

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
2024

OFFICERS

President—Bruce Perkins, K4ONC
Vice President--Wayne Beasley, KO4OJC
Treasurer--Gail (Wally) Wallace, KK4ASP
Secretary/Newsletter Editor--Jim Hartmeyer, AI4WL

ARES Emergency Coordinator-- Bruce Perkins, K4ONC
Web Master--Paul Jodoin, K4MMB

MEETING NOTES

These notes taken at monthly meetings are extracted from the Pamlico Amateur Radio Society weekly newsletter, the PARSgram. Although they are not formal minutes, they constitute a record of those meetings.

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) JAN 27, 2024 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty-three members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
- * There may have been no upgrades reported for the month but there was a show and tell instead. With the long awaited 2024 Clipperton Island DXpedition underway (the last one being in 2013) Bill, WM3X, passed around a QSL card he received from an even earlier Clipperton DXpedition. And then, Paul, K4MMB, after all the recent news of a possible finding of Amelia Earhart's plane in the deep, passed around a 1937 Suriname postage stamp commemorating her flight.
- * Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. The club is solvent.
- * AI4WL's Propagation Report: According to those chasing Clipperton on HF last week, propagation has been generally good except for Friday's CME event that degraded conditions for a period. There has been low activity on average but still good propagation on the 17 and 15 meter bands continues. Current hot DX:Clipperton Isl, TX5S, and St. Helena, ZD7Z. [Clipperton closed early due to storms after over making 110K contacts-ed]
- * Paul, K4MMB, reported the PARS Web site www.n4prs.org is "on line", about 180 visits per month.
- * ARES/PCN. Mike reported that the PCN controller script is now on the N4PRS Web Site "ARES" page.
- * Jim reminded all that the NC QSO party is coming up on the last Sunday in February. Pamlico county is always in demand. Bill Michne will operate his station with the club call, N4PRS, and welcomes members, guests and even prospective hams to visit and operate.
- * The Pamlico Communications Team (PCT)meets monthly on the first Saturday at Station 19. The next meeting will be on the February 3rd. Bill, K2TNO, will talk talk about sharpening knives, chisels, and planes. A repeater update will follow. All are welcome.
- * Lor Kutchins, W3QA, reported that, after it's reprogrammed, a Kenwood TKR720 analog VHF repeater will be installed at the Kershaw site. The Motorola repeater will be returned to Arapahoe. Antenna issues (crackle, chugging) at Arapahoe need to isolated and fixed. When done, the Arapahoe NC4ES repeater will operate in the DMR mode and connected to the EHPC area wide network. It can be quickly reconfigured if the Oriental N4ONC repeater becomes unavailable. Additional modes will be added in time.

* The disposition of donated equipment, particularly that of high value, was discussed. The club has several items including linear amplifiers to sell. It was generally agreed that high value items should be offered on-line to obtain larger exposure. Cost of shipping is a challenge. If offered locally a reserve price should be set. Paul, K4MMB, recommended Craig's List, Lor E-Ham, QRZ. Bruce asked Dick Goodwin, Bill Olah, Paul and Lor as a committee to work the issue.

* Bruce asked the group to consider a donation to the Oriental VFD for its generous use of Station 19 for our Fox Hunts and monthly meetings of the club's PCT. Bill Olah moved that \$300 be donated to the department. Bill Cresswell seconded the motion. The members passed the motion unanimously.

* Two hurricane preparation Exercises are scheduled for this Spring according to Lor: April 4th, NCCOMMS-North Carolina Communications Nexus; June 13th, EHPC Communications Exercise. These are statewide and ENC exercises with several AUXCOMM lanes. Sign-up on NC Terms. For more info contact Lor or Bruce.

* Members present agreed to a Spring Fox Hunt in April. Appears to be lots of interest. Another committee was appointed including Mike K4NLC, Bill K2TNO, Cody KA4RFG and Bill KR4LO to work the date and details.

* Bill K2TNO drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Charlie KO4YWM a PARS coaster, and Bill K2ONN, a PARS bumper sticker.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 am.

(PARSgram 2024-02-05)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) FEB 24,2024 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* There were no upgrades reported for the month, however, Dick K4JJW reported passing another milestone. He had just confirmed his latest DX entity, number 2,600! How did he do that when there are only 340 or so of them? It's because you also count bands and modes.

* Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. The club's doing OK.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: A show of hands indicated over half of the group had been on HF during the week but only one, K2TNO, noted the major event of the solar season, a X6.3 class flare centered over Hawaii on Thursday afternoon. We were on the trailing edge of the 1 hour plus HF blackout, the third blackout caused by the same sunspot group. No CME's were Earth directed.

