resort to revoking the license to resolve the interference. The same company is seeking another experimental license again. Because of the pro-drone focus of the federal government, we risk losing this battle.

Michael reported that the WRC (World Radio Conference) 2027 is planned. Due to the actions of the current administration in this country, the United States has lost some diplomatic bargaining power leading up to this conference. ARRL is working to try to mitigate this loss.

Next weekend, Michael will be at the headquarters for the ARRL. He is supporting several motions to improve the credibility of the ARRL as an organization. He anticipates that there will be some push-back to these motions.

Tracy K7UO asked Michael about interference being caused by the experimental licenses for HFT (high-frequency trading). Michael said that the ARRL is also working on this issue to protect the integrity of our HF bands.

Old Business

Rich N7FDM provided a report on the status of the repeaters on Cultus Mountain. When the electrical power generator on Cultus Mountain ran out of fuel last month, a commercial company that also uses the site took notice. The company caused the generator fuel to be replenished. Rich said that he is hopeful that the Amateur Radio repeaters at that location will be able to continue operations.

Dan W7ILR provided an update concerning the RASC Field Day this year. He has reserved the school grounds at Allen Elementary School, which is the same location as our event last year. The park behind the school was not an option because the Fire Department voiced an objection due to an anticipated severe fire season this year. We will operate in the same area as we did last year. The only change might be to not deploy the tower trailer. Rick KG7JVB asked if we should reserve a porta-potty. Dan gave Rick the approval to make the reservation. Dan confirmed that we intend to have Field Day also serve as a club picnic. There will be more discussion about this event during the May general meeting. Field Day is scheduled this year for the weekend of June 27-28.

Dan W7ILR started discussion on the club's intention to seek out a new club call sign. Chris KB7CX advised that he did research concerning an application for a vanity call sign. Chris said that FCC regulations do not allow a club to hold more than one vanity call sign. Since N7GDE is a vanity call sign, our club would be precluded from applying for an additional vanity call sign. The club can apply for a new random call sign. There was some discussion about what call sign the club should use during Field Day.

Michael KG7HQ provided some background information concerning how and why our club received the call sign N7GDE. The silent key, who held that call sign, was instrumental in keeping the club from fracturing at some time in the past. No decision was made concerning a new call sign or what call sign would be used by our club during Field Day.

New Business

There was no new business.

Dan W7ILR provided a briefing about upcoming events. The business meeting was adjourned at 1940 hours. The next general meeting will be May 8, 2026, 1900 hrs.

Chris KB7CX and Michael KG7HQ presented *Noise Hunting & RFI Mitigation*.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Davis KB7CX

Secretary

RASC Treasurer's Report for Mar 2026

3/1/2026	Begin balance	\$9,092.01	
	Deposits	\$200.00	Dues & Repeater Fund
	Expense	\$0.00	
3/31/2026	End balance	\$9,292.01	
	Repeater Fund Balance (incl above)	\$4,770.72	