

HISTORY OF THE
CANAL ZONE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (CZARA)
AND
PANAMA CANAL AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (PCARA)
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AS RECORDED IN CLUB MINUTES

Oct. 1949-Vice President Roger Howe, KZ5RM, extended an invitation to members of Liga Radio to attend CZARA meetings. He presented a certificate to Angela Combs, KZ5AC, recognizing her as the first YL licensed in the Canal Zone. A simulated Emergency Net Drill will be held on Oct. 15th. Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$50.68. It was reported that CZARA is now affiliated with the ARRL. Members were reminded of the 40 meter CW net on Tuesday evenings.

Nov. 1949-Jerry Combs, KZ5PC, prepared a letter to the Department Signal Officer on behalf of CZARA requesting permission for mobile operations in the Canal Zone. The club decided to have a dinner meeting at El Rancho for amateurs and their XYLS. KZ5GD offered to resume publication of the Bulletin. A letter was prepared and sent to Rabbi Witkin thanking him for the use of the top floor of the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) by the club.

Dec. 1949-The issue of the Bulletin was discussed and it was decided that Carl Browne, KZ5CG, would be the editor. Elections were held and Roger Howe was elected as President, Bill Johnson, Vice President, Angie Combs, Secretary and Ralph Harvey, Treasurer. The treasurer reported that the bank balance was \$123.

Jan. 1950-A motion was offered and passed to get together with amateurs in the Crossroads Amateur Radio Club from Cristobal to discuss CZ license exams as compared to US exams. Frank Lerchen, KZ5FL, gave a report on stateside clubs and their policies. Frank made a motion that there only be one meeting per month on the first Thursday, rather than two, but the motion didn't pass. The issue of raffles versus auctions at the meetings was discussed.

Feb. 1950-Col. Hahn, KZ5UT, informed the members of the changes to be made in the amateur exams in the Canal Zone. They will more closely follow the FCC exams. Treasury balance \$169.55. It was decided that raffles and auctions will be alternated each meeting.

Mar. 1950-It was decided to prepare and pay for 15"x 15" propagation maps centered on the Canal Zone. The members decided to donate \$5 each month to Rabbi Witkin for use of the JWB. However, the Rabbi declined the payment. Col Carr from the Army suggested that amateur radio

activities should be placed under the Canal Zone Government rather than the Army. No decision was reached. The members decided that club dues should be paid annually in January of each year. Members agreed to notify maritime mobile clubs of the prohibition to operate amateur stations while in Canal Zone waters per the Rule 175.

May 1950 Code classes will be resumed and films will be purchased from the Signal Corps for instruction at meetings. Code machine, tapes, and oscillator will be purchased. Amateur radio license plates will be permitted instead of numbered plates at an additional cost of \$1 per plate.

Sept.1950-KZ5FL was named as the Phone Activities Manager for phone patch traffic. New By-laws were read and approved.

Nov.1950 Letter from CZG Executive Secretary granted use of amateur license plates for two consecutive years. Members were notified that civilians can now apply for and operate Military Affiliated Radio Stations (MARS).

Jan.1951-Elections were held and the following were elected: Bill Johnson, President, Roger Adams, Vice President, Secretary Winston Webb, Alton White Treasurer, and Activities Manager, Roger Howe. CZ amateur license plates are now ready for distribution. Jack Plummer, KZ5BT, was named as the new editor of the Bulletin.

Mar.1951-The field day for both CZARA and the Crossroad Club, KZ5PA, will be held on an island in Gatun Lake. Certificates will be prepared for participants. Club members voted in favor of application of the new FCC rules in the Canal Zone.

May 1951--An FCC examiner was present in the Canal Zone to administer FCC exams for those wishing stateside licenses. The Army Coordinator for Amateur Radio presented the proposed new amateur radio regulations for the Canal Zone, which were in line with FCC regulations. Some members reported difficulties with Panamanian police over mobile operations in their cars. The issue was resolved in June.

Jan. 1952-Elections held and new officers are: President-Roger Adams; Vice President-Alton White; Secretary-Martha Lerchen; Treasurer-John Whittredge; and Activities Manager-Jerry Combs. A picnic sponsored by the Crossroad Club was held at Summit Gardens.

Feb. 1952-The YLs and XYLs in the club established of a new club

just for the females called the Canal Zone "Q R MARYS".

Mar. 1952-The Army at Quarry Heights will now recognize an FCC license provided that proof of operation in a US jurisdiction is presented. It was announced that dual membership in MARS is no longer permissible and will be lost when the license expires. FCC will open the 15-meter band in May and CZ amateurs will be authorized use.

June 1952-Code machines for ten people have been set up in Bldg 33 on the Pacific side and the Navy is conducting code classes on the Atlantic side. A fish fry was held for members of both clubs.

July 1952- At the request of the Army Coordinator, members suggested that the new Canal Zone novice licenses be issued with an "N" after the call to signify the license level, which would be removed once a Class B license is obtained. CZARA and the Crossroads Club agreed to joint membership with an additional charge of \$1. Members have full voting rights.

Dec. 1952- The new officers nominated and elected for 1953 are:
President-Alton White; Vice President-B.J. Smith;
Secretary-Bess Morton; Treasurer-Jim Driscoll and
Activities Manager-Tex Brewer. In January, CZ amateurs will be able to operate 50 kc down into the foreign band on 20 meters.

Jan. 1953- The Amateur Coordinator, Col Heltzel, informed all that a change will permit CZ amateur to once again operate MARS stations.

March 1953-It was also announced that HP mobile stations could operate in the Canal Zone and CZ mobile operators can now operate in Panama. A picnic for the two clubs was scheduled to be held at the Gamboa Golf Club. It was announced that a KZ5 call sign would not be re-issued unless the former amateur had departed the isthmus.

April 1953-The treasurer reported that the bank account is up to \$619.90 as a result of funds gained during the picnic. \$300 of that total is from the picnic.

Nov. 1953- The membership approved the printing of certificates honoring any amateur working at least 25 CZ stations from the US.

Jan. 1954- Candidates nominated and elected for 1954 are:
President-Ralph Harvey; Vice President-Jim Driscoll;
Secretary Elizabeth Bell; Treasurer-Willarde Percy and
Activities Manager-Tex Brewer. Rabbi Witkin announced JWB plans to have a station in the building, which could

be either amateur or MARS.

Feb.1954-The club decided to hold transmitter hunts with prizes given to the winners. Another contest will involve secret transmitters on 10 meters and winners will be awarded based on the number of contacts made with a secret station. A new station license has been issued for the JWB--KZ5JW. A new Canal Zone Call Book is to be issued.

Apr 1954-Panamanian authorities now require a permit before entering the Republic with a transmitting antenna attached to an automobile. Permits are obtained from the Ministry of Government and Justice. Field day will occur in June.

Jul 1954-Meeting was held as a social event and also was the first meeting under a one meeting per month policy to be held the first Thursday of each month.

Sep.1954-A guest speaker discussed Civil Defense issues and how CZARA can assist in Civil Defense exercises. The club agreed to offer assistance when requested.

Nov.1954-CZARA participated in several Simulated Emergency Tests. An antenna party was scheduled for the new station at the JWB for February.

Jan.1955-Elections took place with the following elected:
President-KZ5JD; Vice Pres-KZ5AE; Secretary-KZ5PL;
Treasurer-KZ5PP; and Activities Manager-KZ5CF.

