



WRCC Pennant  
The flag of white & blue is the  
letter A. The red square with  
yellow cross is the letter R.  
AR for Amateur Radio

## Pamlico Amateur Radio Society History as remembered by John Knauth KF4OIP



The roots of the Pamlico Amateur Radio Society (PARS) are deeply intertwined with the Waterway Radio and Cruising Club. Begun in 1963 as a loosely knit band of amateur radio operators aboard vessels along the eastern seaboard of North America, the WRCC grew to be a thousand members by the turn of the century. Composed of active live-aboards, wanna-bes and usedta-bes, the WRCC meets every morning of the year on 7.268 MHz at 0745 eastern time for the promulgation of weather, safety information and general communications. I am the long time Tuesday morning Net Control.

Of course, amateurs who enjoy getting together for jaw boning on the air also enjoy getting together for back slapping and telling lies over a beer and good food. Sometime back around 1990, inveterate cruisers and WRCC members Priscilla Wormell (N4TNP of Oriental) and Clair Carlen (KC4LBZ of New Bern) started the Eastern North Carolina Spring and Fall Luncheons. These successfully boisterous affairs drew Waterway Netters from Little Washington to New Bern and Beaufort and as far away as the Chesapeake, Raleigh and Florida for fun and laughter and remembering good times.

But good times come to an end. After ten years of successfully organizing the events, Priscilla and Clair retired. Tom Finta K8TF and Jack Bentley K4IMK picked up the reins for a while and carried on, but on October 18, 2001, the WRCC hosted its final spring luncheon at the Steamer Restaurant in Oriental with 42 Waterway Netters attending.

Starting in the summer of 1999, I became the editor of *Scuttlebutt*, the WRCC quarterly newsletter. This meant that four times a year the Oriental Waterway Netters gathered for a sealing, labeling and mailing party which generally ended up with cocktails and a potluck supper. Those gatherings were a lot of fun.

It was probably at the spring labeling party in March of 2002 that someone suggested I put together a Saturday morning breakfast. I organized that first gathering which took place at M&M's in April or May 2002. By the fall of that year we needed more space so we moved to the back room of Ms Sills - now known as the Village Restaurant -

with me as "President". The Pamlico County WRCC amateurs really enjoyed getting together once a month. Gradually other local hams and visiting boaters joined in and the group grew.

John Cole of the U.S. Weather Bureau in Newport, NC, led a number of classes in Spotter Training for SkyWarn, an adjunct to the U. S. Weather Bureau that collects localized weather data from hams and other interested individuals. We began presenting programs of general interest to amateurs from antenna design to air powered antenna launchers to show-and-telling classic amateur gear. We also began learning to use our own 2 meter repeater operated by Joel Meies<sub>sk</sub> W4SLH atop his 400 foot tower on Kershaw Rd.

In November 2004, Jamie King KJ4JK was elected President and under his direction serious interest was turned to ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services), an arm of the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) devoted to providing emergency communications during civil crises and weather emergencies. We run training nets on Wednesday nights at 1900 hours aboard our local 2m repeater (147.210 MHz with a plus 600 KHz offset and a tone of 151.4) in furtherance of our emergency skills and abilities. All are welcomed to join in.

We were **incorporated** by the State of North Carolina as a non-profit organization in **2006** and we were officially affiliated with the ARRL on June 20, 2007. On April 22, 2008, we were awarded a club callsign by the FCC - N4PRS (Pamlico Radio Society) with Bill Michne WM3X as trustee.

In the latter part of June, 2007, we participated in our first Field Day, a national QSO (ham talk for an amateur radio contact) event sponsored by the American Radio Relay League and, in spite of being mostly disorganized, we got the highest count of QSOs for our NC district. In June 2008 we are again participating in Field Day for which our anticipation and organization is considerably higher than last year.

Our 2008 paid membership is 71 families including 86 licensed amateurs. We continue to meet for breakfast on the last Saturday of every month at 0900 at the Village Restaurant in Oriental. On the average between 25 and 50 people attend. If you are a ham or a wanna-be or usedta-be, please come and join us. We would love to have you.

With 73s (ham talk for best regards) and 88s (love and kisses)

John Knauth KF4OIP