

PLEASE SEND NEWSLETTER
INPUTS TO:
Newsletter@PCARS.ORG

Newsletter Editor Jim (N4KCT)
Your Inputs are welcome.

PCARS Website:
<https://pcars.org/wp/>



Repeaters

Primary 146.61 MHz, -600
Tone 107.2

Backup 146.85 MHz, -600
Tone 107.2

UHF 444.425 MHz, +5 MHz
Tone 107.2

Digipeater 145.09 MHz

Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

March 2024

Club Officers

President	Walter Aucoin	K5LD
Vice Pres	Dennis O'Quinn	K4CXX
Secretary	Rob Railer	K8RAR
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PO BOX 1004

MELBOURNE, FL 32902

SERVING ALL OF SOUTHERN BREVARD COUNTY
ON FLORIDA'SSPACE COAST

**Meetings are held the second Monday of
each month at VFW Hall, 3201 Dairy Rd,
Melbourne, FL**

Next meeting March 11 2024, at 7 PM.

Committee Chairs

Education Chairman	OPEN	----	Public Information Officer	Dan Fisher	AI4GK
Emergency Coordinator	Phil Tso	W7TSO	QSL Manager	Vince Weal	K4JC
Field Day Chairman	Vince Weal	K4JC	Radio Activity/ Contest Coord	Ryan Dahlberg	N0OJ
Go-Kit Manager	Phil Tso	W7TSO	Repeaters	Clyde Spencer	KD8AN
Hospitality	OPEN	----	SKYWARN® / Weather Net	Rodger Boogren	AK4MI
Interference	Dan Fisher	AI4GK	Sunshine	OPEN	----
Membership	Bob Creswick	NB4C	Technical Chairman	Clyde Spencer	KD8AN
MREN (Thursday Night Net)	Chuck Green	AD4ES	Training	Clyde	KD8AN
Newsletter Editor	Jim Grebey	N4KCT	Webmaster	Dave Self	K8SSN

Per the club's By Laws, dues are payable within 30 days of the February meeting. That date will be March 13, 2024. If not paid by then, the member will be dropped from the club roster. That gives you under two weeks to make your payment, via cash/check/money order or PayPal.

If you're sitting on the edge, trying to decide whether to rejoin, please see the 2/20/24 email from Bob (NB4C), and realize the benefits of membership. Just look at the number of activities in the Newsletter to see the benefits the club offers!

Bob (NB4C) - Membership Chair/PCARS

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES YET

Dues are \$20 a year. You can mail them to:

PCARS

P.O. Box 1004

Melbourne, FL 32902

Or use PayPal: Send the payment to: treasurer@pcars.org



People, Technology Advice, High end station access, Contesting and other Activities, Education and Training, Public Service, Repeaters... Membership buys you a lot of privilege.

AR

MONTH IN REVIEW

The monthly meeting was held on February 12 at the VFW on Dairy Road.

The annual operating budget was adopted unanimously by the membership at the meeting. For all information regarding the financial operations of PCARS contact:

Chuck Green AD4ES
Treasurer
5395 Lake Washington Rd
Melbourne FL 32934

The meeting program included a presentation entitled "CubeSats for Education." The CubeSat project is similar to AMSAT (AMateur radio on SATellites), and is intended to help a new generation discover the challenges of space discovery. The program was titled CubeSats for Education and was presented by Rob Best (KC9LGS) and Dan Welch (KC9LGR). You may remember them from the brief presentation last year on pico-ballooning. We also had local high school students attending with interest in CubeSats.

To view the presentation check out the video provided by Justin (KO4CEQ)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZC0i5pg9v4>

For more information on CubeSat technology check out www.space-hobbies.com



BT

The Orlando Hamcation hamfest was attended by several PCARS members in February. PCARS was given a booth at Hamcation in Orlando, which was used to help sell tickets to the PCARS Hamfest in October. 10 tickets were sold.



BT

As a follow up trip, K5LD, K4JC, K4QD and N0OJ will head to the PJ2T station in Curacao for the ARRL International DX SSB Contest the first week of March.

The image shows the front panel of a Yaesu FT-1000MP radio. The central digital display is active, showing the following information:

- MT** (Memory Tune) mode indicator.
- C-U** (Citrus) band indicator.
- 21.04190** MHz frequency display.
- PITCH** (Pitch) indicator.
- CLAR** (Clarifier) indicator.
- Ohz** (Ohms) indicator.
- SWR** (Standing Wave Ratio) indicator, showing 1.0.
- Spectrum Display**: A graph showing the signal strength across the frequency range. A strong signal is visible at 30 MHz.
- METER** (Meter) indicator, showing 26W.
- REF PWR** (Reference Power) indicator, showing 12Wpm.
- SPEED** (Speed) indicator, showing 12Wpm.
- SWEEP** (Sweep) indicator.