Apr.1955-The JWB station is on the air and operators are needed. A MARS net was established and CW classes will be offered. A Civil Defense exercise is planned for June and CZARA members are invited. MARS equipment is stored at the Maintenance Division and available to field days. Next field day will be held at the Gamboa Golf Club in June.

Jan.1956-Elected officers for 1956 are: President-Fred Ford,KZ5CF; Vice-President-Gil Foster, KZ5GF; Secretary-Bill Allen, KZ5HA; Treasurer-Dick Mann, KZ5MN; and Activities Manager- Jim Fealey,KZ5JJ. Code practice classes will be held on Tuesday and Friday evenings at Bldg 219 in Ft. Clayton.

Jun.1956-Field day held for two days in late June. Twelve members participated and worked a total of 655 stations. Club hosted a party in May for new members and those departing in retirement. Third party traffic is still not authorized for the Republic. Club receives more MARS equipment.

Sep.1956-Third party traffic was approved for Panama. Club members

were given a tour of the Radio & TV studios of the Caribbean Forces Network (CFN) at Ft. Clayton.

Jan.1957-Elections held resulted in the following: President-Virginia Harvey, KZ5VT; Vice Pres-Bill Allen, KZ5HA; Treasurer-Jim Capps, KZ5LJ; Secretary-Ken Jorgensen, KZ5KJ; and Activities Manager-Jack Pierce, KZ5BG.

Mar.1957-The advent of TV in the Canal Zone has resulted in TVI problems in all communities. A TVI committee was selected to provide guidance to those amateurs having extreme problems. Door prizes will be given at each meeting of items not exceeding \$5, which will be paid for by the club.

May 1957-The June field day will be held in Gamboa like last year. A no-host dinner for club members was held in the Fern Room of the Tivoli Hotel.

Jun.1957-KZ5JJ was appointed the new certificate manager to succeed silent key KZ5PP. It was decided to issue certificates only once a month to those hams qualifying from the states.

1958-1962- Minutes from this period missing.

Jan.1963-Elections were held and the following members were elected: President-Paul Runnestrand, KZ5PR; Vice Pres.-Virginia Harvey, KZ5VR; Treasurer-Bob Hursh, KZ5UR; Secretary-Carolyn Synder, KZ5CS; and Activities Manager-Walter Remele, KZ5OM. Those present were informed that the FCC Conditional Class license is not recognized in the Canal Zone.

Feb.1963-Les Ferguson, KZ5JD, was appointed new Program Chairman and proposed future activities to include a cruise through the Cut on the Las Cruces in April, auctions, visit to the new FAA building, and visits to the Civil Defense center. It was announced that the new citizens band is authorized locally and anyone 18 years or older can be assigned a frequency to operate on the band.

Apr.1963 Over 100 members enjoyed the dinner and dance cruise on the Las Cruces through the Cut to Gatun Lake. It was announced that the Canal Zone now recognizes the FCC Conditional License if an exam is taken.

May 1963-The May meeting included a visit and tour of the new FAA building. The June meeting will be a visit to the Civil Defense "Rat Hole" with briefings by Les Ferguson, KZ5JD, and Ralph Harvey, KZ5RV.

Jul.1963-A hidden transmitter hunt (Fox Hunt) was conducted in

lieu of the usual meeting.

- Jan.1964-The following members were elected new officers:
President-Paul Runnestrand, Vice Pres.-Bob Summers;
Secretary-Margie Noble, KZ5II; Treasurer-Bob Hursh; and
Activities Manager-Les Ferguson.
- Feb.1964-In response to concern by relatives in the states, it was
reported that over 3,000 messages had been passed by CZ
amateurs during the January riots. The club received a
large bouquet of flowers from an anonymous person for
the efforts of hams during the crisis. Because of
security concerns, all future field days exercises are
cancelled until further notice.
- Aug.1964-CZARA prepared for the 50th Canal Anniversary by printing
special QSL cards and certificates to be awarded to
stations making contact with KZ5 stations on August 13.
- Dec.1964-Bruce Sanders, KZ5SS, President of the Crossroads Amateur
Radio Club and Ed Ohman, KZ5EO, who were alternate
representatives to the FRACAP convention in Panama City
on Nov. 21-23 gave a briefing on the convention.
- Jan.1965-New officers for 1965 are: Pres.-Bill Clinchard, KZ5WC;
VP-Press Wellman, KZ5PW; Treasurer-W.S. Ireland, KZ5WI;
Secretary-Lil Smith, KZ5TT; and Activities Manager-Vern
Georger, KZ5VG. The following appointments were also
made: TVI Committee-Lucky Summers, KZ5WE; Field Day-
Dudley Stevenson, KZ5DS; Official Observer-Ralph Harvey,
KZ5RV; and SCM-Tom DeMeis, KZ5TD.
- Mar.1965-FCC has approved J-6 handling of FCC General Class
license exams. Grandfathering of KZ5 generals is under
study. The Panamanian and CZ governments are discussing
license reciprocity.
- Jan.1966-New officers for the year are: Pres-Dewey Mann, KZ5AG;
VP-Marcy Rice, KZ5MM; Treasurer-Winfred Ireland, KZ5WI;
Secretary- Frances Flynn, KZ5EF; and activities manager-
Clement Coggin, KZ5FX. Camilo Castillo, HP1AC, from Radio
Club de Panama reported that license reciprocity between
Panama and the US will likely be approved soon. Paul
Runnestrand indicated that the Canal Zone would likely
follow.
- Apr.1966-A total of 48 club members enjoyed a spaghetti dinner at
the Police Lodge. The only business discussed was the
need for a new QSL manager and bureau for KZ5 QSLs.
- Jun.1966-The new Chairman of the QSL bureau, KZ5TW, reported lots
of activity. Field day in June will be held on Scout
Island at Ft. Amador. The club will host a dinner cruise

on the Las Cruces on July.

Dec. 1966-All members commented favorably on the beach party meeting held at Ft. Kobbe in November. Camilo Castillo, HP1AC, explained how the new reciprocal agreement between Panama and the US works.

Jan.1967-Newly elected officers are: Pres-Dewey Mann, KZ5AG; VP-Johnny Catanzaro, KZ5JC; Treasurer-Winfield Ireland, KZ5WI; Secretary-Carol Summers, KZ5EW, and Activities Manager-KZ5MR.

Jun 1967-Reports were given on the beach party meeting of February, the visit to the Summit Navy Radio Station in March, and the ARRL Field Day participation by CZARA. The club elected Earl Hocker, KZ5EH, as secretary to replace Marcy due to her departure from the Canal. The club wished Rabbi Witkin a warm farewell to the US on his retirement.

Sep.1967- It was announced that the J-6 Coordinator of Amateur Radio Activities just published new Canal Zone Amateur Regulations which will be effective immediately. The President announced that all plans for club sponsored QSL cards are on hold due to the current treaty negotiations.

Oct. 1967-Johnny Catanzaro, KZ5JC, reported on the inauguration of new officers of the Panama Radio Club and their plans for a new club building. The membership was advised that the new Canal Zone Emergency Net is now in operation on 7090 kHz each Wednesday night. Both CZARA and Crossroads members are participating.

Jan. 1968-New officers are: Pres-KZ5SS; VP-KZ5EH; Treasurer-KZ5WI; Secretary-KZ5TR; and Activities Manager-KZ5MA. KZ5QM advised those present that the Las Cruces trip was scheduled Feb. 2, 1968 and CZARA members will be provided bus transportation from the Administration Building.