* Jim reminded all that the NC QSO party is tomorrow. Bill Michne again offered his shack to members, guests and even prospective hams to visit and operate using the club call.

* Paul, K4MMB, reported the PARS Web site had 212 visitors in the past 30 days. Paul estimates we have around 30-40 repeat users. He announced that "Craig the Croaker", the RADIO FISH, will swim above the big blue tractor's hood during next Saturday's parade. Oriental is celebrating its 125th birthday.

* ARES/PCN. Bruce advised that there will be NO PAMLICO COMMUNICATIONS TEAM meeting on that Saturday, March 2nd, due to Oriental's birthday festivities. The next is scheduled for April 6th.

* The method of distributing a club roster was discussed. Of the several options, there was agreement that it will be distributed to our active members via email as a PDF attachment.

* The next and anxiously awaited FOX HUNT and hounds' lunch will be on Saturday, April 20th. It will start at the Oriental Fire Station on Straight Road. As to cost for prizes and lunch, Bill Olah moved that an amount not to exceed \$300.00 from PARS funds be allocated for the event.

Charlie Overcash seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

* The configuration of an updated Kenwood repeater with amplifier for Kershaw is nearly complete. Change over should go unnoticed by users. As earlier reported, the Motorola will go back to Arapahoe.

* Mike, K4NLC, relayed that a new tower has been raised by PCS Phosphate/Nutrien just east of NC-306 south of the NC-306/NC-33 intersection. A multi-mode Amateur radio repeater is part of the project--analog FM, C4FM, and DMR. The repeater could be in testing as early as March 7th. [It's in the RepeaterBook. Check it for initial configuration/setup -ed].

* Bill Schrader, K2TNO, in an ad-hoc show-and-tell talked antennas. Bill displayed and talked about a 2M Moxon antenna he built and intends to use vertically for fox hunting. [We could all envision Phyllis in the car through the sunroof turning the thing and yelling turn right... no, turn left.-ed] He also showed and talked about a little dual band antenna he crafted for regular use.

* Bill, K2ONN, drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Mike, K4HPS a PARS coaster, and Phyllis Schrader, a Yaesu baseball cap.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 am.

(PARSgram 2024-02-26)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MAR 30,2024 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-one members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* Club roster's were distributed.

* There were no upgrades or new licensees reported for the month.

* Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. The club's doing OK. Kershaw internet and the PARs web service were paid for.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: Despite some strong flare activity during the past week, only a few members noticed a disruption. There was a X-class flare Thursday around 4 pm EDT over the Pacific but no CME resulted. The 15 and 17 meter bands remain the most reliable for DX propagation.

* Paul, K4MMB, reported the PARS Web site had 175 visitors in the past 30 days. "All's well". USA visitors increasing.

* ARES/PCN. Bruce thanked Wayne KO4OJC, for running the Wednesday nets in March, Charlie, WA4GSI is on tap for April. The next Pamlico Communications team meeting is on Saturday, April 6.

* Bruce and Bill, KR4LO, advised that after several stormy and cloudy days the solar replacement charge on the Kershaw batteries could not keep up with the drain from heavy repeater usage. It dropped such that the repeaters shut-down. Quickly noticed, a temporary fix was made. Two additional solar panels are being added to effectively double the charging rate.

* The FOX HUNT and HOUNDS' SOCIAL AND PICNIC is on track for Saturday, April 20th. It will start at the Oriental Fire Station on Straight Road. Check-in for the hunters starts at 9 am, the hunt will mount up and start by groups around 9:30. Hamburgers should be ready around noon. This is a club social event, members do not have hunt the fox to enjoy the picnic, all are invited but Mike Marsh needs to know who's coming. [Mike Marsh, K4NLC, 252-636-1257 or mike@MarshConsulting.org] All hunters will win a prize. Bill, K2TNO, designed--with a lot of help--and framed the certificates. They were on display at the meeting.

* Tripp Beasley, KI4KEB, and Wayne, KO4OJC did a show & tell of Tripp's POTA package, all of which fits in a medium backpack. Of particular interest, the Wolf River Coil TIA Antenna and the Xeigo G90 QRP transceiver.