On the right side of the radio, there are several control buttons:

- F** (Function) button.
- M-LIST** (Memory List) button.
- MENU** (Menu) button.
- SETUP** (Setup) button.
- BAND** (Band) button.
- MODE** (Mode) button.

The radio is a black, rectangular unit with a silver-colored front panel. The display is a monochrome LCD. The Yaesu logo is visible at the top of the front panel.

Why PJ2T? PJ2T is in the Dutch Caribbean and is 40 miles off the coast of Venezuela. A great sunny place with predictable weather. Hot, sunny, and humid. Average annual rainfall is 12 inches per year, annual mean average temperature ranges from 79.9° to 84.4°, and annual relative humidity ranges from 77.3% to 80.6%. But more important than the weather, the station has 4 seats and a remote. There are 3 towers on the property, long beverage antennas running up a ridge, and a beam on the top of the ridge. Most are fixed antennas, and a few are rotatable. Besides the hardware, its location means we are on a different continent and that maximizes the points per QSO!

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This contest is 48 hours long and started on Friday 8:00 pm local time as Curacao is 1 hour later than Florida. We had 7 physical operators and a remote operator. The station has four seats and we kept them occupied when that band was open. We had 1 station for 40m, another for 20m, a 3rd for 80m/10m, and the 4th station for 160m/15m. A typical shift was 4 hours, but we were short 1 person so some shifts were 2 hours and some were 6 hours.

We finished with about 8500 QSO's which means we averaged 177 contacts per hour for the entire 48 hours of operation. Sounds incredible but it was a low score based on previous year's efforts by other CW teams. We did the best we could with the conditions we had. It took about 2 hours to work all states. In the end we worked all states for 10m, 15m, 20m, and 40m. We missed SD on 80m and on 160m we missed DC, SD, ID, and WY. Because of an antenna failure we had limited time on 160m which, based on activity, would have captured DC, ID and WY if we had more op time. Oh well!! We also worked ALL Canadian Provinces except for NT and NU on 10m thru 80m. On 160m we also missed NF, NT, NU, & YT. We had lots and lots of multipliers!!

Bottom line, lots of fun, made new friends, and really liked operating CW from PJ2T.

Look for PJ2T this weekend working the CQ DX SSB contest this weekend.

BT

The Brevard schools sponsored the Southern Brevard Regional Science and Engineering. Student display booths were organized by categories throughout the Melbourne Mall. There were multiple projects across 13 categories at the junior (7th and 8th grades) and senior (9th through 12th grades) levels.

The club received a thank you card from Averi Bourgain thanking the club for the Science Fair Award donation we made. The 7th or 8th grade PCARS award recipient was named from the Intracoastal Regional Science and Engineering Fair on February 9th. Her project "Knock, Knock" employed a microprocessor to detect and match a specific knocking pattern to create a "smart lock." She is a student at DeLaura Middle School. (de K4CXX)



BT



CONGRATULATIONS!



From Bob NB4C: In the 2023 IARU HF World Championships, held July 8-9, 2023, the following results were recorded for the Southeast Region, including Southeastern Division:

Vince, K4JC.....Third Place, Single Operator, Phone, High Power.

Vince was also thirteenth overall in the SE Division

Chuck, AD4ES.....First Place, Multi-single, High Power

BT

Technical and support activities from Clyde (KD8AN)

Those club members that are interested in getting trained on the club stations please send an email to Clyde at KD8AN50@Gmail.com

Club Station

- The station #1 amplifier is still in the repair facility. The target is by the end of February or early March.
- The CW paddles were tuned up this past week. The contacts were burnished and the contact holding posts were straightened and tightened.
- K4AOQ and myself rebuilt the profiles for the IC7300 stations. The profiles were being overwritten by operators. After reconfiguring the profiles, we write protected the SD card so this will not happen in the future.
- Remember, when you have finished operating at the club station be sure to LOAD the SSB profile. This will ensure the next operator knows where they are starting from.

146.610 Repeater

- We are waiting to get access to the hospital roof. This should be happening after K5LD returns from his DX contest expedition. We need to replace the phasing harness.

146.850 Repeater

- We are waiting to see if Harris will pay for the new coax and antenna. No available time as of yet.

444.425 Repeater

- We are waiting to get access to the hospital roof. This should be happening after K5LD returns from his DX contest expedition. We are relocating the antenna to a different location on the roof and re-routing the coax.

