

East Pasco Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

August General meeting Minutes

Date 2023-08-12

1. Call to order:

Duane Archibald called to order the June general meeting of EPARS Inc. at 8:00 AM on 2023-08-12 at the IHOP at 13100 US-301, Dade City, Florida.

2. Roll call:

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

11 Members Total

President: **N4WDH** Duane Archibald

Treasurer: **W4LJA** Lloyd Allgaier

Secretary: **KB4WGA** John LeMay

Attendees:

1_ KN4UTR = Garnet Musser = Member

2_ KY4XV = Jorg Mattern = Member

3_ K7BAK = Barbara Kometz = Member

4_ N7KP = Steve Kometz = Member

5_ KC1GSC = Ed Chesky = Visitor

6_ W4SLG = Mac McAlister = Member

7_ NI4J = Steve Stark = Member

8_ N4ESS = Rich Kennedy = Member

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

4. Presidents Announcements: N4WDH Duane Archibald

- Is Anyone planning on working the meteor scatter this weekend? Just a reminder that the most active shower, the Perseids, is peaking Sunday at 4 AM
- The VE session on Tuesday, August 8th had no candidates. The next one is planned for Tuesday, September 12th. The city of "San Ann" is doing some renovations to the train station, fixing some issues with the structure. This may impact our testing sessions going forward. Keep an eye on the email reflector, Facebook page and Web Site for any changes.
- To register for an exam, send an email to testing@eparsonline.org. Please indicate which exams you wish to take. Yes, you can take more than one as long as you pass each in order with no extra exam fee.
- We can use some more Volunteer Examiners (VE's). It is a simple process to become an Examiner. It's a simple open book online exam to familiarize you with the forms and procedure. General class and up can qualify.
- Please join our email Reflector. Duane passed around a QR code that takes you to the link on your smart phone or use the URL if you want to do it the hard way <https://groups.io/g/k4ex/join> . Once you are on the reflector you receive emails sent to the group and can also send email to the entire group yourself.

5. Repeater Report:

The **443.600** analog FM and C4FM Repeater and the **146.880** FM repeater are up and running at 100% at St. Leo. Our goal is to improve signal to and from all the repeaters for our members located in East Pasco and we hope to provide HT coverage throughout East Pasco. The new **443.575 MHz** in Wesley Chapel is also an analog FM and C4FM Repeater and continues to give us great reports to the south and west. We are extremely happy with the coverage.

Last week we installed a new 145.290 MHz in Wesley Chapel, and it is also an analog FM and C4FM Repeater and reports good coverage.

The **147.570 remote base** in Wesley Chapel connected to 146.880 is on the air. The **147.555 remote base** in Ridge Manor connected to 146.880 is on the air.

- The EPARS GMRS repeater is on the air near Trilby on **462.650 ctess 118.8**, and it seems to have coverage to the north on I-75 up to Bushnell. More information is on our Facebook page, or just ask. There are club members that are also licensed GMRS.

6. EPARS Nets: we have 2 weekly nets. Our 7:PM Tuesday night net on the 146.880 repeater that you may also access with EchoLink node 92216 or AllStar 44239. Our Thursday Net is at 8:PM on the 443.600 Repeater and is a Yeasu Fusion digital net that you may also access if you have an internet node by connecting to Wires-X Room #81609

We are looking forward to being able to alert you about nets and other club events via a text message to your phone. If you are interested, please let John LeMay KB4WGA know.

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 club members! **Presidents** Archibald provided everyone with a laminated copy of the current Net control preamble.

8. EPARS Field Day:

- Suggestions on how to improve our event.
- Some Members had trouble operating the radios that were provided as the two stations were different from each other and difficult to operate.
- The suggestion that the club should purchase 2 radios just for Field Day, that are the same, seems to be the popular opinion. The members will discuss this some more and suggest to the board what radios EPARS should purchase.
- The Members also decided that a Special fund should be started for the Radios, and we should "pass the hat" to raise the money for the radios.
- The Members also think it would be fun to do some small HF events in the community to help us learn how to use our equipment.
- (a few hours on a Saturday after breakfast) that we can enjoy HF, and this would put us in the public eye by setting up a tent and operating in a grocery store (Publix) or Hardware store (Lowe's) or Walmart parking lot in our East Pasco community.

9. Treasurer report:

- In July we had 3 expenditures.