* In a fascinating presentation, Lor Kutchins, W3QA, enlightened the group on PICO Balloons focusing on the construction, launch, and tracking of the "Eastern Express", NC4ES-6. [It was launched from Greenville Thursday, March 21st.-ed] The current configuration uses a new very strong small "Yokohama" balloon filled with hydrogen gas lifting a payload comprised of a ZachteK1 WSPR tracker, super capacitor, 2 tiny solar panels, and very thin wire dipole antennas--total weight 14.7 grams or about 1/2 of an ounce! This is the 6th NC4ES balloon. In 2021, NC4ES-4 reached 36K ft. altitude,

circumnavigated the Earth 1.5 times and was downed over Iraq. After floating more than 13,000 miles so far, NC4ES-6 is over the Gobi Desert moving East at 42K ft. [Flight monitoring is available in a simple format at APRS.fi <<http://aprs.fi>>. Search for NC4ES-6 there. More data with telemetry spots and mapping can be played with at LU7AA.org/wsprx.asp <<http://lu7aa.org/wsprx.asp>>. -PARSgram 2024-03-25]

* Lor W3QA, drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Jeffery Cunniff, a PARS coaster; and Charlie, WA4QSI, a DX-Engineering baseball cap.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

(PARSgram 2024-04-01)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) APR 27,2024 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-two members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* There were no upgrades or new licensees reported for the month.

* Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. The meals for the Fox Hunt were paid for and reimbursement made for the two additional solar panels installed at the Kershaw repeater site.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: Solar activity has been moderate and will continue that way for the next day or so. M-class flares are expected, X-class possible. The geomagnetic field is generally quiet. The 15 and 17 meter bands remain the most reliable for DX propagation both day and night. The lower HF bands good at night, higher bands good during day.

* According to Bruce and as reported by Lor, W3QA, the Eastern Express may well become the "Arctic Express". It's on its 3rd lap 'round the world floating mostly north toward and nearing the coast of Greenland. For the past two days, K4NLC, KR4LO and AI4WL received the 20mW signal on 20M from the little balloon. At such a high latitude, the sun window is short and the tracker may not transmit for a while.

* Paul, K4MMB, reported the PARS Web site had "188 looks" during the past 30 days. Look for new EASTERN EXPRESS NC4ES page with photos and more on www.n4prs.org.

* ARES/PCN. Bruce thanked Charlie WA4GSI, for running the Wednesday PCN nets in April. Beaufort Bill, W2TNO, raised his hand to call the net in May. The next Pamlico Communications team meeting is on Saturday, May 4.

* The solar array at the Kershaw tower has been expanded to four panels basically doubling the speed at which the two 100 amp LIPO batteries can be charged. Thanks to Mike, K4NLC, for getting and installing the panels and Bill, KR4LO, for securing Mike's ladder.

* Thanks went to two Bills and one Mike for their efforts to make the Spring FOXHUNT a success. Bill Olah found a good den and made sure the fox would not bite during the hunt; Mike procured and cooked some fine hamburgers and dogs for lunch; Bill Schrader, K2TNO, made the prize certificates, and Jim, AI4WL held back the hounds at the fire house. All of them hope for more participants at the next fox hunt, perhaps in the fall. Kudu's went to Paul Manganaro KO4MHM, hunting solo, who found the fox one ~~second~~ minute quicker than the team of Beasley, Beasley, and Beasley.

* Bill, KR4LO, recommended the club again auction donated equipment, some of it fairly high value, that is accumulating after evaluation and/or repair. At least 3 TenTec Jupiters are now ready to go and "lots of other stuff". We probably would get more for the equipment if sold on line but difficult to find someone to list it. Bill, K2TNO, suggested a "Dutch Auction" approach. Other ideas included, listing the stuff in advance on the PARSgram (and sharing the info with nearby clubs), holding the sale at the the fire house or even town hall but not after a PARS meeting. Possibly in conjunction with a tailgate sale.

* Dick Goodwin presented his findings after he recorded and analyzed the radio signal from the

Canadian Time Standard Station CHU near Ottawa before, during and after the Eclipse. He came up with some fascinating results, yet to be fully understood. He was looking for a frequency doppler-shift but found none. He did find that the CHU signal was strong and steady before the "total eclipse", "fluttered" during the umbra (full eclipse) period, then had much greater perturbation for over an hour as the penumbra period ended. Lots of questions, lots of discussion. He was pressed to send his charts and "findings" to those "scientists" doing Eclipse related propagation studies.

* Bill, K2TNO, and Mike, K4NLC participated in a University propagation study during the eclipse. Bill operated during the eclipse QSO party. Their data was sent to hosting organizations to be aggregated with that of many other hams. Bill noticed an effect, much like E-layer skip that extends the communications path, that occurred on 40 meters (and only 40) during the eclipse.

* Phillis Schrader, drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Ken Boniface WA2AII, a slate PARS coaster; and Bruce, a Yaesu logo baseball cap.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.
(PARSgram 2024-04-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MAY 25, 2024 MEETING NOTES

* Nineteen members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* There were no upgrades or new licensees reported for the month.