Jan. 1969-The new officers elected are: Pres-Jack Watson, KZ5JK; VP-Dr. Kredel, KZ5EK; Secretary-Wade Huffman, KZ5WH; and Treasurer-Oscar Garcia, KZ5HL. There were no nominations for Activities Manager. FCC announced that in March a representative will visit the CZ to administer Advanced and Extra Class licenses. There are 77 amateurs interested.

Apr. 1969-Meeting was held in the Civil Defense Building 11-Y. Guest visitor was Camilo Castillo, HP1AC, who briefed those present on the Panama Radio Club activities. A suggestion was made to announce CZARA meetings in the

PCC Spillway and SCN News.

Jan. 1970-Election results are: Pres- Ernst Kredel, KZ5EK; VP-Gerhard Seck, KZ5GO; Secretary-Ruth Thompson, KZ5RT; and Treasurer-Bill Scarsborough, KZ5BS. CZARA members were urged to write FCC with their complaints about the increase in license fees from \$4 to \$9.

May 1970- The club decided to have another field day in June on Scout Island. KZ5CR is the new call sign for the Chagres River Radio Club at Gamboa. Membership totals 34.

Aug. 1970-The President announced that the Canal Zone Government is assuming the duties for examining and issuing amateur radio licenses. The transfer of records from the military at Quarry Heights will take place soon and be relocated to the Civil Affairs Building in Ancon. A dinner meeting will be held at the American Legion Club in September in honor of an amateur, ZM3LE visiting from New Zealand.

Jan. 1971-New officers for this year are: Pres-Jim Anderson, KZ5CU; VP-Wade Huffman, KZ5WH; Treasurer-Evelyn Johnstone, KZ5EJ; and Secretary-Kurt Merkling, KZ5NS. Leigh Dupree has assumed the QSL duties from Gloria Spears, KZ5GS.

Nov. 1971-Col. Tom Strider gave the members a tour and lecture on the operations of the Civil Defense Center in Bldg. 11-Y. Jerry Welch, KZ5GJ, agreed to contact various publishers to request ham books and magazines to be sold at club meetings.

Jan. 1972-New club officers are: Pres-Jack Ketcherson, KZ5LZ; VP-Jerry Welch, KZ5GJ; Treasurer-Jim Anderson, KZ5CU; and Secretary-Ernst Kredel, KZ5EK. The new Canal Zone Government Coordinator of Amateur Radio Affairs is Ken Manthorne.

Apr. 1972 -A dinner meeting was held at the Gamboa Golf Club restaurant in honor of three visiting maritime mobile amateurs. Paul Runnestrand, KZ5PR, donated 10 years of ham magazines-QST, CQ, and 73, for club members' use on his retirement.

Oct. 1972-The club received permission to install and operate an FM repeater with antennas under the call sign of KZ5FM. Camilo Castillo, HP1AC, briefed the club on two-meter repeater operations in Panama with 10 VHF FM stations operating.

Aug. 1973-The President, Jack Kerchersen, KZ5LZ, reported that the first CZARA repeater will have a capability of 155 watts

and is ready to be installed pending receipt of the antennas. The TX frequency will be 146.70 and the RX frequency will be 146.10. The keying time will be a maximum of 5 minutes. Motorola will maintain the repeater. Visiting amateur Juan Chen, HP1JC, suggested that CZARA, Liga Panameña de Radio Aficionados (LPRA), and Radio Club de Panama should coordinate repeater and FM communications efforts between the three clubs. Jack Kerchersen, KZ5LZ, and Ernst Kredel, KZ5EK, were selected to represent CZARA.

1973-1974-Records missing from club files.

Jan. 1975-New officers KZ5QT, HP1XIS, and Bill Mader, KZ5WA, asked for guidance and help from members to keep club going. KZ5OD gave information on new FCC license restructuring. The club decided to have a hamfest in January at the Gamboa Civic Center.

Feb. 1975-HP1XIS reported he would be departing the isthmus. As a result, Al Sholk, HZ5AS, was nominated and elected as the new vice president.

Jul 1975 -ARRL requested comments from CZARA members on the new FCC re-structuring proposals. Army MARS held a picnic at Ft. Clayton with all clubs invited. The site for this year's field day will be the Albroke Bohio area. Bill Mader, KZ5WA, was given a lifetime membership in CZARA for all of his dedicated help. KZ5DC is in charge of the club station at the JWB and has the key for those desiring to operation the station.

Oct. 1975-HP1JB from Liga Radio, extended an invitation to all CZARA members to participate in Liga Radio meetings and happy hours at the Paitilla Airport. Ismael Champsour, HP1IW, from Liga Radio, who is the Secretary General for the Central American Radio conference gave an interesting talk.

Jan. 1976-New officers are President-Al Sholk, KZ5AS; Vice Pres-Sam Frazer, KZ5SF; and Secretary-Treasurer-Jim Hollingsworth, KZ5JI. Current balance of bank account reported to be \$487.14. Balboa High School amateur station reported to need repairs to become operational. Visitor Rudolfo Delgado, HP1RD, President of Liga Radio, gave a talk on procedures to obtain a HP1 Panama license.

Jun.1976 CZARA members voted to award a plaque to KZ5VV as HAM OF THE YEAR. Liga Radio representatives gave a briefing on their efforts to assist with communication for the victims of the earthquake in Guatemala. Club accounts now total \$798.41. Members reviewed the recent new Canal

Zone regulations pertaining to Novice licenses.

Jan. 1977-New Officers for the year are: Pres.-Sam Frazier, KZ5SF; VP- Tracy Strevey, KZ5VS; Secretary/Treasurer-Jim Hollingsworth, KZ5JI. It was announced that the Hamfest for this year will be held at the Curundu High School in February.

Mar. 1977-The February Hamfest was a success in that it generated \$912.23 for the club. The club's accounts now total \$1,661.13. Charlie Miller reported that the Novice Association is assisting new hams upgrade their licenses. A motion was passed that members be fined 25 cents for not wearing their CZARA badges at meetings.

Sep. 1977-Discussions were held concerning the possible conversion to a repeater with touch-tone capability. The current MARS/CZARA repeater can't be converted for autopatches and the issue should be studied further to determine a different location, rental fees for property, electric bills, etc. A committee will be formed to study it.

Feb. 1978-The Vice President, Bob White, KZ5BV, commended the President, Bob Foster, KZ5BA, for his outstanding efforts to keep SCN news on the air for 17 hours with his equipment and phone patch. The new CZ Callbook has been issued. Members are asked to notify the secretary if they do not wish to have their call and information listed in the ARRL Callbook.

Jan. 1979-New officers are: Pres.-Jim Miller, KZ5JM; VP-Al Sholk, KZ5AS; Secretary/Treasurer- Charlie Miller, KZ5PM. Considerable discussion was held concerning procedures to obtain Panamanian licenses. Bob Emerick, KZ5RE, agreed to check with Panamanian authorities to get listing of current licencees.

Jun. 1979-President of the Radio Club de Panama, Sr. Mendez, informed CZARA members that there definitely would be reciprocity of Canal Zone and RP licenses. He invited all CZARA members to affiliate with the planned Panama Radio Federation and to attend meetings of Radio Club. He outlined the activities of Radio Club and indicated that he would help those KZ5 amateurs to obtain their HP1 and HP2 callsigns.