- Printing of 100 large Bumper Stickers with club Logo = \$123.65
- Shipping of Gifted 991 HF Radio to Yeasu = \$94.20 (was nonrepairable)
- Payment to IRS for Filing as 501(C)(3) = \$275.00
- Total Expenses \$492.85
- We now have 45 current Dues paying EPARS members for 2023.
- We continue to accept donations and dues on PayPal from the website. If you are going to join the ARRL We encouraged members to join the ARRL through the club, if this is done, the club is given a portion of the funds.
- EPARS Club Dues can be paid 3 ways: In Person with cash or check, or the website via PayPal. Also, you can mail a check to POB 2199, St. Leo, FL 33574. Club 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.

- Current Club Funds:

SACU Savings	\$2,532.74
SACU Checking	\$2,078.58
PayPal Account	\$392.30
VE Funds	\$40.00
Total Current Club Funds August	\$5043.62

Not included in this month's report as it was just received in the mail yesterday. EPARS received money (\$287.12) that belonged to the club. The state of Florida has been holding this money. The money was found in an old account that was held by a former board member many years ago. This person passed away some years ago and for an unknown reason the money was never recovered for the club. The bank closed the account and turned the money over to the state of Florida. Current EPARS Treasurer: **W4LJA** Lloyd Allgaier was made aware of this money and has been working for weeks to recover the money for EPARS.

10. Vice Presidents Announcements: No Announcements

11. Upcoming events:

- Church Street Christmas December 21, 22 and 23. This is an event EPARS has participated in for over 25 years. This event sponsored by a local organization invites the public to walk the length of Church Avenue, almost a mile, to view the Christmas decorations and visit the open Churches. We set up at the corner of Church Avenue and 21st Street. There we let children of all ages talk to Santa on the radio. This event gives our organization a HUGE amount of exposure to the community and may even, we hope, spark an interest in ham radio among the visitors. We pass out fliers, candy canes and talk to people about our organization while the children talk to Santa. j) We always need more help with this event. Last year we gave out over 300 QSL cards and candy canes. Thank you to Chris for playing Santa and Tim helping the kids with the radio and controlling the chaos at the table. Thank you to John and others for working with the crowd and telling people about our club. The people who have been doing this every year would like some relief and let new people enjoy the experience. Please volunteer and show up. We also put out a tip jar last year and collected over \$100 for the club.

- January 28, 2024, is Winter Field Day
- Huntsville Hamfest, Huntsville, Alabama, September 19th, and 20th.
- closer to home the TARC fest the same day from the Tampa Amateur Radio Club. Located at the north end of 22nd St, off Sligh Ave. Take I-75 south to Sligh Avenue. Go east to 22nd St then North to the end. There is a small fee for admission, but it supports their club.
- 58th annual Melbourne Hamfest, Melbourne, Florida October 13th, and 14th.
- Marcifest Hamfest in Bradenton Florida, October 21st e)
- Ocala Hamfest, Ocala, Florida December 2nd.
- Tampa Bay Hamfest, Plant City December 8th, and 9th. This is our big local Hamfest. A QR code link to the Tampa Bay Hamfest Facebook page was created by our own Chris, AA4CB And was passed around the table so everyone could Scan it to review the page and bookmark it for future reference. We need to support this one or we will lose it. The Tampa Bay Hamfest organization lost money last year and as we all know you cannot continue to lose money and stay in business. Tickets this year are \$10 in advance and \$13 at the door. A \$3 savings. This includes parking. Remember the State Fairgrounds? The state collected \$6 for parking every time you came in.
- EPARS VEs will be doing the testing again this year. We usually have about 10 or 12 candidates. Scan the QR code on the sheet to go to the new Facebook page for the event or visit the website at www.fgcrc.org. Duane will be selling tickets next month at the meeting and whenever we get together until December 8th or when he runs out. They have printed a limited number of tickets this year.
- If you want to help with this event, please let Duane know. We get together the day before, on Thursday, and go to Fred's Market for breakfast. Then we go paint the area for the tailgate spaces and start setting up inside the building.
- Do we (EPARS) want a club table or booth this year? This was discussed and the members voted for us to have a Booth this year. Duane will take care of that.

12. Adjournment: Our Next Meeting will be September 9th

President: Duane Archibald adjourned the meeting at 8:40 AM

13. Program: N4WDH

What are repeaters, how do they operate? A Review of repeater questions from the Technician Exam and operating procedures for both new and old operators.

Minutes submitted by EPARS Secretary: KB4WGA John LeMay

Minutes approved by: President: N4WDH Duane Archibald