* The Eastern Express pico balloon is spending a lot of time over Russia. According to Bruce, after reaching the Russian Far East and almost to the Sea of Okhotsk she now may have been turned around. She is being taken south and back west by light winds. PARS members are invited to the next balloon launch. Some lucky member will get to release the balloon,

* Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. No activity this month.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: After hearing Dick K4JJW announce the Glorioso Island DXpedition going QRV on Friday (most wanted #7) and Bill W2TNO's, observation that the bands have not been good and then Dick countering with 15 meters being wide open at 2 a.m. Jim just reported that conditions are about the same as last week, hit and miss. He did note that Sunspot region AR3663 is about to return. That's the region that caused all the flares and storms 2 weeks ago. Watch for more short HF blackouts and geomagnetic storms. The 15 and 17 meter bands remain the most reliable for DX propagation both day and night.

* Paul, K4MMB, reported the PARS Web site had 194 visitors. They looked at about 150 pages during the past 30 days -- below average. Paul made the pilgrimage to Dayton and he has posted a photo report on the "Hamfests" page.

* And Paul's observations on Dayton: rainy, muddy, big (35,847 attended), lots of stuff tailgating, more and better stuff by vendors inside the several big fairground buildings, and very expensive hotdogs. But then he added some good signs: 1) there were long lines to sign up for ARRL membership; 2) yes, an aging population but maybe 15 - 20 % were under 30; 3) lots of new and varied interests, e.g. building cube sats, remote control airplanes/robots, digital everywhere/everything; and 4) major vendors' equipment selling well. They are going SDR big time.

* ARES/PCN. Bruce thanked Beaufort Bill, W2TNO, for running the Wednesday PCN nets in May. After not using WinLink for a long time, Bill had a challenge in setting it up with his newer equipment. Wayne gave a helping hand. His final check is at 7 pm. just before the net. He reminded us, that if all else fails, you can get your email to loved ones by WinLink. Wayne will take net control for June. Bruce reminded the group of the EHPC COMMEM on 13 June. It will have 3 tracks, one for hams/AUXCOMM. More info and to register go to NC TERMS [<https://terms.ncem.gov>]. The next PCT meeting is Saturday, June 1st.

- * The Hurricane forum orchestrated by the town of Oriental and PARS on the 22nd went well. Presented by the NWS Newport, over 25 attended, 5 new to hurricanes.
- * Equipment Auction. Bill Olah, KR4LO provided a list of donated equipment for sale at auction. Proceeds go to PARS or to the Oriental Repeater Group. This equipment, including transceivers and an amplifier, has been tested and determined serviceable. The meeting date of 27 July was proposed. This would be after circulating the list to other local clubs and by PARSgram. There were questions raised as to the venue when PARS hosted the auction... Station 19 firehouse or perhaps PCC. Whether a reserve price should be set was another issue. In lively discussion, other options for sale of these items (as well as those being tested and stored by Bill Michne) to gain a wider audience were suggested: e.g., take them to RARSfest, or to the Maysville Hamfest. Wayne Beasley, seconded by Bill Olah, made the motion to take the equipment to Maysville if not sold at a prior auction. It passed. Bruce appointed an "auction committee" comprised of Wayne (chairman), Paul K4MMB, and Jeffery Cunniff to recommend a best approach and work out the details.
- * Dick Goodwin K4JJW, had the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Eric Lind KG4ISY, a PARS coaster.
- * There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.
(PARSgram 2024-05-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) JUN 29,2024 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-two members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant. We were surprised by the visit by long time and most distant member, Mark Casey, K1MAP who drove over from his QTH at Cedar Island. Mark now shares his time between Springfield MA, Cedar Island, and Gainesville Florida.
- * There were no upgrades or new licensees reported for the month.
- * Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. He noted that expenditures have drawn down the club's account by about half since the start of the year. Some relief is anticipated by forthcoming sale of donated equipment.
- * AI4WL's Propagation Report: Solar activity has been low the past several days, however Sunspots have significantly increased as has the likelihood of solar flares. The solar flux 90 day average has increased to 178 from last month's 169. Numerous CME's, some significant, have resulted in intense geomagnetic storms this past month, one at G4 level yesterday. Member's observations have ranged from very good to very poor operating conditions. Paul has added a real-time propagation page "Looking UP" to the PARS site. It has current solar data and indicated HF & VHF conditions. The 15 and 17 meter bands remain the most reliable for DX propagation both day and night.
- * Paul, K4MMB, reported the PARS Web site had 180 visitors in the past 30 days, about average. Craig the Croaker on his tractor will represent PARS in next Saturday's Croakerfest parade. Paul and Craig will be on the Oriental repeater. Please give them a call. Let the crowd hear you.
- * ARES/PCN. Bruce passed along KUDU's to Wayne KO4OJC for running the Wednesday PCN net in June. Wayne agreed to continue in July, Charlie, WA4GSI will take the net in August. Early WinLink net check-ins to N4PRS are encouraged. Controllers will make the last check for WinLink messages at or just before 7pm. During June nets, back-up connectivity was exercised. Some members had difficulty communicating via the Arapahoe repeater, probably not realizing the encode and decode tones differed. Because FM transceivers vary in access tone capability and setup, Lor highly recommended referring to the radio's manual. [See PARSgram 2024-06-24 for more].
- * AUXCOMM/Pamlco Communications Team. The PCT meeting in July will have a review of the recent and highly successful EHPC COMMEX. Nearly 300 participated and, surprisingly, most were out of state (227). An un-solicited well done YouTube video provides a players view. Team members