Sep. 1979-Most of the meeting involved discussion on the procedures to get Panama licenses and amateur vehicle plates. Panama will charge \$1 additional for the plate over the usual fee. KZ5 amateurs will likely process their new licenses at the same location as their vehicle drivers' licenses. A motion to change the name of the

organization from the Canal Zone Amateur Radio Association (CZARA) to the Panama Canal Amateur Radio Association (PCARA) was approved. It was also moved and approved that PCARA affiliate with both Liga Radio and the Radio Club de Panama. Fees for those clubs will be 25 cents per month per member for Liga Radio and \$12 per year per member for Radio Club. Fred Williams, HP1XFW, will act as liaison between the clubs to implement affiliation. Francis Nolan, HP1XFU, will be alternate. PCARA dues will be established at \$8 per year. Those members with KZ5 call signs will be permitted to continue operating with them until Dec. 31, 1979, by agreement with the Panamanian government. Final bank balance was \$782.47.

THE PANAMA CANAL AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

- Oct. 1979-Panama Canal Treaty is implemented and all non-profit organizations are permitted to continue operating as before for a period of thirty months, at which time they must comply with the laws of Panama.
- Jan. 1980-The officers of the Canal Zone Amateur Radio Assoc.(CZARA) discussed the requirements to comply with Panamanian law and decided to acquire "personería jurídica", with the assistance of guidance available from the administrative Services Division of the Panama Canal Company.
- Jan. 1981-New officers elected are: Pres. Al Lawrence, HP1AT; VP-Fred Williams, HP1XFW; Treasurer-Dick King, HP1XDI; and Secretary-San Frazier, HP1XSF. It was reported that The "Ex KZ5 On The Air" reunion was a great success. John Barham, HP1XOG, is currently running a Novice Training Class. Jim Miller, HP1XRK, and his group that participated in the CQ WPX Contest were able to amass 6,472,102 points in 48 hours, placing them as No. 2 in North America and No. 10 worldwide. All members are invited to enjoy the Liga Radio Christmas party at Cerro Azul on Jan. 4th.
- Oct. 1981-John Barham, HP1XOG, reported a number of members are enrolled in his General Class License prep. It was reported that FCC is proposing a "no code" experimenter license. Although international law prohibits a no code license below 144 Mhz, that will change to 30 Mhz in 1982.
- Jan. 1982-New officers for this year are: President-Al Sholk, HP1XKZ; 1st VP-Fred Williams, HP1XFW; 2nd VP-Al Lawrence, HP1XAT; Secretary-Bob Geddes, HP1XRL; Treasurer-Peg Richards, KA4UPA/HP1; and directors George

Flores, HP1XNK and Bob Gamble, HP1XBG. The new President of CZARA reported that he understood that the procedure to acquire legal status was underway and that Liga Radio would assist CZARA with the requirements. Family membership is now \$12; full-\$8 and associate-\$4.

Jul. 1982-It was announced that the club now has an Atlantic side chapter. The first President of that chapter will be Ken Willis, HP2XKD, and Barbara Hudson, HP2XBC is the new Secretary Treasurer. Jake Meyers, HP1XUL, gave all members a briefing in "repeater" courtesy and the do's and don'ts of good operators. It was announced that as of June 1983, hams in the US will no longer be required by FCC to log any contacts.

Nov. 1983-It was reported that the proper papers and procedures had not been followed, and as a result, since the 30 month period had expired, CZARA no longer qualified to obtain its legal status at no charge. It was announced that ham licenses in FCC jurisdictions now have a 10 term.

Jan. 1984-New officers: Pres.-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; 1st VP-Bill McCall, HP1QD; 2nd VP-Dick King, HP1DI; Secretary-Joe Pearl, HP1XJN; Treasurer-Jim O'Donnell, HP1XJL; Directors-Huey Fourquet, HP1HL, and Mel Borham, HP1XMK. CZARA was notified that the owner of the building in which all monthly meetings were held, the JWB building in Balboa, would be closing in July and CZARA would have to find a new location. Joe, HP1XJN, reported that he visited with the President of Radio Club, Enrique Cucalon, HP1ECA, and an invitation was extended to all CZARA members to attend their weekly meetings at Paitilla.

Feb. 1984-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO, obtained PCC permission to commence using the PCC Training Center for all meetings commencing in July. The youngest member of CZARA, Ryan Field, a 10 year old, passed his novice exam. Jim O'Donnell, HP1XJL and Ernst Kredel, HP1XJN, were successful in locating the father of Anibel Alvarado after a long search for the daughter than had been trying to locate her father for more than ten years. It was announced that the JWB will close its doors in June. After some debate the membership voted to purchase a new two-meter repeater. The current MARS repeater has been in use for a number of years.

May 1984--Bob Emerick, HP1XRO, President, introduced Rudy Delgado, HP1RD, President of Liga Radio, who invited CZARA members to participate in up-coming Liga Radio conventions in the interior. (Liga Radio had previously offered CZARA affiliate status, giving it some legal protection until such time as CZARA

decided to pursue its "Personería Jurídica"). A report was given on the recent Liga Radio convention held in Las Tablas. The first field day held in a number of years was conducted at the Albroom Bohios and 333 stations were worked around the world.

Aug.1984- Bob Emerick, HP1XRO, President, announced that the Panama Canal Commission had agreed to install and maintain, free of charge, the Motorola PCARA two-meter repeater loaned by Paul Henry, HP1XPD, at its facility on Sosa Hill. Paul also offered an autopatch that he had recently acquired. Members are reminded of the Saturday morning Coffee Klatches held at the Curundu Cafeteria.

Sep.1984- Bob Emerick, HP1XRO, President, announced that with the assistance and permission of Liga Radio CZARA would be assigned the frequencies of 146.27-146.87 for the proposed new repeater to be placed atop Sosa Hill. An autopatch would be installed by CZARA.

Oct.1984- Bob Emerick, HP1XRO, President, explained the constitution of CZARA regarding full and associate membership and proposed that a new constitution be developed more in line with the new treaty and the present association with Liga Radio. A committee was formed to study and present a revised constitution.

Jan. 1985-New officers are: Pres. Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; 1st VP- Frank Field, HP1XFF; 2nd VP- Bob Geddes, HP1XRL; Secretary- "K" Rodgers, HP1XKP; Treasurer-Jim O'Donnell, HP1XJL; and directors-Ken Willis, HP2XKD; and Bob Rodgers, HP1XRQ. A special meeting was convened for the purpose of discussing and adopting a new constitution for CZARA. At that meeting, it was also decided to internally change the name of the organization to the Panama Canal Amateur Radio Association and to affiliate with Liga Radio.

Feb.1985- The membership unanimously voted to adopt the newly proposed constitution and by-laws. The new by-laws provided PCARA with affiliation and legal protection with Liga Radio, and required an annual payment to Liga Radio of one-quarter of the membership dues. Bob Geddes, HP1XBG, offered to compile a listing of all of the active repeaters and their data in the Republic of Panama.

Jun.1985- A club logo contest was initiated earlier in the year with 14 proposals submitted and "K" Rodgers, HP1XKP was declared the winner of an excellent logo. Frank Field,

HP1XFF, gave a briefing on various emergency procedures by amateurs and volunteered to develop a new member handbook with pertinent data about the club, local repeaters, nets, emergency procedures, etc. The membership voted to recognize those amateurs that have provided exceptional service to the Panama amateur radio community. It was decided the initial recipient would be Bill Baldwin, who has been running the Bejuco 40 meter net for more than 15 years. The Bill Baldwin Award was presented to Bill at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Balboa. Arrangements have now been to administer FCC exams through the use of Volunteer Examiners. The first exams will begin in June and Al Lawrence, HP1XAT, will manage the program.