AR

UPCOMING EVENT REMINDER

This is the 2024 PCARS Club Calendar From Dennis (K4CXX)

Month	Topic/Title	Presenter/Lead
Mar 11	Monthly Meeting (Mobile Radio Direction Finding (RDFing))	Justin Polak, KO4CEQ
Mar 16	Laurel-VEC FCC Exams	Gary W4GAL
Apr 8	Monthly Meeting (Projected—a winner from a RSEF)	
Apr 10	ARRL-VEC FCC Exams	Vince K4JC
Apr 20	Swapfest (Saturday, 7AM)	
May 13	Monthly Meeting (Construction and Operation of a Homebuilt, End Fed Half Wave 40 Meter Dipole)	Jan Heise, K4QD
May 18	Laurel-VEC FCC Exams	Gary W4GAL
Jun 10	Monthly Meeting (Field Day Planning)	Field Day Chairman
Jun 12	ARRL-VEC FCC Exams	Vince K4JC
Jun 22-23	Field Day	
Jul 8	Monthly Meeting (Hurricane Season Planning)	Will Ulrich, NWS in MLB
Jul 20	Laurel-VEC FCC Exams	Gary W4GAL
Aug 12	Monthly Meeting	
Aug 14	ARRL-VEC FCC Exams	Vince K4JC
Sept 9	Monthly Meeting (Hamfest Planning)	2024 Hamfest Chairman
Sept 21	Laurel-VEC FCC Exams	Gary W4GAL
Sept 21	Swapfest (Saturday, 7AM)	
Oct 14	Monthly Meeting (FT-8—How It Works and How to Use It)	Chuck Green, AD4ES
Oct 9	ARRL-VEC FCC Exams	Vince K4JC
Oct 12	ARRL-VEC FCC Exams Hamfest	Vince K4JC
Nov 11	Monthly Meeting (Visit Through Time via Callbooks)	Steve Melachrinis, W3HF
Nov 16	Laurel-VEC FCC Exams	Gary W4GAL
Nov 23	Swapfest (Saturday, 8AM)	
Dec 9	Holiday Party (In lieu of Monthly Meeting)	
Dec 11	ARRL-VEC FCC Exams	Vince K4JC

BT

General Meeting for Members this month will be March 11 at the Dairy Rd VFW and will include a presentation by Justin Polak (KO4CEQ) on Mobile Radio Direction Finding.

BT

PCARS 2024 Quarterly Swapfest Tailgate from Dennis (K4CXX)

The first of four 2024 PCARS Swapfest Tailgate events was held at 8 AM on Saturday, February 24th, in the parking lot at the club station, W4MLB, 1980 Hughes Road in Melbourne. The next Tailgate event will be held on April 20th (this time at 7:00 AM).

- There are no rain dates. Transactions are for electronic and radio items and parts, and household goods weapons are not included. All exchanges are between individuals, and PCARS does not warrant any part of any by transaction.
- In a break with recent convention, the Swapfests will be held on the Saturday of the next week following the monthly meeting (see Calander). This will allow the Volunteer Examiners working on some Saturdays in the week of the monthly meeting also to attend the Swapfests. Earlier, there had been a scheduling conflict. Unless changed by other action, those exams and the monthly lunches will still be on the Saturday following the monthly meeting (on the second Monday night of the month).
- Note that the two middle Swapfests will start at 7 AM. Our experience this past year showed that waiting until 8 AM led to the temperature rising above a comfortable level before the end of the Swapfest.
- A special note of thanks is due Lee Hatfield, K2HAT, who has very actively promoted these PCARS events. He has posted on QRZ and Facebook, to name a few, and this has led to greater participation.
- The months chosen have been selected to include most of the snowbird visiting months and to avoid major hamfests, severe hot weather months, and major holiday week-ends. Comments and suggestions may be directed to Dennis O'Quinn, K4CXX, who is the 2024 PCARS Quarterly Swapfest Tailgate Chairman.



BT

Melbourne Region Emergency Net. Message From: Chuck (AD4ES):
WE STILL NEED ADDITIONAL NET CONTROL OPS!!

This is the schedule as of 1/25 included here as a reminder. **Watch for Chuck's email** (ad4es@arri.net) **for full MREN information. Net control ops are reminded to send Chuck a copy of the check-ins.**

HamRadioCall is having some difficulties. You can do a lookup but it will not give direction and distance. Phil has checked with Roy Watson (The Developer) and he is working on a new version. The current version has been pulled from the Apple AppStore as it was killed by the new OS. Thank you for the update, Phil.

I currently have the following list of net operators with their net control dates.