are encouraged to watch the video before the meeting.

[Episode #109 at <https://WAVETALKERS.COM>]

* Old Business: Equipment sales. At last month's meeting, an auction of donated equipment, some of higher value, was discussed. This equipment, includes transceivers and at least one amplifier. The proceeds from sale of the equipment will go to support PARS or to the Oriental Repeater Group. It was proposed that the auction follow the club meeting on 27 July. After further discussion today, it was agreed that the auction should be delayed to August 3rd and that it be held inside at Station 19 VFD. It will be a silent auction with reserve (starting bid) and "bid step" specified. Bidding would start at 9am, end at 11am. Neighboring clubs will be notified and their members invited to bid on the equipment.

* From the floor:

-- Lor advised the Eastern Express pico balloon is still alive. Since its last report, based on wind direction, it should be over the Northwest Territory of Canada and slowly moving southeast toward the Great Lakes. NORAD now recognizes and apparently tracks amateur radio balloons.

-- Field Day, four attendees participated in Field Day. A couple were using it to prepare for Hurricane Season.

-- For show and tell, Cedar Island Mark, K1MAP, showed and talked about the very feature loaded and cheap Quansheng 5W HT. Frequency coverage ranges from 50-600MHz. Need to download and install firmware. It extends the frequency range to 13-1300MHz and much more.

-- Bill, K2TNO showed and talked about the improved Wolf River Coils whip antenna; says it will be great for POTA operation. Price varies with configuration.

* Jim, AI4WL, had the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Dodge Hickman, KJ4CFE, an ARRL Band Plan card.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am.

(PARSgram 2024-07-01)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) July 27, 2024 MEETING NOTES

* Nineteen members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant. The group welcomed Ned Loveless, KK4TIK, and Wayne Estabrook, KB1WE, to the meeting

* There were no upgrades or new licensees reported for the month. Dick Goodwin, K4JJW, again worked 'em all in the annual 13 Colonies Special Event. He did a clean sweep on 4 bands (mixed mode) plus 20 and 30 CW for a total of 6!

* Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. No expenditures this month.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: Moderate solar activity, R1 blackouts likely. A X14 flare on July 22nd on the far side of the sun still affected Earth. Impact could have been much worse if Earth directed--like the 1989 Quebec blackout. Ongoing DXpeditions include South Cook and Lord Howe Islands. A new SuperFox mode was tested by the America Samoa DXpedition. It uses more bandwidth but the Fox can work 9 stations simultaneously and provides verification that it is not a pirate.

* Bill Schrader, K2TNO, is hosting a special Zoom session on how to improve your DXing during the Solar Maximum. By an expert on radio propagation, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, it will follow the August 21st Wednesday night net. [Details will be in the next PARSgram].

* Eastern Express pico balloon: Lor, W3QA, confirmed she had not been heard from since July 5th when over Germany and her whereabouts are unknown. Could be her thin 36 ga. antenna wire broke and the tracker transceiver lost. But then, she could still reappear... sometime, somewhere.

* On behalf of Wayne, KO4OJC, Bruce advised that 17 checked in via WinLink last Wednesday, 12 using the requested ICS-213 form. Expect to practice other standard forms in future weeks. Kudos to Wayne for being the NCS for June and July. Charlie, WA4GSI, will take it in August.

