

PARC Board Meeting - January

Quick recap

The Palmetto Amateur Radio Club board meeting covered various operational updates and technical discussions, including radio setup configurations and CW learning techniques. The board addressed administrative matters such as bylaws updates, quorum requirements, and membership roles, while also discussing plans for upcoming events and presentations. The group concluded by reviewing park locations for future meetings, addressing repeater maintenance issues, and coordinating attendance for Hamcation.

Summary

Attendance: David Pomerantz (K04DKN), Jim Schwantes (KJ4GJB), Roberto Fernandez (KQ4RFT) and Mike Sam (KF4ZW)

Absent: Nemury Valladares (W4NEM)

Amateur Radio Club Operations Meeting

The Palmetto Amateur Radio Club board meeting was held on January 25th at 16:00 with a quorum of four board members. The meeting began with a discussion about radio operations, where Jim Schwantes explained his setup for working with satellites using the IC-2730 radio and disabling the SAT controller for easier operation. The group then discussed CW learning techniques, with Roberto working on memorizing character pairs and Mike advising the use of headphones for better focus. The conversation ended with technical issues regarding video and audio connections being resolved, and the board members agreed to use the same meeting link for future sessions.

Club Leadership and Bylaws Review

The group discussed the Membership and Secretary positions, with Jim Schwantes suggesting that the Treasurer could handle membership duties. The MoneyMinder application offers the necessary tools for managing membership dues and expiration dates. It also has the ability to send out notices when dues are expired. We also discussed a club member who was interested in the Membership role, might be better suited for a Secretary position. They agreed to review the club's bylaws, which haven't been updated since 1995, and to consider creating a new director-at-large

position for a Member Liaison. The group also discussed the need to update their bank balance and payment records before their upcoming member meeting on Tuesday.

The board discussed several key topics including bylaws updates, quorum requirements, and the secretary position. They agreed to change the quorum requirement from 20% to 10% for member meetings, and David will send out the updated bylaws for review. Jim suggested offering the Secretary position to the members, which could include membership liaison duties.

MoneyMinder Renewal

The board also decided to keep using MoneyMinder for \$299 per year. For 2026, we will concentrate on using the Membership portion of the software for automatic dues notices via email. This subscription was renewed on January 11th, 2026

Closed Board Meeting Format Decision

The board discussed the format of their meetings and decided to keep them closed to members, with the minutes from the meeting to be shared publicly. They agreed that clear documentation of board discussions and decisions would maintain transparency with our members and ensure that all decisions and motives were open for discussion if needed.

PARC Hopper Event Planning

The group discussed organizing PARC hopper events focused on battery box construction, antenna efficiency testing, and VNA (Vector Network Analyzer) training. They agreed to create an Amazon shopping list for battery box supplies and to share a recorded presentation about antenna testing. Mike offered to lead a soldering lesson for beginners. The group also discussed the possibility of hosting an event about elevated radials to demonstrate improved SWR performance. The group also planned to select a Park Hopper location and content for February, with Roberto expressing interest in learning more about the NanoVNA. Jim shared his progress on 3D printing Anderson PowerPole connectors, aiming to create a cheaper alternative to the commercial versions. The group also discussed the importance of using appropriate tools for circuit board work and the availability of educational resources on battery box builds.

The group discussed plans for an upcoming PARC Hopper, considering various park locations. They agreed that Quiet Waters could be a good option for March, after the Renaissance festival ends. The group also discussed the need for canopies and tables at future meetings, as pavilions are not within their budget. The group considered several park options, including Oleta River and Tree Tops, and noted that Vista View has restrictions on staking equipment. The February Park Hopper event will be held at Tree Tops park in Cooper City on February 21st.

Repeater Updates

The Board also addressed repeater maintenance, with Mike planning to install brackets and side panels for the repeater cabinet. The group reviewed the status of repeater donations, noting they have \$259 available for targeted donations. Mike reported that removing the preamp and moving the antenna to the GP6 has improved interference issues on the VHF repeater.

Hamcation Event

The group briefly discussed Hamcation and agreed to send out a chat to coordinate attendance. Some Board members indicated that they will be attending the event and would like to encourage member communications leading up to and during the event.

PARC Net

The first and third Wednesday of each month is the PARC Net conducted on the PARC VHF repeater. Jim congratulated Roberto on his role as Net Control last week and would like to encourage more members to take on this role. Roberto raised the issue of creating a rotation for the Wednesday net, which the group agreed to discuss further at the member meeting.

The Board ended the meeting at 17:23.