03/07/2024	Jimmy	N0JAM	Rodger AK4MI is alternate
03/14/2024	Rodger	AK4MI	Rob K8RAR is alternate Happy Pi Day
03/21/2024	Rob	K8RAR	Bill N4WIP is alternate
03/28/2024	Bill	N4WLP	Chuck AD4ES is alternate
04/04/2024	Chuck	AD4ES	Mike KE4YGT is alternate
04/11/2024	Mike	KE4YGT	Mark W9MGB is alternate
04/18/2024	Mark	W9MGB	Jim KC9UD is alternate
04/25/2024	Jim	KC9UD	Jan K4QD is alternate
05/02/2024	Jan	K4QD	Jimmy N0JAM is alternate
05/09/2024	Jimmy	N0JAM	Rodger AK4MI is alternate
05/16/2024	Rodger	AK4MI	Rob K8RAR is alternate
05/23/2024	Rob	K8RAR	Bill N4WIP is alternate
05/30/2024	Bill	N4WLP	Chuck AD4ES is alternate

A note regarding tones and our repeaters: Use of CTCSS tones is required in 2023. Tone should be set to **107.2Hz**. Our use of a CTCSS tone means a signal comes from one of our repeaters (146.610 or 146.850) and nowhere else. You will hear our repeater transmissions **only**. If the signal did **not** come from our repeaters, you will hear nothing if your squelch is set properly.

The PCARS Weather Net begins immediately AFTER MREN!!! See <https://pcarswx.net>. MREN Net Control Ops please turn over frequency to the PCARS Weather Net when you close the MREN net.
Weather Net Schedule submitted by Roger (AK4MI) - Weather Net Coordinator

03/07/24	Deb	W4DM
03/14/24	Mark	W9MGB
03/21/24	Jimmy	N0JAM
03/28/24	Rodger	AK4MI
04/04/24	Dan	AI4GK
04/11/24	Lynn	KJ4ERJ
04/18/24	Rob	K8RAR
04/25/24	Mark	W9MGB

Please let Roger know if you have any conflicts or ask the operator that follows you to switch.

BT

To ALL Technician Class operators: After much discussion we have decided to convene a technician only club equipment operation training. This will be directed at Technician class operators and focused on their operational needs on a date to be announced and should take about 4 hours at the most. Each participant will need to demonstrate the operation at the end of the class.

- Each Person will need to demonstrate the bands, modes, and power limitations the Technician class can operate.
- Review the IC7300 YouTube videos. At least review the basic operation.
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL48JZWhCJoH3bGOyfmZVxgRHFqs2VUG8P>
Copy this link to your browser and follow the videos.
- The first time a technician class is to operate the stations they will need a control operator on site to verify operation is correct. After this verification the Technician class operator can operate the station solo.
- If you are interested, please send an email to KD8AN50@Gmail.com indicating that you are interested.

BT

Club President Walter (K5LD) invites everyone to attend Friday lunches:

Have a great lunch, with the most delicious food, at Crystal's Fridays!

- We meet every Friday at Crystal's Buffet on the corner of 192 & Wickham Rd. @ 1100.
- All are invited! Come join us for great company & free coffee too.



AR

INTEREST

ALL: I am attempting to include articles of interest to the club members. I hope you find this useful. I rely on inputs from the membership so please forward your finds to me. One thing we need to be aware of. I am trying to credit the originator where credit is due. If it is copyrighted material, I will only post the link to where the information can be found. I need anyone who submits a posting to include a link to its source. Thanks Jim (N4KCT).

CW on the Bands, contributed by Gary (W4GAL/VK6GAL)

Maybe my warm fuzzy feeling about CW is because I am an old geezer at this point in time. But it's certainly true. Several years ago, I was in a discussion with an old buddy who had been licensed a year longer than I had... he started at the age of 10. The conclusion of the conversation was that both of us would be perfectly happy if the FCC suddenly decided that the only mode permitted on the bands today was CW.



We enjoyed it that much when we started, and the love of CW continued throughout life. If the practice time is counted when I was preparing for my Novice license, I've been a CW op for 70 years, and I think I enjoy it more today than at any other time.

The older I get, the less I spend on "frivolous" things like interesting wearing apparel at hamfests, but I may break that rule sometime in the future and get myself one of those tee-shirts that says, "If it ain't CW, it ain't ham radio."

So for me, the music of CW continues!

Gary W4GAL / VK6GAL

BT

Don Winn af4z@arrl.net sent out the following recommendation following last month's CQ RTX RTTY Contest.