- * Lor advised watching the Hurricane tracking sites as the season progresses. Although the forecast is very tentative, a storm is possible for our area during the early days in August.
- * The next Pamlico Communications Team meeting will be on Saturday, September 7th.
- * The Silent Auction is set for 9-11am Saturday, August 3rd, at the Oriental Station 19 firehouse. Starting bids/reserve will be bargain priced, much less than listings on Ebay or elsewhere. Equipment donors/holders should arrive between 7 and 9am with their equipment. All need to avoid parking in front or on right side lot. After the 11am announcement of highest bidders, winners should be prepared to pay by check or cash and take their "winnings" with them.
- * In a show and tell, Wayne Estabrooks, KB1WE, demonstrated his pneumatic antenna launcher complete with pistol grip and electric trigger.
- * Tripp Beasley, KI4KEB, had the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Dick, a PARS decal; and Hal Loveless, a PARS front license plate.
- * There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.
(PARSgram 2024-07-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Aug 31, 2024 MEETING NOTES

- * Nineteen members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
- * There were no upgrades or new licensees reported for the month. Dick Goodwin, K4JJW, did it again. He worked & logged CY9C while briefly down the hall. This prompted a discussion on the rule for a control operator to be present while transmitting. Rules can't keep up with technology.
- * Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. The only expenditure was for renewal of the N4PRS domain. Auction proceeds significantly increased both the club's and Repeater Group's coffers.
- * AI4WL's Propagation Report: Moderate solar activity, active geomagnetic field, R2 blackouts all likely next several days. HF conditions will be fair across the bands but poor daytime on 160-20 meters, poor nighttime on 12 and 10. Six meter propagation still terrible.
- * Bruce thanked Charlie, WA4GSI, for calling the Pamlico Communications Net (PCN) during August. Charlie obviously became comfortable as the month progressed--smooth job. Mike, K4NLC, will take the net in September. Volunteers for October and November are needed.
- * The Pamlico Communications Team will meet on 7 September to work on the local PACE Plan. [See announcement elsewhere-ed.]
- * Paul, K4MMB, reported 184 visits to the PARS Web pages during the past 30 days.
- * Bruce repeated that the PARS equipment auction was a success. One New Bern ham significantly supported our club and went home with a truck load of bargains. Separately, Wayne has listed a donated AL1500 Amp, a singular value at \$3000, on Ebay and QRZ. Eham was also suggested.
- * Blue water sailors, Jeanne (KQ4UTN) and Brian (KQ4UVY) Tourville were recognized as newly licensed and our newest members. Already active on the Oriental repeater, they are soon to pursue their General ticket.
- * Bill, K2TNO, recorded the recent special Zoom session with Frank Donovan, W3LPL, on DXing during the Solar Max. It was recommended that the very large file (over 1 hour long) be posted on YouTube.
- * Since most members know each other only through the monthly PARS breakfast and since our members have varied and interesting backgrounds and interests, Bruce wants to recognize our folks from time to time. Bruce started by recognizing Mike Hurm, K4HPS. Mike is retired from the FBI and now spends much of his time as a Shriner, devoted to providing the special care too many young children need.

* Wayne, K04OJC, did an intriguing show and tell on the equipment and software he uses for remote operation, ways to extract the IF signals to for spectrum displays, SDR Play as a second receiver, on-line SDR sites and more. He plans to call the Wednesday night net in January from Florida. [See if you can tell-ed.]

* Dodge Hickman, KJ4CFE, had the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Brian Shepard, K4LTE, took home a PARS front license plate.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

(PARSgram 2024-09-02)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) September 28, 2024 MEETING NOTES

* Eighteen members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* There were no upgrades or new licensees reported for the month. Bill Michne's Hi-Gain antenna modification finished and after re-connection of radials will be ready for a trial run.

* Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. Wayne's sale of donated top end amplifier significantly increased the club's balance.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: Moderate solar activity, quiet geomagnetic field, likely next several days. HF conditions continue to be fair across the bands but poor daytime on 160-20 meters, poor nighttime on 12 and 10. Six meter propagation still terrible. DXers present agreed that bands 20 through 10 have been hot last several weeks. High power not needed. DX in October includes North Cook, Vanuatu, Nauru, and Rodrigues Islands.

* Bruce thanked Mike, K4NLC, for calling the Pamlico Communications Net (PCN) during the month. Beaufort Bill, K2TNO will take it in October, Wayne, K04OJC in November, Mike again in December.

* Paul, K4MMB, reported 146 visits to the PARS Web pages during the past 30 days. Noted visits went up after a contact with K4MMB looked at his QRZ page where he mentioned the N4PRS web page. He encouraged us to do the same. [Do check out Paul's QRZ page. He's done lots of interesting stuff.-ed]

* Bruce briefed the group on first reports coming out of mountainous Western NC on the massive destruction caused by Hurricane Helene: many towns and villages have major damage and are isolated, 960,000 without power, most counties no phone or cell service, VIPER and other emergency communications disrupted, I40, I26 and over 403 other major state highways severely damaged and closed, and where phones work, 911 services are overwhelmed with calls for help and much more.

