

East Pasco Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

January General meeting Minutes

Date 2023-01-14

1. Call to order:

Duane Archibald called to order the January general meeting of EPARS Inc. at 8:00 AM on 2023-01-14 at the IHOP at 13100 US-301, Dade City, Florida.

2. Roll call:

A roll call was conducted, and the following persons were present:

15 Members and 1 Visitor

16 Total

President: **N4WDH** Duane Archibald

Vice President: **AA4CB** Chris Bloxsom

Secretary: **KB4WGA** John LeMay

Attendees:

W4SLG Jim "Mac" McAlister = Member

W9RUS Rus Thackery = Member

N2MJC Jim Zigrosser = Member

KFOCWU Brad Nau = Member

WB2BJW Bob Jackson = Member

KC2CZH Linda Jackson= Member

KG4GTN Jack Olson = Member

KN4UTR Garnet Musser = Member

KD8PUD Larry Fountain = Member

WD8KRS ED Roth = Member

KN4BNU Larry Banuat = Member

KY4RA Paul Jenne = Member

KM4KGH David Wright = Visitor

3. Minutes from last meeting reading was waved and minutes approved. A copy is available on the club website.

4. Treasurer report:

Jack Suske, our club Treasurer resigned on October 11, 2022. The EPARS Board began the process of selecting a new Treasurer. In December W4LJA - Lloyd Allgaier was asked to be the EPARS Treasurer and he accepted the position.

In December we received funds from the sale of radios and other equipment that was donated to EPARS from the estate of W4DPL - Dan Lindberg – SK. We also sold tower parts that had been donated to the club. For this equipment we received \$1100. We also received \$182 in donations from the Church Street Christmas talk to Santa. Total money received was \$1282.

SACU Savings	\$4897.63
SACU Checking	\$2506.29
PayPal Account	\$435.40

VE Funds	\$40.00
Total Club Funds	\$7879.32

5. Repeater Report:

The 443.600 C4FM Repeater and the 146.880 FM repeater are up and running at 100%. We will be improving the antennas at the repeater site. Our goal is to improve signal to and from the repeaters for our members in East Pasco. We need to work with St. Leo to clean up the unused junk cable and antennas that are around the equipment. We also need to do some maintenance on the Towers.

6. Presidents Announcements: N4WDH Duane Archibald

- We have ARRL Q&A Study books for all License classes.
- Our next VE Session will be held Tuesday March 14th, 2023, at 3PM. The February VE Session was postponed as it occurred on Valentine's Day
- Test are given at the San Antonio Railroad Depot Museum. The address is 32700 Railroad Ave in San Antonio Florida 33576
- Youth under the age of 18 will pay a reduced Exam Fee of \$5
- Youth under the age of 18 will be reimbursed the \$35 FCC License Fee.
- Send your request for testing to email = testing@eparsonline.org
- We now have 20 current Dues paying EPARS members for 2023. We continue to accept donations and dues on PayPal from the website. We encouraged members to join the ARRL through the club, if this is done, the club is given a portion of the funds. Dues can be paid 3 ways: In Person with cash or check, on the website via PayPal, or you can mail a check to POB 2199, St. Leo, FL 33574. Dues are \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a family of two or more. Dues paid via PayPal are charged a dollar by PayPal for a total of \$21 for an individual or \$26 for a family of two or more.
- Last year (2022) The EPARS VE TEAM licensed new or upgraded 45 operators. 27 NEW Technicians, 14 upgraded to General, and 4 upgraded to Extra!
- Duane announced the club nets on 2 meters and 440 and encouraged everyone to tune in. Everyone is invited to participate in the Tuesday night EPARS FM Net at 7:00 PM on our 146.880 and the C4FM digital net on Thursday nights at 8:00 PM on our 443.600. If you are out of range of the 443.600 and have a wires-X box, just connect to the WCF room #81609. It's a very informal net in a round table format and is a lot of fun. The 146.880 repeater is connected to Echolink and All-Star. If you are out of range, you can connect using your phone or your computer.
- We have been looking for additional repeater locations to expand our system, both GMRS and Ham. Elevation is key! We need A tall building or radio tower. If you know someone that might be able to provide us with an antenna location and a 4X6 area with electric power outlets let us know. Access to Internet would be a plus! We have been working with BayCare Hospital at there new location in Wesley Chapel to place equipment there, but it has been a slow process.
- Duane asked everyone to wright down things that they want to have as a presentation for meetings, also topics to be discussed on the nets.
- Our next EPARS meeting will be held Saturday, March 11th, 2023, at 8:00 AM. The February 11th meeting will be cancelled due to that date is also the Orlando HamCation date.