- RTTY In 1995, I became interested in the RTTY Mode along with several other PCARS Members and I designed A RTTY Terminal unit as a club project. We built over 25 of the units as Kits. The cases were silkscreened in AK4R's garage as well as staging the parts for the kits.
- About 10 members became very interested in the RTTY and we started operating in small RTTY contests like the SARTG and the BARTG where we found we were very good and won 1st or 2nd place in many of the contest. We later moved on to the Big Boys Contest like the CQWW RTTY and the ARRL RTTY Contests where we did very well. One year many of us we went to the Dayton to receive our Plaques. We won so many that the group of members became known as the **FLORDIA BOYS**. As time went on, more software was available that was great for working in RTTY contest and updated to new software programs and KT4FY designed a more modern RTTY unit for the club members. It was software based and would do multi-modes, not just RTTY.

- Today, there several software programs that are excellent for RTTY and MMTTY is one of the most popular and operates along with N1MM contest Logging software, both are free.
- We have several members that are interested in operating RTTY Contest but there are not always able to get the members to sign up to cover the complete time of the contest. I for one do not enjoy just operating to see my score in the lower end of the scores. If I don't expect to place high, I don't normally operate. It hard to get operators for a 48 hour contest and usually get only get 3-4 operators to cover part of the contest.

Here is what I am proposing.

- We try and get a few members that have interest in RTTY and look at entering short 12 or 24 hour contest. If we can compete well in those and the interested members want to start to cover the longer contest, maybe we can do it. There is no reason we cannot place in the top end with the station we have and members willing to work to win. If you have doubt, we can do it, look at the plaques the club members won after learning how to operate contests in RTTY back in the late 90's. Have you seen it? Go to PCARS.ORG and click on **LEGACY** and then **MISC LINKS** and then **FLORIDA BOYS**.
- Some of the Plaques are hard to read but most are scores of placing 1st or 2nd in 48-hour contests.
- There is no reason we can't do this well again if we have interested members willing to give a few hours. BTW, this is not to take anything away from Ryan, the contest manager. All Club Contests are controlled by him but I'm will to help get interest in the club for RTTY Contesting.
- If you are interested in operating in some contest at the club station or learning how to operate RTTY, let me know via email and I will be glad to get you help. Most transceivers built in the year 2000 to present will operate RTTY MODE.

BT

Steve (W3HF) sent out the following helpful information regarding license renewals.

There have been a number of comments about the "new" license renewal process that have been, shall we say, disparaging. I'd like to add my perspective.

Yes, the new system is more complicated than one that is dedicated to the Amateur Radio Service. And it seems like a drastic change for a simple ham license renewal. But we've been seeing for a number of decades that FCC makes changes to standardize their financial systems, and I believe this is the next step in the FCC's standardization of their overall licensing process across multiple (though maybe not all) of the radio/TV/broadcast/etc services they manage.

Some of you will remember that you didn't have an FRN when you received your first license--FRNs weren't issued to the amateur radio service until about 2001. Now, everyone has an FRN. And those of you with a license in another radio service (e.g., GMRS) that is personally issued to you, probably use the same FRN for both licenses. But if you are the trustee of a club station, that club license is issued to

the club, which has (or at least should have) a unique FRN. If you look at the R&O that mandated FRNs ([here](#)) you'll see that the first reason listed is "...to better manage the Commission's financial systems." This change in CORES creates a new login (based on your email address) that lets a single login "aggregate" (at least from a billing perspective) multiple FRNs. There are a number of use cases for this, though they don't apply to most hams. But **even** within the Amateur service, this lets the trustee of a club station use a single login for his/her personal license and also the club license(s) they manage. And there are lots of other use cases in other services. The one I think of is based on a friend I have in Guam. He is the part-time chief engineer for a number of small broadcast FM stations. (Last I knew, I think it was three.) Each of them has their own FRN, as they are not owned by the same company. But if my friend is responsible for renewing the licenses of all three stations, he can manage that within the same CORES login as he manages his ham license. So in his case, this new requirement is a simplification for him.

Yes, it looks more complicated from the perspective of some users, like hams with only one license. But there are some people for whom this is a simplification. And I believe this is a simplification for the FCC, not just another ridiculous change because the government wants to make our lives hard. (No, I don't think anyone said that here--I just made it up.) And if this is actually a simplification for the FCC that makes it more efficient, then I'm all for changes that effect government efficiency.

Renewals were not the only problem with the FCC licenses. New licenses were being significantly delayed due to problems with the FCC license database. The database was reported to have been off-line for over a week. Very frustrating for new Hams waiting for their first call sign. I checked the database on 2/21/23 and it seems to be back up.

BT

Satellite DX Opportunity submitted by Bob (NB4C): F4DXV Jérôme and EA4NF Philippe announce that they will be activating Noirmoutier island EU-064 IN86 from April 1 to 4, 2024 with the special callsign TM4J

This International DXpedition is the 1st 100% SAT:

LEO (FM+SSB)

GEO (QO-100)

MEO (GREENCUBE IO-117)

Multi modes, multi operators during several days and 24/24 from this French island.