Oct.1985-The President thanked all who had participated handling emergency traffic into Mexico following the disastrous earthquake there in Sept. Several PCARA members loaned HF equipment to Liga Radio members who traveled to Mexico City to help. The PCARA President was interviewed on SCN TV for the PCARA efforts. PCARA's membership will be included in the next edition of the Foreign Callbook. The next Hamfest will be held in January at the Curundu High Cafetorium. Many ham suppliers will be represented. The Boy Scout "On the Air" Jamboree held in Sept. was very well received.

Jan.1986- New officers for 1986 are: President-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; 1st VP-, President, 1st VP-Bob Rodgers, HP1XRQ; 2nd VP-Herman Erhart, HP1XHE; Secretary- "K"Rodgers, HP1XKP; Treasurer-Save Belok, HP1XCN; and directors Al Lawrence, HP1XAT and Ken Willis, HP2XKD. It was noted that in future PCARA will need to elect a Fiscal in accordance with Panamanian regulations. It was announced that the Panama Canal Commission had agreed to install and maintain, free of charge, a PCARA two-meter repeater at its new communications facility at Gatun. The frequency assignments would be 146,850-146,250. An autopatch would be installed by PCARA.

Feb.1986-With membership approval, a change to the constitution was made to include a Fiscal to the officer roles. A full report was received on the results of the Hamfest. Over three hundred people attended and expensive door prizes were awarded by several of the commercial equipment companies.

Jun.1986-PCARA was requested to provide translators for the Panama license exams. Jose Vargas and Huey Fourquet volunteered their services. The club decided to sell raffle tickets for various amateur equipment to raise funds for a state of the art repeater. The cost of the new Mark IV CR 35 watt repeater, autopatch, and Message Master is will

be \$3,545. Funds donated from the Canal organization, about \$800 of club funds and profit from the raffle will permit the purchase of the repeater. The President, Bob Emerick, HP1XRO, was presented with an award from Liga Radio for his assistance to the Liga. Award was accepted in Bob's absence at Las Tablas convention by PCARA reps Jim Henry, HP1XXO, and Herm Erhart, HP1XHE. Frank Field, HP1XFF, was awarded the Frank Baldwin Award for his outstanding services to the amateur community at a dinner meeting.

Oct.1986-The new repeater is on the air and the membership was briefed on the extensive features of the repeater. Mailboxes will be rented for \$15 per year. The machine has a message center, reverse patch, and autodial capabilities. Paul Henry, HP1XPD, bought PCARA's old repeater back for \$200. Bob Emerick, HP1XRO reported that Liga Radio has invited PCARA members to attend their next meeting and elections. Rudy Delgado, HP1RD, will likely be elected again. It was decided that PCARA would host a member's picnic at Diablo Point in January.

Jan.1987-New officers elected are: Pres.-Ron Merrill, HP1XRL; 1st VP-Jim Henry, HP1XXD; 2nd VP-Mel Boreham, HP1XMK; Secretary-Maria Hale, HP1XZM; Treasurer-Steve Belok, HP1XCN; Fiscal-Herm Erhart, HP1XHE; and directors Bob Emerick, HP1XRO and Roger Toledano, HP1AKI. The Hamfest for this year was held in the Cardenas Community Center and in honor of Liga Radio's 40th anniversary, a champagne toast was offered to Liga officers present. A tower, big top and other structures were erected for the event.

Jun.1987-Two new duplexers and a link transceiver to link the Atlantic and Pacific repeaters have been installed and are now operational on the Sosa Hill repeater, thanks to the efforts of Bruce Larner, HP1XOB. Herm Erhart, HP1XHE, reported that PCARA now has all of its repeater equipment insured by the National Union Insurance Company and they are offering equipment insurance to individual amateurs as well. Liga Radio presented a check to PCARA for \$512.42 representing our share of the profits from the sale of raffle tickets.

Dec. 1987-Elections for the 1988 officers resulted in the following: Pres. Jim Henry, HP1XXO; 1st VP-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG; 2nd VP-Bruce Larner, HP1XOB; Secretary-Sharill Harrill, HP1XXS; Treasurer-Hu Harrill, HP1XHU; Fiscal-Herm Erhart, HP1XHE; and directors Bob Emerick, HP1XRO and Herb Harmond, HP1HH. Steve Belok reported he designed a new PCARA application form. A Christmas cookout will be held at Diablo Point. Field day will be held at Contractor's Hill in February. The repeater codes will be

changed effective each March when renewed membership is required. Novice classes will be handled this year by Pete Jorgensen, HP1XZB.

Oct.1987-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG, conducted a computer workshop with various computer sales representatives in Sept. that was well attended. The annual Boy Scout "On the Air" Jamboree was held this month. Santiago Gabela, HP1XGG, is organizing a bus trip to the FRACAP meeting in Costa Rica and PCARA members are invited. The annual Awards dinner was held in the Meson del Prado Restaurant and the recipient of the Bill Baldwin Award was Jim Henry, HP1XXO. Bruce Larner, HP1XOB, is handling a raffle to generate funds for a new repeater. The "KZ5 on the Air" day will be held in December.

Jan.1989-New club officers elected are: Pres-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG; 1st VP-Roger Toledano, HP1AKI; 2nd VP-Bruce Larner, HP1XOB; Secretary- "K" Rodgers, HP1XKP; Treasurer-Save Belok, HP1XCN; Fiscal-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; and direct Harrill, HP1XHU and Herb Harmond, HP1HH. The club awarded Bill Baldwin with a PCARA lifetime membership. Special recognition certificates were given to: Bruce Larner, HP1XOB, for maintenance of clubs repeaters; Tony Tweed, HP1XXT, for running food concessions at special events; Brad Fairman, HP1XPF, for assisting with food concessions; Al Lawrence, HP1XAT, for running the Volunteer License Examiner program; Juan Cazorla, HP1YG, and Steve Belok, HP1XCN, for managing the computer workshop; Herm Erhart, HP1XHE, for cooking at all the annual picnics; and Chico Icaza, HP1CMI, for handling various raffle committee finances. The Balboa High School ham station is now back in service with a line of Collins equipment donated by AF MARS. Jimmie Wickham, HP1XWI, will be the teacher sponsor.

Oct.1989-A PCARA family picnic was held in April at the Gamboa Beach. PCARA members participated in amateur activities for the 75th Panama Canal Commemorative event to be held in August. Bob Rodgers, HP1XRQ, was elected to replace Roger Toledano, HP1AKI, as 1st VP due to Roger's retirement and departure from the isthmus. The annual awards dinner held at the Ft. Amador American Legion Restaurant honored Bob Rodgers with the Bill Baldwin Award for years of dedicated amateur service and the following received certificates of appreciation for their efforts with PCARA functions: HP1XMK, HP1YG, HP1XRO, HP1XHU, HP1XSS, HP1XOB, HP1CDW, KB4MGZ/HP1, HP1XKP, and HP1XWI.

