

Pamlico Amateur Radio Society, Ltd. (PARS)
Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

End-of-Year Report to the Membership

2006 was a year of growth for the club. Our regular membership now stands at 58 active "hams", plus XYLs and assorted occasional visitors. We are receiving good publicity in local media outlets, thanks in large part to Tom Corwin KI4NSP, and we're reaching out to prospective new members as well.

We have applied for affiliation with the ARRL, which will get us a link on their website and a wider reach.

We now have good antennas in place at the County's emergency shelter and the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the new jail building. Now we can set up net operations more rapidly and efficiently should a real emergency come along. We still need more volunteers to participate in drills and practice nets, however, so that keeping the net open for the duration of the emergency becomes feasible without exhausting the participating operators.

On the community service side, the club participated as communicators in the annual Croakerfest parade and the "Lucky Charms Fun Run" through the Village Club, and worked out a communications plan for the "Pamlico Paddle and Pedal" event, which was canceled but expects to return in 2007. (NOTE: we need a chairperson for Community Service for 2007! – any volunteers?)

We began having informational programs at our club breakfast meetings; things of interest to Ham operators as well as the technical types. One of these was a "Skywarn" course on dealing with severe weather. All these programs have been well received, and we'll continue to try to find enjoyable and meaningful programs for our meetings. Special thanks to Hank Aaron, Tom Finta, Dennis Had, Bill Michne, and Hal Austin for putting on great programs. (NOTE: We need a Programs Chairperson for 2007 – any volunteers?)

The Wednesday Pamlico Emergency Net became a weekly event, providing both real practice for emergency operations and a communications opportunity for our members to enjoy the "ragchew" portion of the net. This will also continue. In addition, we bought and installed a 2-meter mobile radio in Pamlico County Emergency Manager Ben Barnett's vehicle, which will improve the interconnection between the County Emergency Manager and the club's Emergency Coordinator.

Dennis Had W4USR has started planning for a "field day" event in conjunction with the annual ARRL Field Day (last Saturday of June). This will give members the opportunity to practice operating in temporary situations, using emergency power, makeshift antennas, etc.

The club adopted a logo and some had name badges made with the new logo prominently displayed. The availability of license plate type signs with the club name and logo, to put on the front of vehicles, has yet to be explored.

During 2006 the Club ran a Technician License class which graduated 14 new licensees! Congratulations and thanks to lead instructor Tom Finta K8TF.

At the regular November meeting we elected a new slate of officers to run the club for 2007. The new officers will be calling on you for your advice and your help. Please be generous with both.

Looking forward to 2007: First, the General Class license course will begin Monday January 8th, and will meet once a week for 12 weeks. Lead instructor will be Bill Michne WM3X. The place is the Oriental Firehouse (Station 19) on Straight Road, and the course meets from 2 to 4 pm on Mondays. The twelfth meeting will be the exam.

Plans are afoot to work with the science teachers at Pamlico County Middle School, PCHS, and Pamlico Community College to get student activity and involvement in radio, especially Amateur Radio.

We will continue to have learning opportunity programs at our Saturday breakfast meetings. We will work on getting more involved in the weekly net. We'll look for opportunities to practice by working communications for community events, both within the County and outside.

We'll continue to look for opportunities to serve our community by offering communications nets and assistance in communications for community events. The annual Croakerfest parade and the "Lucky Charms Fun Run" through the Village Club, and the "Pamlico Paddle and Pedal" event are some of the opportunities we'll pursue, as well as working with other area clubs on the MS-150 Bicycle event, the Neuse River Days, and the New Bern Veterans Day Parade.

It was recently suggested that we might have the November meeting each year be an annual auction of surplus radio gear. The details haven't been thought out, but that is a possibility. If you have something to add – an idea, a suggestion, a complaint – be sure to let your club officers know about it.

Thanks to every member who was active during 2006. Please stay active. This is a "doing" hobby, not a spectator sport.

73 de KG4RLJ
Jamie King