7. Net Control Operators: We need volunteers for net control on Tuesday nights. Currently, we only have 3. If we can get 2 more members to volunteer that would really help. It's very easy to read from the script and is good training for emergencies. It also lets you get to know the names, calls, and voices of the group!

8. Upcoming Social events:

- Winter Field day January 28th and 29th
- Orlando HamCation 2023 February 10th 11th and 12th
- Zephyrhills HamFest March 18th
- Grand Fondo Series Bicycle race March 19th is needing radio volunteers
<https://www.findafondo.com/event/318/gran-fondo-florida> Contact Gary N3OS.
- Field trip to WRMI (World Radio Miami International) Short Wave Broadcast station. The date has not been determined. A signup will be posted on Facebook and the Webpage.

9. State of the Club Report:

Presented by EPARS Secretary: **KB4WGA** John LeMay

What did EPARS accomplish in 2022?

We started out this year with a very aggressive agenda and then we kept adding on to it!

1. Last January we became a “real” Club. ***East Pasco Amateur Radio Society, Inc.*** is now a not-for-profit corporation recognized by the state of Florida.

2. We have established our Bylaws.

3. We established our mission statement, and that is:

“Promote amateur radio through association with likeminded individuals, providing charitable communications as a public service, supporting education and scientific inquiry into the technology of radio communications.”

4. We opened a new savings account and checking account for the new EPARS inc. with our local San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union.

5. We have a new mailing address:

**East Pasco Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
PO Box 2199 St. Leo, Florida 33574**

6. The club purchased a used GMRS repeater system The New (to us) GMRS repeater has been installed and tested at Chris Bloxsom’s home. The board will determine how to move forward with this equipment and where it should be located. Duane provided a list of licensed GMRS users in the area.

- **GMRS operators by location:**

- Land o Lakes 46

- Wesley Chapel 42

- Lutz 40

- Zephyrhills 24

- Dade City 16

- San Antonio 5
- Ridge Manor 0
- St Leo 0
- Given the numbers here, Wesley Chapel would be the best location for the GMRS Repeater.
- We hope to install the repeater as part of our signal coverage expansion project. We believe we should be active in GMRS as it can be an entry into ham radio much like CB Radio was for many of us that are currently Hams.

7. We participated in Florida State Parks on the air.
8. The NEW 146.880 K4EX repeater and controller went on the air Saturday February 19th, 2022, at around 11AM it had new features with voice announcements and increase our coverage area. At that time 146.880 became analog FM only and at that time the 443.600 was dedicated to primarily Fusion C4FM Digital but it also supports FM analog.
9. New link radios were installed at the repeater site in April to support Echolink and Allstar.
10. On May 28th we had our Dade City tailgate.
11. A better 146.880 duplexer was installed in June. N7KP Steve donated this to us.
12. Chris Bloxsom updated the club calendar on our website and made it more prominent and easier for users to see what's coming up!
13. We put an EPARS store online! Chris Bloxsom built EPARS "THE SHOP" has "SWAG" shirts, caps, cups, etc. <http://eparsonline.org/shop> Uniform club logo items can purchase online and are delivered to your home. It is linked on our website and our Facebook page. A small portion of the funds is given to EPARS. Uniform club logo items make EPARS members easily recognized.
14. Chris Bloxsom Developed a EPARS "**QR**" code. When scanned with a smart-phone camera it will take people to our website. This will be on all our literature, QSL cards Business card in the future.
15. We had a club "road trip" to [Ham Radio Outlet](#) in Winter Springs, FL. This was a fun activity for members.
16. We had a mid-week after work "Amateur Happy Hour". This seemed to be a success and we hope to continue this into the new year. This seems like a good way to involve working age amateurs that may not have time for the Saturday morning breakfast.
17. N7KP Steve built and donated a small portable 441.875 itinerant repeater that can be used at special events or in an emergency. It was deployed at our talk to Santa event.

So, we had a busy year at EPARS. We still have things we want to get done! With your support we can make them happen!

Things EPARS did not get done in 2022.

