



Meeting Date: 1/27/2026
7:38pm – 8:39pm
Zoom Meeting Call

Palmetto Amateur Radio Club

General Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order by President

- *Pledge allegiance to Flag*
- *Board Members Present: 4*
- *Board Members Absent: 0*
- *Attendance: 9*
- *General Meeting Minutes approved for December 2025*

2) Repeater Status Report (Michael Samokieszyn)

The group discussed repeater operations, with Mike reporting that the VHF repeater was working well but had some audio clarity issues reported by Jim that were being monitored. They agreed to schedule a visit to the repeater site, with Nemury and Mike planning to coordinate their schedules for installation of brackets. David mentioned that he may also be available to assist pending the date selected. Nemury raised the need to review and prioritize previously deferred projects, particularly the installation of Wi-Fi on the repeater site, which would enable better communication capabilities. The group discussed the capabilities and limitations of their repeater systems, particularly the Yaesu DR2X repeater, which only supports Wires X and C4FM protocols without internet connectivity. They explored the possibility of linking to GCARA repeaters for better coverage, though Wi-Fi was suggested as a more practical solution.

3) Treasurer's Report (Jim Schwantes)

The board discussed financial matters, with Jim reporting they had \$862 in the bank and would deposit an additional \$132 from a donation box the next day. The monthly Treasurer's Report was shared on screen for member review. Jim revealed they had renewed the MoneyMinder accounting software, a \$299 annual subscription, without notifying the membership as required by their bylaws for expenses over \$250. Going forward this would be brought to a vote at the November meeting to allow members to input on the purchase.

Jim also stated that there was \$259 allocated for support of the repeater site improvements and thanked the members for their donations in 2025.

4) ARRL Testing Report (David Pomerantz)

David announced the next test session will be held on March 14th, with plans to potentially implement remote testing in the future. There will be no testing in February due to the timing of Hamcation. The group also discussed transitioning to online testing and remote exam administration, with Nemury sharing his experience from a recent field day where remote testing was successfully conducted. This will be explored in the coming months.



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5) PARC Hoppers Report

David asked for member input on PARC Hopper locations for 2026. Several were mentioned with some not being optimal due to lack of bathrooms and grills. Nemury suggested using a park with a saltwater site for radial placement and propagation experiments, though Mike noted that public beaches might not allow such activities. The group also briefly discussed Birch State Park, which has access to the intercoastal but has a \$6 entrance fee. David encouraged everyone to contribute suggestions for park locations through the Groups.IO platform, emphasizing that it would be a group effort to choose the final site list. The plan would be to create a definitive list of park locations and use them in sequence for future events. For February, the PARC Hopper will be at Tree Tops Park on Saturday, February 21st. David will send out a MailChimp flyer to advertise the event.

Battery Box Building, Tips and Antenna testing

The group discussed plans for an upcoming park event focused on building battery boxes, with an emphasis on teaching advanced techniques to novice members. Jim shared his discovery of a 3D printable file for Anderson power poles, which he will bring to the next meetup. The group also planned to cover the use of VNAs and antenna analyzers, including demonstrations on measuring SWR and checking coaxial cable efficiency. Additionally, they discussed experimenting with elevated radials and the use of coils in antenna setups during park events.

Additional Learning Opportunities

The group discussed antenna setups, with Nemury recommending a lightweight surveyor tripod for stability in windy conditions. Armand expressed interest in learning about repeaters and mentioned purchasing an FT710 radio. The group discussed a 3D printed adapter for radio antennas and shared memories about hand-me-down radios. They planned future park activations, with Palmetto suggesting a rotation system for visiting different parks. The group agreed to post suggestions in their group chat and confirmed they would visit Treetops in February, with Trade Winds as a potential alternative location.

David confirmed the next general meeting would be on February 24th following the Park Hoppers occurring the previous Saturday.

6) Adjournment by President

David S Pomerantz, adjourned the meeting at 20:39 pm EST.