



Meeting Date: 11/4/2025
7:35pm –8:46pm
Zoom Meeting Call

Palmetto Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order by President

- *Pledge allegiance to Flag* 
- *Board Members Present: 5*
- *Board Members Absent: 0*
- *Attendance: 15*
- *General Meeting Minutes approved for [Last Month] APPROVED*

2) Repeater Status Report (Michael Samokieszyn)

Mike reported that the VHF repeater's dropout issues were resolved by removing the receiver preamp, while the UHF repeater remains down due to electrical damage and awaits repair funding. The club has received new brackets for the UHF monopole from a donation by Ricky (KD4HGR), which Jim will have machined to fit the necessary diameter of the monopole. Mike discussed securing the mast with the new mount instead of keeping the old one due to safety concerns. They plan to install new brackets once they are ready, with Nemury, our Vice President, potentially helping next Monday 11/10/2025, if his schedule allows. We all agreed to use a telescoping ladder for the job, like the Little Giant ladder.

Mike discussed continuous interference issues we are experiencing on our VHF repeater, primarily from a Lakeland, Florida, station which has been occurring for the past 3-4 weeks. He explored some potential solutions, including adjusting the squelch settings, changing frequencies, or moving to the Yaesu repeater to operate UHF temporarily. Tony (KD4UWU) suggested tightening the squelch, which could potentially improve the situation. Mike noted that while these options might help, they would also have some trade-offs, such as potentially affecting the reception of lower signal strengths. We discussed interference issues on the 147.375 MHz repeater output frequency, which Mike identified as coming from the Lakeland repeater operating on 975 MHz with a +600 offset. While our VHF repeater itself is not affected, others in the club are also hearing the interference on their radios, particularly when the Lakeland repeater is active, which you can hear usually on the receive side.

The membership group considered some solutions including adjusting squelch settings and potentially moving the frequency from the UHF Bridgecomm repeater, though they decided to wait and see if the interference resolves on its own before making any significant changes. We also discussed securing a repeater cabinet, with Mike explaining that \$64 worth of mesh panels would be needed to protect equipment from unauthorized access. Jim and David announced plans to send out a MailChimp email asking for donations. The website does have donate section that members can use to offer to help defer costs. When using that section, we ask that individuals please indicate on their donation that it is for repeater cabinet.



Meeting Date: 11/4/2025

7:35pm –8:46pm

Zoom Meeting Call

3) Treasurer's Report (Jim Schwantes)

The club's treasurer reported a current balance of \$703.52, an improvement from the start of the year, and discussed plans for a membership drive to reach \$1,000 by year-end. Jim, discussed recent donations, including Nemury's tent donation for park events, and David's \$168 contribution for batteries at the repeater site.

4) ARRL Testing Report (David Pomerantz)

ARRL testing continues to be available. I have acquired a key for the church to use one of the rooms for our test sessions. David (KO4DKN) announced a test session scheduled for Saturday 11/8/2025 with the one candidate who had previously canceled, and he confirmed that no testing would be scheduled for December but would pick right up January 10, 2026. David provided updates on VE testing, including changes to testing procedures and the elimination of ARRL paper test booklets. Now, the VEC leader will be responsible for printing the necessary Booklets for the new Technician discipline when the 2026 exams come out in the summer.

5) PARChoppers Report

No PARChoppers event scheduled for November or December due to holidays.

6) Other Notes during Meeting

Tonight, Grumme donated \$15, Diane Schwantes donated \$50, which was \$10 per club polo shirt sold, which covered the \$64 cost Mike Sam needed to finish the Repeater Rack. Also, Bill Mercer (KE8TPU) made a \$50 donation, Nemury (W4NEM) made a generous donation of \$50 and Tony (KD4UWU) announced a new retail merchant donation project that would also benefit the club which we are excited to be involved with.

PARC.net will be on 147.375 repeater tomorrow night 11/5/2025 at 7:30 PM. Mike Sam will continue to be the net controller and all amateurs are welcome to attend and participate.

Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association is holding its annual Picnic, Ham Show & Tell at Vista View Park – 4001 SW 142 Ave., Davie, FL 33330 (Park Entry is \$3 per vehicle) Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Come check out a variety of Go Kits, ask questions, and get inspired to build your own! There is a suggested food donation: \$10 per person which you can make on GCARA's website.

7) Adjournment by President

David Pomerantz, President adjourned the club meeting at 8:46 pm.