Operations will be managed by :

F4DXV Jérôme @F4DXV

120 DXCC LEO SAT

6 international SAT DXpeditions 24 WR distance on LEO SAT

EA4NF Philippe @EA4NF_SAT

126 DXCC LEO SAT

16 international SAT DXpeditions

1 WR distance on LEO SAT

Updates available on @TM4J_SAT

BT

A local activity note from Chuck (K4TZO)

A STEM project by Kiwanis in Melbourne may be a good way to inspire younger children via ARISS and ZOOM. I met their leader at the BAS meeting Wednesday and will discuss things further.

BT

This article on the future of Amateur Radio was submitted by Chuck (K4TZO) and Rob (KC9LGS) from (Space-Hobbies.com). If you're going to read one thing in this months Newsletter, read this one.

Hi All, I stumbled across this July 2020 IEEE.org article about Ham Radios' future.
I posted a link below. IEEE might pop up an ad to be cleared but then the PDF article.
This article is a large part of the reason I created Space-Hobbies.com

[Article Link: Uncertain Future of Ham Radio](#)

BT

Now that the Orlando Hamcation is over some members will be making plans for the Dayton Hamvention. The following is reprinted with permission from the SUNCOASTER newsletter printed by the QCWC#53 Chapter #53 --DID YOU KNOW? –

The Dayton Hamvention® 2024 will be held May 17-19, 2024 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. The Hamvention® is sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA).

Did you know that Chapter 53 Snowbird Member Frank Schwab-W8OK (SK) got it started? About 1950, John Willig-W8ACE, had asked the DARA to sponsor a HAM Convention but was turned down. John wanted to have a quality affair. Speakers and prizes would be a drawing point. John finally found a champion in Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), the newly elected president of the club. A meeting was held and the DARA Board allocated \$100 to get started. The first organizational meeting was held in January 1952. March 22 was the chosen date, causing a short lead time. The FCC agreed to give license exams and the first prize, a Collins 75A2, was purchased locally.

Hoping for 300 visitors, the committee was amazed that over 600 showed up! There were 7 exhibitors and 6 forums. The ladies program was successful with a luncheon at the Biltmore and a trip to a local TV station.

The 2024 Hamvention logo and theme of “Expanding Our Community” is one that describes every Elmer’s efforts. They give back to the hobby by teaching and encouraging others to either start or expand their radio knowledge.

BT

Our Interference group led by Dan Fisher has been doing some great work and is a major resource well beyond just PCARS... particularly if you have to engage the local power company. There is a lot of work you can do in your shack as well. A lot of noise is locally generated, so it is worth hunting down local sources. I came across the attached article and found it interesting. This article is an excellent guide to doing that. Jim (N4KCT) <http://audiosystemsgroup.com/KillingReceiveNoise.pdf>

BT

PRESS RELEASE: Submitted by Brian (K04AQF)

SENS WICKER, BLUMENTHAL INTRODUCE THE AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACT

Legislation Helps Increase Communication Options During Natural Disasters -

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., introduced legislation to give amateur radio operators the right to install their antennas and serve their community. Homeowner association rules prevent amateur radio operators from installing outdoor antennas on residential properties even though this communication method has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters, such as hurricanes in states like Mississippi and Connecticut.

To see entire press release: <https://www.wicker.senate.gov/2024/2/senators-wicker-blumenthal-introduce-the-amateur-radio-emergency-preparedness-act>

The following additional information related to the above Press Release was contributed by Sherrod Munday

- Upon first read I was mistakenly concerned that the act did not include **HOA** dwellers (it appeared to only apply to condo owners and property management companies) ... but after further researching the legal definitions of who's included, it looks like "**residential real estate management association**" is the legal term for an **HOA**. It took me a few links to get to this conclusion.
- Here is what the term "COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION" includes, as listed in the bill:
- A condominium association
Definition from <https://uscode.house.gov/statviewer.htm?volume=94&page=1673> : "the organization, whose membership consists exclusively of all the unit owners in the condominium project, which is, or will be, responsible for the operation, administration, and management of the condominium project"
- A cooperative association
Definition from <https://uscode.house.gov/statviewer.htm?volume=94&page=1674> : "an organization that owns the record interest in the residential cooperative property or a leasehold of the residential property of a cooperative project and that is responsible for the operation of the cooperative project"
- A residential real estate management association
Definition from <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/26/528> : "any organization meeting the requirements of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) with respect to a **subdivision development** or **similar area** substantially all the lots or buildings of which may only be used by individuals for residences" (*emphasis added*)

BT

The Titusville Amateur Radio Club (TARC) is having a Field-day and tailgate with a big raffle.
For information speak with Stephanie (K4MVO)
No admission charge to park or event!
March 23, 2024
7am – 2:30pm
Great field in Fox Lake Park (Titusville)! Good event!