* The discussion that followed re-emphasized the need to be prepared, especially for those of us living at greater risk for hurricanes. The Helene disaster shows that a WinLink capability should be at the top of the list for us hams.

* The Pamlico Communications Team will NOT meet in October. Bruce is expecting to be deployed to Western NC to assist with recovery efforts.

* Wayne, K04OJC, did another intriguing and timely show and tell, this time with Tripp, KI4KEB, on portable equipment for Parks on the Air (POTA). Now, lightweight DC-to-daylight capable in many cases and battery/solar powerable, this equipment is also perfect for emergency operation.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, had the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Jeffery Cuniff, took home a DX Engineering coffee cup.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 am.

(PARSgram 2024-09-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) October 26, 2024 MEETING NOTES

* Eighteen members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by Vice

President Wayne Beasley, KO4OJC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

- * There were no upgrades, awards or new licensees reported for the month.
- * Wayne delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.
- * AI4WL's Propagation Report: Moderate solar activity, quiet geomagnetic field, both likely next several days. HF conditions should be good across most bands day and night but poor during the day on 160-80 but fair to poor nighttime on 12 and 10. Except for several days of brief TEP and possibly F2 prop into South America, six meter propagation has been terrible. The 17 and 15 meter bands continue to be the best choice. Ten meters has been open almost all night lately. DX includes Madagascar, Ogasawara, Rodrigues Isl., Vanuatu, Nauru, and Wake Island.
- * Wayne thanked Beaufort Bill, K2TNO, for calling the Pamlico Communications Net (PCN) during the month. Wayne will take it in November, Mike again in December. Others were encouraged to practice being net controller. Help is offered, script and check-in list provided. It's easy. WinLink check-ins are slowly increasing. WinLink proved its value after Hurricane Helene for transmitting Health and Welfare messages, logistical support and more. Ad-Hoc and ARES repeater nets carried much of the logistical support load for the heavily damaged and isolated hamlets in the mountains.
- * The next meeting of the "Pamlico Communications Team" is on Saturday, November 1st at the Station 19 fire house. Discussion is always wide-ranging--emergency communications, repeaters, digital, drill bit sharpening, you name it. Join the group at Brantley's for breakfast at 8am and then convoy over.
- * Paul, K4MMB, reported a "healthy" 334 pages visited on the PARS Web site during the past 30 days. Paul recommended mentioning the club web page in your bio space on QRZ .
- * This being the month for elections, Bill Michne, WM3X--our election committee of one--called for nominations from the floor for the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. He advised that the current officers were willing to stand for reelection, they being Bruce Perkins, Wayne Beasley, Gail "Wally" Wallace, and Jim Hartmeyer, respectively. As there was no response from the floor and no one had responded to his notices in recent PARSgrams, he called for a motion to re-elect the incumbents in their current offices by acclamation. Bill Olah made the motion and it was seconded by Mike Marsh. It passed.
- * Mike, K4NLC, commented that after days without phone service following the hurricane, community nets using GMRS radios sprang up. They provided the locals and helpers a way to communicate and coordinate--reportedly a "life-saver" for some. A short discussion on GMRS followed.
- * The new Nutrien (Aurora) tower off NC306 now sports an antenna for 440 meters and soon another for 2 meters. Nutrien's John Johnson, KE4TZN, is behind the effort for the two repeaters: a 440 repeater to operate in the DMR mode on the PRN (NC & SC) network and a 2M repeater to operate FM/C4FM-Fusion. Due to issues with the 440 repeater, the Yaesu repeater is temporarily operating on the 440 frequency (440.55000 MHz,+, PL 131.8 Hz) in its native FM/C4FM modes. John welcomes us to use these machines and would like to hear reports on range and quality. Details are in the Repeaterbook.
- * Wayne noted that the weekly net on 10 meters is a good opportunity to test equipment, and for new hams, a good opportunity to learn and practice skills for HF operation.
- * Bill, KR4LO, advised that a little over \$300 was gained from sale of donated "junk" and other items at the Maysville Hamfest. The residue will be recycled.
- * Wayne reminded members that the December meeting is really a gift exchange--bring one and get one. It is recommended that all "new" gifts be of a nominal \$15 value. Gifts can be out of the "junk" box, under used or just not wanted. No Hormel Hams please.
- * Brian Shepard, K4LTE, had the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 am.
(PARSgram 2024-10-28)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) November 30th, 2024 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
- * There were no upgrades, awards or new licensees reported for the month. Bruce welcomed back Jim Holley, KI4NSP, a graduate of John Knauth's (KF4OIP) license class of February, 2006.
- * Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.
- * AI4WL's Propagation Report: Great conditions continue. Generally propagation has been good at night but poor during the day on 40 and below, good both day and night on 20 through 15, and good day and well into the night on the 12 and 10 meter bands... We are now seeing more openings into Europe, South America, and Africa on the 6 meter band. Expect better conditions on 6 into the Winter months... We may be at the crest of Cycle 25 but that will not be confirmed until well into 2025. It won't bottom until 2030... Check out the article by Carl Leutzelschwab, K9LA, in the December QST. He talks about DXing on ten meters during the peak and the VOCAP programs... DX this month includes Tonga, Central African Republic, Marshall Islands, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and more.
- * Bruce thanked Wayne, KO4OJC, for calling the Pamlico Communications Net (PCN) during the month. Mike will take it in December and also January '25. Expect to explore more of the Winlink forms.
- * The next meeting of the "Pamlico Communications Team" is at 9am on Saturday, December 7th, at the Station 19 fire house. Lor Kutchins, W3QA, will lead a discussion on Winlink and how it was used during Hurricane Helene. Join the group at Brantley's for breakfast at 8am and then convoy over.
- * Bill Michne, WM3X, told the group that Tom Corwin, KI4NSP, is doing much better after a long recovery from major surgery. He has moved to "The Gardens of Pamlico" for the duration. Bill plans to outfit him with a VHF radio so expect to hear him on the Oriental repeater. Tom says to come visit.
- * Bruce reminded us that the December meeting is really a gift exchange--bring one and get one. It is recommended that all "new" gifts cost no more than \$10-15. Gifts can be out of the "junk" box, under used or just not wanted. No Hormel Hams please. Business will be brief.
- * The group thanked Jim Holley for donating his unused ham stuff out of the garage that his wife said "just had to go". It was grabbed up quickly.
- * There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 09:50 am.
(PARSgram 2024-12-2)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) December 28, 2024 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-two members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting and Christmas Exchange at Brantley's Village Restaurant chaired by President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC.
- * There were no upgrades, awards or new licensees reported for the month. Bruce welcomed Ray Lewis, a brand new ham and our newest member. While at the meeting Ray found out that his call, KR4ABZ, had been granted.
- * Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. Bruce advised that the club, instead of a monetary donation this year, had purchased and donated a very large screen TV/Monitor to the Oriental VFD, Station 19. After many PCT meetings and PARS events, it was very apparent that participants had great difficulty with the stations small screen. In addition to its own meetings and classes, the station hosts other groups as well as PARS. All use the monitor. As if on queue, Eric Kindle, the Oriental Fire Chief appeared and thanked the group for the gift. He noted that it was on their want list,