Jan.1990-New officers are: Pres. Juan Cazorla, HP1YG; 1st VP-Henry Lewis, HP1CDW; 2nd VP-Brad Fairman-HP1XPF; Secretary-Vivian Diaz, HP1CDS; Treasurer-Save Belok, HP1XCN;

Fiscal-Tony Tweed, HP1XXT; and directors Bob Emerick, HP1XRO, and Herb Harmon, HP1HH. Numerous PCARA and Liga members were commended for their invaluable assistance during and after the recent U.S. military action in Panama.

Nov.1990-Field day took place at the Cardenas Village Community Center with both PCARA and MARS operators. A Christmas party is planned for the school children in Mocambo Arriba in December with donated toys and food from the membership. The annual Awards dinner was held at the Parrillada Jimmy Restaurant and Juan Cazorla, HP1YG, received the Bill Baldwin Award for his outstanding service to PCARA in many different officer positions and to the community for organizing many PCARA sponsored Christmas parties for various school children in the interior of the country. Certificates of appreciation were given this year to HP1CDS, HP1CDW, HP1CMI, HP1CNX, HP1CQL, HP1HH, HP1XAT,HP1XCN, HP1XEX, HP1XJN, HP1XZB, and HP1XPF.

Jan.1991-New officers are: Pres. Santiago Gabela, HP1XGG; 1st VP-Bill Hemingway, HP1XBH; 2nd VP-Roberto La Forest, HP1CQL; Secretary-Sharill Harrill, HP1XXS; Treasurer-Tony Tweed, HP1XXT; Fiscal, Brad Fairman, HP1XPF; and directors Steve Belok, HP1XCN and George Surgeon, HP2CQZ. A field day is planned for March this year at Contractor's Hill. Julio Fong, HP2AFY, offered his assistance in maintaining the Atlantic side repeater and link.

Dec.1991-The operation of the two meter net has been changed to Wednesday nights at 8:30pm. Another Christmas party for the needy children of the school at Mocambo Arriba was again carried out and many members provided wrapped gifts and food. The annual Awards dinner was held at the Balboa Tarpon Club and certificates of appreciation were given to HP1BLA, HP1BYX, HP1CNX, HP1CQL, HP1XAT, HP1XBH, HP1XCN, HP1XGG, HP1XPF, HP1XSO, HP1XVT, HP1XSS, HP1XXT, HP1XZB, HP1YG, HP2CQZ, and Magda Steil and Ada Tweed. A number of door prizes were awarded at the dinner by a total of 18 different business organizations.

Jan.1992-Elections resulted in the following: Pres.-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; 1st VP-Steve Belok, HP1XCN; 2nd VP-Bob Geddes, HP1XGB; Secretary-Randy Allison, HP1XOU; Treasurer-Rosa Fairman, HP1BYX; Fiscal, Juan Cazorla, HP1YG; and directors Hu Harrill, HP1XHU and Brad Fairman, HP1XPF. Panama held a national amateur radio convention in Chitre during the month, attended by many PCARA members. Activities for the year include an equipment demonstration and a family outing trip to Taboga in February, a membership trip to El Valle and fox hunt, an expedition to Isla Grande in April, a field day in June,

and a social dinner in July at Parrillada Jimmy Restaurant.

Oct.1992-Henry Lewis, HP1CDW, invited all PCARA members to an expedition to Fort San Jeronimo at Portobelo that the new FENARA organization will be having to celebrate the 500 years since discovery of the Americas by Columbus. The annual awards dinner was held in the Parrillada Jimmy Restaurant and enjoyed by a large turnout of the membership.

Jan.1993-The new members of the Board are: Pres-Henry Lewis, HP1CDW; 1st VP-Ed Tune, HP1XNE; 2nd VP-Omar Gayle, HP2DFA; Secretary-Gary Bornstein, HP1XOY; Treasurer-Wally Murdock, HP1XUN; Fiscal-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG; and directors Brad Fairman, HP1XPF and Sherill Harrill, HP1XSS. A picnic and fox hunt were held at the Gamboa Civic Center.

Feb.1993-The membership was presented with a proposal to obtain official legal status (Personería Jurídica) by President Henry Lewis, HP1CDW, with minimal costs through the assistance of another amateur and practicing lawyer knowledgeable in that field. The membership unanimously voted to acquire its own legal status and become a separate amateur radio association.

Mar.1993-PCARA formally acquired its Panamanian legal status on March 2, 1993. The President of Liga Radio HP1, Mr. Jose Moreira, HP1BUM, was notified of the change in status (separation from affiliation with Liga Radio HP1) by PCARA President Henry Lewis, HP1CDW.

Jun.1993 PCARA members voted to affiliate with the Panamanian association of amateur radio clubs called FENARA. Affiliation would provide for free legal assistance with club matters. Weekly two meter net established for Tuesday nights.

Aug.1993-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO, Director, announced that at PCARA's request the Panama Canal Commission had agreed to install and maintain, free of charge, a PCARA two meter repeater on Cerro Pelado at Gamboa. The repeater frequencies would be the same as those used at the former Ancon Hill military repeater.

Dec.1993 PCARA Board of Directors embarked on an active program of field days, Christmas parties for school in the interior of the country and FOX hunts starting in 1994. Amateur radio classes resumed. Club funds now total \$3,701.

- Jan.1994-New club officers are: Pres. Bob Emerick, HP1XRO;
1st VP-Kevin Moyers, HP1PI; 2nd VP-Chico Icaza, HP1CMI;
Secretary-Gary Bornstein, HP1XOY; Treasurer-Jerry Allen,
HP1XGH ; Fiscal-Jorje Martinez, HP1XZQ; and directors Bob
Geddes, HP1XGB and Henry Lewis, HP1CDW. A PCARA picnic
and barbecue was held at Diablo Point followed by several
hours hunting down a Fox (Bob Geddes, HP1XGB).
- Apr.1994 Radio Club of Panama and PCARA held a family field day
at Sorá near Bejuco.PCARA contributed its input to the
new amateur radio bill proposed in the National Assembly.
Isla Mamey DX Expedition organized by HP2CTM. In March
club members enjoyed a day in El Valle shopping at the
market, hunting a Fox, and enjoying a meal at one of the
restaurants.
- May 1994 PCARA initiated alternate meetings for the Atlantic side
members in Margarita. Every other month meetings will be
held there for Atlantic side members.
- Jul 1994 Members annual social dinner with XYL's established. Hu
Harrill, HP1XHU, has assumed the duties for the
coordination of VE exams in the absence of Al Lawrence.
- Oct.1994 Fourth annual awards dinner held to honor outstanding
members and their contributions. The following received
certificate awards: HP1XPI, HP1CMI, HP1XXZ, HP1XNE,
HP1XVG, HP1XGB, HP1CDW, HP1XXS, HP1XHU, and HP1XZQ.
- Jan.1995-Newly elected officers are: Pres.Otto Tune, HP1XNE;1stVP-
Bob Geddes, HP1XGB; 2nd VP-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG;Secretary-
Chico Icaza, HP1CMI; Treasurer-Jerry Allen, HP1XGH;
Fiscal-Jorge Martinez, HP1XZQ; and directors Bill
Hemingway, HP1XBH and Paul Bryant, HP1XXZ. Paul Bryant,
HP1XXZ, gave an interesting talk on AWACS and their
communications capabilities.
- Mar.1995 Monthly instructional presentations established. Henry
Lewis and Otto Tune provided talk on Packet radio.PCARA,
Radio Club and Liga Radio review newly proposed amateur
radio decree via FENARA.
- May 1995 PCARA Welcome Package booklet for new members prepared
and distributed to all. Picnic and Fox hunt held at
Diablo Point. Charlie Calthirst, HP1HCC, found the Fox,
Rob Lock, HP1XVG, in a tree.
- Sep.1995 PCARA's two repeaters, at Sosa Hill, and Gatun are
linked.
- Oct.1995 PCARA's first Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) was
organized and accomplished.