Talk in Frequency: 146.97 K4KSC Repeater
A lot of fun activities in the area – Bring the family!

A List of Some of the 33 Prizes

Over \$2,000.00 in Prizes

RF Adapter Connector Sets – 30 pieces & 4 pieces

BaoFeng HT's

Weller Soldering Station w/ Extra Tips

ARRL Antenna Manuals

ARRL Handbook

HRO Gift Certificates

Ni4L EZ Hang Square Shot (Sling Shot)

2 Grand Prizes !

(must be present to win)

Blackview MP60 Mini PC w/monitor, keyboard & mouse (**\$350 value!**)

Super Antenna MP1DXTR80HF + w/ Go Bag (**\$400 value**)

AR

PCARS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

PCARS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by PCARS President Walter Aucoin K5LD at 1900 hours. The microphone was passed around and all members and guests introduced themselves by first name and call sign as per usual. There was a larger than usual attendance of members with seven guests.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was given by club President Aucoin as the treasurer Chuck AD4ES was on his way to Curacao for a radio contest. The motion to approve the report was made by Rodger AK4MI and seconded by Ed KK4ZWC. The motion was voted on and carried.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2024: A motion to approve the General Meetings Minutes from the last meeting was made by Bruce WB2ADF, seconded by Bruce K2ZEA, voted upon and carried.

PROGRAM OF THE MONTH: This month's program was a presentation dedicated to the introduction CubeSat, a new field for amateur radio operators to make their own satellites and track in them in orbit.

Break: The club took a break for coffee and goodies. Walter reminded the members to contribute funds so the snacks and coffee can be continued for future meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hospitality Committee: The committee needs a new chairman. Alex AA2JJ has agreed to help until a new chairman volunteer for the position. Thank you, Alex.

Sunshine Committee: The committee still needs a chairman.

Education: ARRL testing in two days at the Fire Station.

Hamfest: Tickets for this year's Hamfest have been obtained thanks to AF4Z Don. A group of club members attended Hamcation in Orlando last weekend and sold some of the tickets there. Thanks to Hamcation for providing us with a booth free of charge.

Contesting: Three members participated in the RTTY contest last weekend at the club station. Beth KEONRY, Ed KK4ZWC, and Phil W7TSO.

Technical: Clyde KD8AN Chairman reports members using the club station radios are **NOT** to reset the radios' pre-set programming. The faulty amp has been sent off for repairs and is expected back at the club station by the end of the month or early March.

Skywarn: Rodger AK4MI reports there are several weather spotter classes coming up. Check the Melbourne National Weather site for details.

Membership: Chairman Bob NB4C reports there was a huge influx of new members at the meeting (8), membership now stands at 224. (PS) One testee at the ARRL testing session on February 14th upgraded to General and became a PCARS member, boosting membership to 225. Not all have paid their annual dues. Those who have not paid by March 13, 2024, will be removed from the club roster.

Emergency and Nominations Committees: Nothing to report.

Website: The site continues to be updated thanks to Dee N4DEE and Dave K8SSN. Due to some confusion by a member on using the Legacy Website, the BOD will make a decision to have the site backed up and turned down.

Custodian: Vince K4JC Chairman reports that most of the donated equipment from the Silent Keys was sold at the Hamcation last weekend. The proceeds will go into the fund to purchase equipment for the club station as needed.

RFI: Dan AI4GK Chairman reports a new RFI investigator from Daytona Beach has been assigned to this area to follow up on our RFI complaints. He believes there will be some positive progress in this area now.

OLD BUSINESS:

Club Shirts may be ordered at anytime through Bruce WB2ADF.

NEW BUSINESS: In the absence of the treasurer, Walter K5LD presented the budget and asked for approval of the 2024 Budget. \$600 is to be designated for charitable contributions for the year. Paul W1IP made a motion that the budget be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Bruce WB2ADF. The motion was voted on and carried by the club membership in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PCARS Quarterly Tailgate is Saturday, February 24th at 08:00 in the Melbourne Fire Training Center parking lot.

ARRL: VE testing February 14th at the Fire Training Center. Cost is \$15.00.

N1ZZ, AD4ES, and W4SO are going to the PJ2T in Curacao for the ARRL International DX CW Contest this weekend. In two weeks, K5LD, K4JC, K4QD and N0OJ will head down for the ARRL International DX SSB Contest.