but unaffordable in the department's tight budget. Our continued support to the department is much appreciated.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: About half of the attendees had been on HF during the week. They agreed that the good conditions are continuing, especially on the higher HF bands. The Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program (VOCAP)--discussed in a December QST article on Ten Meter propagation at the top of solar cycle--was recommended as a time saver when chasing DX stations. It gives a good indication whether conditions are favorable for making the desired contact. DX to look for in January includes Saipan, Wake, Fiji, Galapagos, Benin and more.

* Bruce thanked Mike, K4NLC, for calling the Pamlico Communications Net (PCN) during the month. Mike reported 19.8 manhours for the four sessions with 10/11 Winlink check-ins average. Wayne, KO4OJC, will take the net for most of January and February. Expect to explore more of the Winlink forms.

* The next meeting of the "Pamlico Communications Team" is at 9am on Saturday, January 4th, at the Station 19 fire house. The new monitor will be put into good use by Gary Mitchelson, NC3Z. Gary, lead of the Pamlico Swift Water Rescue Team and Fire Chief of VFW Station 25. He will talk about the team's deployment during Hurricane Helene. [See announcement nearby--ed].

* Bruce read, then circulated, the thank-you note he received from our Treasurer, "Wally" Wallace for the club's special gift in recognition for her long service to PARS. She apparently was overwhelmed.

* New baseball caps with the PARS logo are here. The cost will be \$20, not \$25 as earlier announced, for the embroidered blue cap. Bruce advised he may have found a new source for logo t-shirts.

* There being no further business the business meeting concluded in favor of the annual holiday gift exchange. The meeting was adjourned at 09:50 am.

(PARSgram 2024-12-30)