- Dec.1995 PCARA DX expedition to Isla Dos Hermanas near Isla Grande, resulted in very good DX contacts. PCARA two meter net is changed to Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm. Christmas school party at Chame.
- Jan.1996 The clubs new officers are: Pres.-Jorge Martinez, HP1XZQ; 1st VP-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG; 2nd VP-Sharill Harrill, HP1XSS; Secretary-Gabriela Fong, HP1DIW; Treasurer-Rod Rodriguez, HP2DZL; Fiscal-Roberto La Forest, HP1CQL; and directors Hu Harrill, HP1XHU and Bob Emerick, HP1XRO. PCARA's first Ft. Amador pool party and barbecue for all members took place. A new 25-watt repeater for PCARA is installed at Cerro Pelado in Gamboa.
- Apr.1996 PCARA adopts family plan for dues and fees—first two family members pay regular fees and all others are free.
- Aug.1996 PCARA and Radio Club de Panama joined forces at the invitation of Luis Durling in two HF contests established by Radio Club. Jorge Martinez, HP1XZQ, announced he unanticipated return to the US. As a result new elections were held to fill vacant positions and the following were elected: President-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG; 1st VP-Jaime Bell, HP1JB; Treasurer-Rick Norton, HP1YAO; Secretary-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; Fiscal-Roberto LaForest, HP1CQL; and directors-Hu Harrill, HP1XHU and Tony Tweed, HP1XXT.
- Nov.1996 William Baldwin Award given to Hu and Sharrill Harrill at the 1996 Awards Dinner for their many years of contributions. Christmas party planned for El Mangote school in Chame in December.
- Jan.1997-Board officers this year are: Pres. Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; 1st VP-Bill Hemingway, HP1XBH; 2nd VP-Ricardo Lee, HP2CTM; Secretary-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG; Treasurer-Barry Steil, HP1XZE; Fiscal-Rick Norton, HP1YAO; and directors Brad Fairman, HP1XPF and Herb Harmon, HP1HH.
- Mar.1997 PCARA Board members, at the invitation of Liga Radio, attended Liga Radio's 50th anniversary dinner and ceremonies. Joint field day held in Cerro Azul.
- Apr 1997 PCARA installed PL tones on all repeaters to eliminate interference from commercial repeaters in the area. PCARA invited to Liga Radio 50th anniversary ceremony.
- Aug.1997 PCARA members participated in the 26th anniversary activities of Radio Club. HP2CTM organized a DX Expedition to the islands of Cebaco Leones and Gobernadora in Los Santos province. Traditional November dinner meeting, to be held at the Su Lyn Restaurant, will for the first time be free of charge to members.

- Dec.1997 School Christmas party on Madden Lake for approximately 50 children and the village. PCARA barbecue to be held at Diablo Point in January.
- Jan.1998 PCARA new officers are: Pres. Bill Hemingway, HP1XBH; 1st VP-Brad Fairman, HP1XPF; 2nd VP-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG; Secretary-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; Treasurer-Barry Steil, HP1XZE; Fiscal-Mac McLaughlin, HP1XBG; and directors Hu Harrill, HP1XHU and Mel Boreham, HP1XMK. An overnight PCARA field trip scheduled in February for Cerro Campana.
- May 1998 First PCARA KZ5/HP annual on the air reunion on 14345 Khz established. PCARA website established-www.qsl.net/pcara.
- Sep.1998 New 25 watt Yaesu repeater and controller purchased and installed at Gatun to replace the 20 year old repeater at that site.
- Dec.1998 At the annual awards dinner at the Marbella Restaurant, Mac McLaughlin was given the Baldwin Award for all of his work with the new repeater and development of the PCARA web page. A Christmas party, clothing, shoes and toys were given by PCARA to 43 school children in the remote village of Nuevo Vigia on Madden Lake. It was the first time many had ever seen Santa Claus.
- Jan.1999 New officers elected are: Pres.-Mac McLaughlin, HP1XBG; 1st VP-Ricardo Lee, HP2CTM; 2nd VP-Sharill Harrill, HP1XXS; Treasurer-Juancho Cazorla, HP1YG; Fiscal-Glenn Lee, HP1CEW; Secretary-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; Directors-Hu Harrill, HP1XHU and Herb Harmon, HP1HH.
- Feb.1999 PCARA barbecue/field day at Cerro Azul, FOX hunts and Cross-isthmian bike marathon scheduled. PCARA donated old Atlantic side repeater to the Club Ondas del Caribe.
- May 1999 PCARA assisted Atlantic area Triathlon and FOX hunt events. Ministry of Communications has authorized special transfer of Canal call signs to be used from Dec. 1st, 1999 until January 5th, 2000. PCARA meetings during months of July through September cancelled due to loss of members and military drawdown.
- Jan.2000 PCARA new Board consists of: Pres. Ricardo Lee, HP2CTM; 1st VP- Tony Tweed, HP1XXT; 2nd VP-Emilio NG Lee, HP2DFU; Secretary-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; and Treasurer-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG. Due to the severe reduction in PCARA membership it was decided to temporarily suspend the positions of Fiscal and directors.
- Feb.2000 PCARA receives Autoridad del Canal (ACP) permission to continue operating three repeaters at Sosa Hill, Cerro Pelado and Gatun with the addition of \$18 monthly fees

for usage. As a result, PCARA dues will be increased from \$12 to \$20 annually to pay for the increased costs. The membership also authorized a change in the Bylaws to permit any licensed Panamanian amateur to join the club, eliminating the previous requirement to be a PCC or military employee. Also approved was a resolution to remain a separate club, not directly affiliated with other clubs.

- Jun 2000 PCARA's new Bylaws and constitution were approved as amended to conform to Panamanian law and requirements. Bylaws provided in English and Spanish.
- Feb.2001 The Board of directors for 2001 remained the same as 2000. PCARA invited by Radio Club to participate in a one month HF DX event in March. Radio Club also announced the establishment of a ten-meter beacon on their repeaters.
- Jul 2001 PCARA Board approves a recommendation to eliminate mailbox fees and include those privileges under general membership fees. Radio Club members invited PCARA members to attend their meetings to provide for interchange of ideas and activities. HP1BYS and HP1AYS briefed PCARA members on the difficulties with administrative matters under the jurisdiction of the Director of Communications. Both club Boards agreed to join forces to attempt to resolve the difficulties.
- Mar 2002 New officers for 2002 are: Pres.-Ricardo Lee, HP2CTM; 1st VP-Fabio Chang-HP1AFK; 2nd VP-Armando Aizpurua, HP1CMH; Secretary-Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; and Treasurer-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG. In view of the reduced number of PCARA members, HP1AVS submitted a proposed resolution to modify the club's Bylaws to permit a quorum to exist with 10% of the full members present. Luis Durling, HP1LD, presented a summary of both clubs' efforts to resolve the problems at the Director of Communications office. All agreed to pursue the issue to higher levels of authority. HP1BYS described the amateur radio pirate activities on Contadora Island, with the knowledge of the Ministry.
- Nov.2002 The proposal to change the Bylaws was approved by the membership.
- Aug.2002 All members of the National Directorship of Amateur Radio Service met with the staff and director of the Office of the Director of Communications in an attempt to resolve the ongoing problems. Although promises were made, no subsequent action was forthcoming.
- Feb.2003 New officers for this year are: Pres.-Victor Sierra, HP1AVS; 1st VP-Eleo Salinas, HP1BYS; 2nd VP-Enrique Cuculon, HP1ECA; Treasurer-Juan Cazorla, HP1YG;

Secretary- Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; Fiscal-Rene Fonseca, HP1DCP; and directors Ricardo Lee, HP2CTM and Enrique Preciado, HP1IBF. HP2CTM described the interference problems on the Atlantic repeater. Julio Fong, HP2AFS, agreed to install PL controls and attempt to eliminate the interference. The Treasurer, Juancho Cazorla, HP1YG, reported the financial status of the club with a total of \$3,545 in savings, checking and petty cash.