PCARS in the Park: Paul W1IP - This was a very successful event attended by many PCARS members.

REMINDER: If you take or have taken a PCARS training class, passed and got your license, you are eligible for either one year free PCARS membership, or a Baofeng Handheld. Please see NB4C Bob for details and approval.

Sarno Pizza: This Saturday 02/17 at 1100 am.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn was made by Steve K4AOQ and seconded by Mark W9MGB, voted upon and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

K8RAR Rob Railer

PCARS BOD MEETING MINUTES

PCARS BOD Meeting Notes for February 19, 2024

Meeting called to order by PCARS President Walter Aucoin K5LD at 7:00 PM.

Attendees: K5LD - President, K4CXX - Vice President, K8RAR – Acting Secretary, AD4ES - Treasurer Not Present
Excused, KD8AN - Director, AK4MI - Director, K4JC – Custodian, W7TSO - Past President, N0OJ – Hamfest,
NB4C -Director, KK4ZWC - Director, AF4Z Guest

Walter K5LD asked for approval for the January 2024 BOD Minutes. Motion made to approve by Clyde AD8AN,
2nd by Rodger AK4MI. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report – Chuck AD4ES was not present, so a motion to table the report until next month's meeting
was made by Phil W7TSO, seconded by Vince K4JC. Motion carried. The budget will be presented at that time.
The club received a thank you card from Averi Bourgain thanking the club for the Science Fair Award donation we
made.

Don AF4Z sent out an email to the general membership in hopes of getting members interested in learning to
operate RTTY. He reports a number of members were interested. After much discussion by the board members,
for and against, it was decided to have Don set up training dates other than Wednesday evenings for such
training. The aim of the training is to get members interested in participating in contests and apply the training
from RTTY to other modes as well, and to get members "on the air" using the clubs equipment. Don agreed to
coordinate the recruiting of members and training sessions through a new clarifying email to the general
membership.

Committee Reports:

Education – Walter would like some kind of mini-training for new hams/members on Saturdays during the
Tailgates. Dennis K4CXX agreed that it would be a good time to show the station and its equipment to those who
showed an interest. Further action on the proposal is pending.

Hamfest – N0OJ Ryan Chairman reports that eight tickets for our Hamfest were sold a Hamcation last weekend
in Orlando. 150 Hamfest fliers were distributed at the event. Our club was donated a \$500 booth by the
Hamcation staff which was located in a very favorable spot to be seen by the attendees. It was good advertising
for PCARS. Thanks to the members who manned the booth. There will be a Webinars with Hamcation. The first
Hamfest meeting will be in March. We will not be the state convention this year, Hamcation was.

Contesting – N0OJ Ryan see AF4Z above.

Technical – KD8AN Clyde reports members using the club radios are NOT to change the preset configuration of
the radios. The access to that has been locked to prevent this from happening. The station one amp should be
back from the repair shop by the first of March.

RFI Committee – Dan AI4GK not present.

SKYWARN – Rodger AK4MI advises all interested in Skywarn training to check for that on the Melbourne
National Weather Center internet site.

Membership – Bob NB4C reports there are now 225 members of PCARS. Annual dues are being accepted for the
2024 year. Not all have paid their annual dues. Those who have not paid by March 13, 2024, will be
removed from the club roster.

Emergency – Phil W7TSO Nothing new to report.

Custodian - Vince K4JC reports that most of the items needed to be sold were disposed of at Hamcation. The proceeds from the sales will go into the fund for purchasing station equipment. He wants to purchase a wattmeter to match the existing one so that both station can have the exact same equipment. He would also like to purchase an additional IC 7300 radio. Phil W7TSO made a motion to purchase the items. It was seconded by Rodger AK4MI voted on and passed. The wattmeter will be purchased first and the radio will be purchased if there is enough funding remaining.

Old Business – Bruce WB2ADF is now in charge for new club shirts. The first order of shirts was placed and have been delivered. The shirts look nice! Bruce is still taking orders, contact him via E-Mail. A concern over the unauthorized access by the public to the club's towers was made in a past meeting by Dennis K4CXX. The BOD authorized the purchase of signs warning people not to climb the towers. They are now in place. Hopefully this will deter any liability issue should someone suffer injury through the unauthorized climbing of the tower(s).

New Business – There was some discussion as what to do with the Legacy Site. Walter will get with Dave K8SSN to facilitate a merger of the two sites into one which may have already been done by Silent Key Donald K4ILG who had been updating the sites. Dave will do a complete backup and retain the old website on disk, etc.

Motion made to adjourn by Rodger AK4MI and seconded by Ed KK4ZWC. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Rob Railer K8RAR