1. We wanted to find a way to do an outreach to our EPARS Members that may be in need.

We need some way to know who may be in the hospital, sick, or otherwise in need. Then find an appropriate way distribute that information so that club members are aware and can ask if they need assistance or at minimum send a card. Something like a prayer list maybe a "QSB list" (Your signals are fading). It may also be as simple as helping to set up an antenna or program a radio for them.

2. We wanted to do a Saturday lunch at an alternant location Maybe once a quarter instead of our breakfast.
3. We wanted to do a presentation / training class on how to use / setup our radios.
4. We wanted new membership package to be created to mail with membership card. Packet to include receipt for donation, club brochure, thank you/welcome letter and membership card. Update membership and club cards. Need to count existing membership cards and determine when to reorder. We have more than enough for this year and next.
5. We wanted to request additional funds from members. Different levels of membership such as Silver, Gold, Platinum but we questioned, what would you receive for that extra money?
6. We wanted to send an email Newsletter to all club members each quarter or at least twice a year.
7. We wanted to investigate what we can do to be an Amazon charity so that when members purchase products, we will get a portion of the money if they link to us.
8. We wanted to do the same thing with Facebook so that we can be added to birthdays and people can gift the club.
9. We wanted to do a Club outreach to our older members that are less mobile and keep them involved in club events.
10. We wanted to do Member Profiles / Biography on our website and on our Facebook page. Maybe highlight a different member or two each month.
11. We wanted to do A fieldtrip (show and tell) of the repeater site at St. Leo would be interesting for our members however we would need to plan this as the space for people is limited. We may have to do a few at a time and have a signup sheet.
12. Chris wants to do activities for club members each month to increase club camaraderie. Such event Like Parks on the air or participating in weekend on air contest if only for an hour or two on a Saturday or Sunday. These events would be done at outdoor locations when practical such as a public park or possibly a business parking lot. These events would give EPARS more public exposure and give members a chance to operate equipment, modes, and bands that they may not have or be able to operate at their home. Also, when we do the events, we could demonstrate the technology buy sending a message to the cell phone of the members of the public that are interested in what we are doing. This can be done using winlink.
13. We want to purchase and install more durable commercial grade antennas and repeaters.
14. We continue to work on the BayCare Hospital Repeater site project. We will also be looking at other locations in Wesley Chapel if the BayCare Hospital project falls apart we need some options. We can call this our East Pasco signal coverage expansion project. We want to provide better Ham and GMRS HT signal strength into the areas of our community that are growing such as Wesley Chapel, Mirada, and the area along and east

of I-75 for Hwy 50,52,54,56, from county line to county line along I-75 to encourage new Hams to participate in our club events and become a member of EPARS. Given the makeup of those communities, in building HT coverage is essential. We would like to encourage ZAARC to participate in our East Pasco area wide system linked repeater concept by possibly linking the W1PB 441.425 repeater to K4EX 146.880. The same with the W4PEM 443.750 repeater. Both repeaters are seldom if ever used and linking them would not interfere with the current primary 2-meter operation and would provide a needed East Pasco wide area analog radio system.

15. All our projects are conceived to encourage club growth friendship and enjoyment of our hobby in East Pasco.

10. Vice President Report: AA4CB Chris Bloxsom

- Chris presented our new club badge design to the group. The badge will be available for purchase online soon and will be linked to our webpage and Facebook.
- February 18th Pasco County ARES will be conducting Sky-Warn Training at the PASCO County West EOC 8744 Government Dr, New Port Richey, FL 34654. Seating is limited to 40 you must preregister. Contact KM4YGV for more information.
- Church Avenue Christmas (Talk to Santa) Was a great success. We had over 300 Kids that were able to talk to Santa this year on the radio at the North Pole. We had a great time and hopefully more of our members will participate next year.
- Winter Field day January 28th and 29th please join the other members for this 24-hour event. Lots of fun for everyone, work all bands for CQ field day. It will be at our normal location at the San Antonio train station.
- Check out EPARS the Store! Its part of shop with us dot com. You can purchase Shirts, caps, cups, backpacks, sweatshirts, and many other items.
- Chris had 4 winners for our drawing for 4 tickets to the 2023 HamCation.

Winners:

KFOCWU Brad Nau

WD8KRS ED Roth

11. Adjournment:

President: Duane Archibald adjourned the meeting at 8:58 AM

Minutes submitted by EPARS Secretary: KB4WGA John LeMay

Minutes approved by: President: N4WDH Duane Archibald