



Meeting Date: 6-24-2025
7:30pm – 9:00pm
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: 1*
- Attendance: 11
- General Meeting Minutes approved for May 2026

The Palmetto Amateur Radio Club held their general membership meeting on June 24th to discuss upcoming events and activities. The meeting began with a pledge of allegiance and introductions, with several members joining late due to confusion about the start time. David led the meeting and reported on Mike Sam's recent presentation on digital modes at Gold Coast's general membership meeting, which was well-attended with 31-35 people. The group discussed upcoming park events, confirming that the July event would be held at West Delray Regional Park (Arthur Marshall) on July 18th, though they decided to cancel the August Park event due to scheduling conflicts with a club trip to Huntsville. The members also discussed various technical topics including amateur radio equipment, antenna setups, and the challenges of mobile ham operations. Jim mentioned creating a YouTube channel for the club to host recorded presentations, and the group briefly discussed potential future park locations including John Lloyd State Park.

Ham Radio Equipment Discussion

The meeting began with casual conversation about ham radio equipment and certificates, with Jim showing off his framed radiogram certificate. The group discussed technical setup issues, including confusion about meeting times and Zoom access. Crummey joined the call and mentioned he would be dropping off a keyboard and mouse on Saturday morning, with Mike offering to bring additional equipment from his garage. The conversation ended with discussion about Crummey's location in Plantation Acres near American Heritage School.

Antenna System Discussion Updates

Mike discussed antenna options with another participant, recommending a 71-foot non-resonant in-fed antenna system that works on a 9-to-1 ratio and costs under \$50. The discussion included advice about placing wire antennas away from metal structures and the possibility of using directional arrays with multiple inverted V antennas. The meeting also included updates about equipment issues, including camera problems and a mixer board that needs repair, and mention of a radiogram received by Diane.



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Amateur Radio Equipment Discussion

The group discussed amateur radio equipment and membership. Jim received congratulations on passing his amateur radio license exam and considered whether to renew his ARRL membership, expressing doubt about its value beyond supporting the hobby. Mike demonstrated a portable radio node he plans to install in his car, which connects to his phone's VPN and provides mobile radio functionality. The conversation also covered equipment pricing, with Jim securing a 2W device for \$8 less than the current price, and Mike sharing his experience with a 4B model that cost \$85 three months ago.

Park Events Planning Meeting

The meeting focused on planning upcoming park events and discussing recent activities. The group decided to hold the next park event at Arthur Marshall in Delray on July 18th, with West Delray Regional Park as a potential August location, though August's event was ultimately canceled due to scheduling conflicts. Mike agreed to take responsibility for coordinating radio bands at future park events to prevent interference between operators. The meeting also included updates about a recent digital mode's presentation given by Mike Sam at Gold Coast's general membership meeting, which was recorded and will be uploaded to YouTube.

Bandpass Filter System Implementation

The group discussed implementing a bandpass filter system for field operations to ensure safety and protect equipment. Mike agreed to create a distribution board with filters for each band and coax connections, allowing multiple operators to connect their antennas safely. The team also confirmed continued interest in the ParkNet Wednesday operations on the first and third of each month, and discussed plans for installing Echo Link and amateur television equipment.

Treasurer's Report and Club Expenses

The meeting focused on reviewing the treasurer's report for June, where Jim reported approximately \$800 in the bank including \$45 in membership dues and \$82 in recent donations. The group discussed outstanding payments, with Mike acknowledging he owed \$50 in donations and David mentioning his 6-month testing fee should have been included. The discussion also covered club expenses including Zoom and MailChimp renewals, and Tony raised questions about the legal status of using the building's facilities without a formal agreement, though Mike confirmed they have a verbal agreement that has been in place for over 30 years.

Club Equipment Liability Concerns

The meeting focused on liability concerns regarding the club's equipment placement at a condo building. Tony raised concerns about the lack of a written agreement with the property owners, emphasizing the potential legal risks and liability exposure for club members. Jim explained that the club has insurance coverage including liability up to \$1 million and equipment coverage up to \$10,000, but the board agreed that obtaining written permission from the building owners is necessary to protect the club's liability. The group decided to draft a letter to the condo association's board of directors before moving the equipment cabinet, with Mike acknowledging the need to formalize the existing verbal agreement.

UHF Repeater Frequency Transition Update

Mike reported that the UHF repeater is working well on a new frequency of 443.2125 MHz after moving from the VHF frequency due to interference issues. He explained that during the transition, they discovered the Yaesu DR2X repeater had UHF reception problems, leading them to install a Bridgecom repeater as a temporary solution. Mike and David plan to replace the cabinet and reinstall the Yaesu repeater on the VHF side the following morning, with the goal of activating a VHF repeater on one of several open frequencies.

Radio Repeater Setup and Equipment

The group discussed their radio repeater setup and facility access. Mike explained they have a strong relationship with the building's president, who provided full roof access and installed a 3-inch sleeve for antenna cables without charge.



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The team confirmed they currently have two active repeaters with spare duplexers as backups, and are in the process of replacing all equipment including cables, connectors, and eventually the cabinet. David noted they are in better shape than previous years with new LMR600 coax donated by Jim's son and plans to restore the VHF repeater.

Ham Radio Testing Updates

The team discussed upcoming changes to ham radio testing, with new technician exams launching July 1st featuring updated questions focused on modern digital modes and equipment. The question pool was reduced from 412 to 409 questions, with 27 new questions added and 30 obsolete questions removed. The group also reviewed recent changes to their repeater system, including the implementation of All-Star and DMR capabilities, with plans to update the website and flyer to reflect these changes.

Satellite Field Day Event Planning

The team discussed plans for an upcoming satellite field day event, with Tony coordinating the setup on Friday with Mike and Jim's help. They planned to set up Yagi's on a roof deck, test the equipment, and conduct a satellite class on Saturday afternoon between 2-4 PM. Jim agreed to provide an active satellite list using ISS predictor, and Diane will handle satellite operations using her ICOM 9700 equipment. The group also discussed potentially creating YouTube video documentation of the event and possibly doing a simulcast on Zoom between clubs.

2) Adjournment by President

David S. Pomerantz, adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm EST.