Mar.2003 PCARA and Radio Club Board members held a meeting with the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Government and Justice to solicit assistance with the problems at the Director of Communications office.

Apr 2003 The Office of Amateur Radio Affairs provided the club with a listing of all of the authorized amateur radio operators in the Republic. However, a number of errors were noted and PCARA subsequently submitted a list of corrections to that office.

May 2003 PCARA President Victor Sierra, HP1AVS, invited all members to participate in the use of a Radio Club repeater link that is connected to the computer interface ECHOLINK. He also reported on-going discussions with the newly named Director of Communications to resolve current issues.

Jun 2003 The Vice President, Elio Salinas, HP1BYS, reported the establishment of a new amateur band on 60 meters for experimental work.

Jul 2003 The President, Victor Sierra, HP1AVS, reported that the new director of the Communications Department is Lic. Harmodio Jimenez and the National Board of Directors of Amateur Radio operators will meet soon to discuss the new law which will replace Law 302. In that regard, Enrique Preciado, HP1IBF, gave a report on the current development of the new law. Vice President, Elio Salinas, HP1BYS, read a letter that he had written to the Public Regulator concerning interference on PCARA's repeaters.

Aug.2003 Camilo Castillo, HP1AC, and Enrique, HP1IBF, reported on the International Lighthouse Weekend contest that will be held on August 16th and 17th. All are invited to participate. The President gave a report on the recent meeting with the new Director of Communications.

Oct.2003 Camilo, HP1AC, gave a report on the results of the International Lighthouse Contest that was held on Isla Flamenco. The President advised those present of a new resolution designating Bob Emerick, HP1XRO, as a member of the National Board of Directors of Amateur Radio Operators, replacing Herb Harmond, HP1HH, who is no

longer active. The Communications Director also announced exams for the Class C license will be held on the 16th of October. Juancho, HP1YG, reported that the Gamboa repeater is out of service and the problem has been reported to Julio Fong, HP2AFY, with the ACP.

Dec 2003 The Vice President, HP1BYS, gave a report on the status of repairs on both the Gamboa and Sosa Hill repeaters. He also advised those present that a new committee has been formed to develop activities that consists of HP1AC, HP1IBF, HP1BYS, HP1XRO, HP1AVS, and HP1DCP.

Feb 2004 The Treasurer, HP1YG, reported that PCARA has \$3,064 in savings, checking and petty cash. Camilo Castillo, HP1AC, presented a report on the illegal operations of a German amateur radio operator operating on Contadora Island. Enrique Preciado, HP1IBF, reported that the International Lighthouse Contest will be held this year with the cooperation and help of the Gamboa Rainforest Resort in Gamboa on the 22nd and 23rd of August. He also reported that the final draft of the new amateur radio law has now been submitted to the government for review by the National Assembly. By unanimous vote the following persons will be officers for PCARA in 2004: President, Victor Sierra, HP1AVS; 1st VP, Elio Salinas, HP1BYS; 2nd VP, Enrique Cuculon, HP1ECA; Secretary, Bob Emerick, HP1XRO; Treasurer, Juancho Cazorla, HP1YG; Fiscal, Rene Fonseca, HP1DCP; and 1st and 2nd Directors, Ricardo Lee, HP2CTM and Enrique Preciado, HP1IBF.

Apr 2004 Juancho Cazorla, HP1YG, advised that the Atlantic repeater is not working correctly and he has asked former member Roberto LaForest, HP1CQL, to investigate and resolve the problem. John and Judy Collins, HP2XBB and HP2XAG briefed everyone on the procedures to obtain a US amateur radio license.

May 2004 New members Joe Logan, WA4CPN and Melissa Ravenel, AG4RK, were welcomed to the club. Both reside on the Atlantic coast. Camilo, HP1AC, and Elio, HP1BYS, told those present about their efforts to track down the culprits of the interference on PCARA repeaters. Another letter will be written to the Public Regulator.

Jul 2004 Enrique Preciado, HP1IBF, reported that the new amateur radio law is approved but some modifications are still needed. He also mentioned that PCARA needs to register its repeater call signs which could be HP1PCS for Sosa Hill, HP2PCC for Gamboa and HP2PCA for Gatun. He will prepare all the paperwork. Vic Sierra, HP1AVS, reported that the Gatun repeater had been removed and transported to the Pacific for repairs. He also reported that Elio Salinas, HP1BYS has been selected as the IAHRU band monitor

representative for Panama (Intruders Watch).

Sep 2004 The President, HP1AVS, thanked all those who had participated in the International Lighthouse Contest at Gamboa, including EA4RF, EA4ATF, and SM4XDJ who also participated. PCARA logged 212 contacts during the contest. Elio, HP1BYS, reported that the Gamboa and Gatun repeaters are back on the air, but the codes need to be changed to prevent unauthorized persons from using them. Victor, HP1AVS, volunteered to study the manuals and change the codes.

Oct 2004 The Vice President, HP1BYS, reported that he had received a letter from the Public Regulator, who confirmed that corrective actions will be taken against those who were creating interference on PCARA repeaters and operating illegally.

Feb 2005 By unanimous vote, all of the previous officers of PCARA's Board of Directors were re-elected to their same positions. Elio reported that the President sent a letter to the Director of Communications requesting that the licenses of PCARA members HP2XAG, HP2XBB and HP3XBH be corrected to reflect that they hold Class A licenses and not Class B. They all hold Advanced and/or Extra Class US licenses. Ricky Lee, HP2CTM, in response to some possible illegal operations on ECHOLINK, volunteered to monitor activity as it relates to use of PCARA repeaters. The Treasurer, HP1YG, reported PCARA funds at \$3,174 in savings and checking accounts.

Apr 2005 Enrique, HP1IBF, reported that the documents to establish the new PCARA repeater call signs have been approved by the Ministry. Elio, HP1BYS, reported on the meetings with the Director of Communications and the status of the German amateur on Contadora Island. He also reported that there were 27 new applicants for amateur radio licenses at the exams on April 27th. Elio had donated a new Amateur Radio Operators Manual consisting of 127 pages to all of the applicants.

May 2005 Judy Collins, HP2XBB, advised those present that FCC exams will be offered to all those desiring a US license at the Pedro Miguel Yacht Club on May 28th. She reminded those present that you must have a permanent domicile in the US to qualify—not just a post office box.

Jul 2005 Enrique Preciado, HP1IBF, reported on the plans for PCARA's participation in the International Lighthouse Contest at Gatun on the 20th and 21st of August. The ACP will provide the site and guard assistance.

