

East Pasco Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

March General meeting Minutes

Date 2023-03-11

1. Call to order:

Duane Archibald called to order the January general meeting of EPARS Inc. at 8:00 AM on 2023-03-11 at the IHOP at 13100 US-301, Dade City, Florida.

2. Roll call:

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

17 Members

17 Total

President: **N4WDH** Duane Archibald

Treasurer: **W4LJA** Lloyd Allgaier

Secretary: **KB4WGA** John LeMay

Attendees:

1_W4SLG Jim "Mac" McAlister = Member

2_KF0CWU Brad Nau = Member

3_WB2BJW Bob Jackson = Member

4_KC2CZH Linda Jackson = Member

5_KG4GTN Jack Olson = Member

6_KN4UTR Garnet Musser = Member

7_KD8PUD Larry Fountain = Member

8_WD8KRS ED Roth = Member

9_KN4BNU Larry Banuat = Member

10_KY4RA Paul Jenne = Member

11_K04KEH Arnold (Arnie) Carlson = Member

12_N3LBY Jim McNichol = Member

13_K7BAK Barbara Kometz = Member

14_N7KP Steve Kometz = Member

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

4. Treasurer report:

- In February we had expenditures for the Wesley Chapel Remote base Project. We purchased 2 antennas, coax, and connectors for a total of \$377.68. We now have 27 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.

SACU Savings	\$2526.69
SACU Checking	\$3245.64
PayPal Account	\$495.10
VE Funds	\$40.00
Total Club Funds	\$6267.43

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 St. Leo repeater site. Our goal is to improve signal to and from the repeaters for our members in East Pasco. Last month, we were able to work with St. Leo to clean up the unused junk cable and antennas that were on the rooftop and around the equipment. We were also able to do some maintenance on the Towers. More work needs to be done and we will be going back soon to finish. We hope to install better antennas and hardline before Summer. Thanks to Steve(N7KP), Lloyd (W4LJA), and Tim (KM4YGV) for your hard work.

6. Presidents Announcements: N4WDH Duane Archibald

- We are working to improve handheld (HT) coverage into the K4EX System for all our members. Duane asked everyone to write down if you can reach the 2M and the 70cm repeaters using your HT from inside your home. If you are using an outside antenna or a link station to access the repeaters let us know that. We want to find the areas that we need to improve.
- We use your donations to support club activities. Donations and Dues are used to maintain and improve our equipment. If you have not paid your 2023 Dues, please see our Treasurer **W4LJA**, Lloyd Allgaier and do so. Also, we have a PayPal account you can pay your Dues there. You can also set your PayPal account to make an automatic donation every month in addition to Dues if you can give, please do. Just \$5 a month can really help! If you are retired and have a fixed income and budget restraints, We can always use your help in other ways. Let us know what your Talents are we need Volunteers for Net Control operators and any number of other services and labor.
- 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 Echo-link and All-Star. If you are out of range, you can connect using your phone or your computer. Again, we need more Net Control operators, please help.
- Tailgates are coming up, Zephyrhills Tailgate is March 18, 2023. The EPARS Tailgate is April 8, 2023.
- License Test are given at the San Antonio Railroad Depot Museum. The address is 32700 Railroad Ave in San Antonio Florida 78204 If you have questions about testing, please email testing@eparsonline.org
- 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 the Internet would be a plus! We have been working with BayCare Hospital at their new location in Wesley Chapel to place equipment there, but it seems to have come to a dead end. But all hope was not lost! A big Thank you to W4SLG - Mac McAlister! Mac found us two new tower locations. Location one is at the North TPA Airport just off of I-75 near the rest areas. We have installed the K4EX SIMPLEX remote base there. It is on 147.570 w/tone 146.2. and is linked to the 146.880 repeater. Mac Also introduced us to our new friends at Saddlebrook Resort. They have a 100-foot tower on their property that they are going to allow EPARS to place both a UHF repeater and a VHF repeater. We also hope to install a GMRS repeater. The work will be starting soon to get this equipment installed. We, your board, want to have this in place and ready to use this summer.

- At our last meeting 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. We are reviewing those and will be implementing some of them.

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:

- 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 Has been canceled due to damage to the Broadcast station during the storms last fall.
- The EPARS Tailgate is April 8, 2023.
- We hope to restart our quarterly social gatherings next quarter at locations, such as Florida Ave Brewing Co.

- **9. Adjournment:**

President: Duane Archibald adjourned the meeting at 8:30 AM

- **10. Program:**

John LeMay (KB4WGA) provided our program. It was a show and tell about how to install and use Echo-Link on your phone or PC and how it can be used to access our repeater network from anywhere in the world.

Minutes submitted by EPARS Secretary: KB4WGA John LeMay

Minutes approved by: President: N4WDH Duane Archibald
