

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY  
PRESIDENT'S 2007 END-OF-YEAR REPORT

END-OF-YEAR REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP:

2007 has been a year of activity for the club. Our regular membership still stands at 58 active "hams", plus XYLs and assorted occasional visitors.

We are continuing to receive 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.

A weekly email newsletter, the "PARSgram" was instituted by Jim AI4WL during 2007 and continues into 2008. Anything you might want to notify 'all hands' about would be a welcome addition. Just tell Jim about it.

We achieved affiliation with the ARRL this year. As an affiliated club, we get a place on their website, referrals, membership discounts, and other benefits.

We ran a General Class License upgrade course under the direction of Bill WM3X, which was a great success and also attracted a couple of new 'Hams' who did self-study for the Technician Class and took both tests the same day.

Bill WM3X also started his popular "hands-on" course involving workbench skills and electronics knowledge. This is an ongoing series much enjoyed by the participants.

On the ARES side, we now have a new good antenna in place at the County's emergency shelter at PCC. Now we can set up net operations more rapidly and efficiently should a real emergency come along. However, we still need more volunteers to participate in drills and practice nets, however, so that keeping the net open for the duration of a real emergency becomes feasible without exhausting the participating operators.

We ran a county-wide Simulated Emergency Test last spring, which received high marks from all participants and from the County and several State agencies. A repeat is planned this coming spring.

We ran a technical test on the ARES antennas using both simplex 2-meter VHF communications mode and also the usual repeater mode. This testing needs to be repeated annually, and volunteers to help with it are welcome.

We have established an ARES Steering Committee, which will begin work during 2008 to revise our emergency plan and ARES operations.

On the community service side, the club participated as communicators in the annual the "Lucky Charms Fun Run" through the Village Club, and "Pamlico

Paddle" event in 2007. Tom K8TF rode 'shotgun' with the Police Chief during the Lucky Charms run, and Pete AG7C served as Net Control Station for the Pamlico Paddle. Communications for both events worked smoothly and the club received expressions of thanks from the sponsors. (NOTE: we still need a chairperson for Community Service! - any volunteers?)

We also had volunteers participating in the Neuse River Day event in New Bern and the MS-150 bike-a-thon. John KF4OIP and Jim KI4NSK were involved in those events, and there may have been others..

We had some very informative 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 KI4MF, Tom K8TF, Dennis W4USR, Bill WM3X, and Hal Austin WX4HA for putting on great programs. (NOTE: We need a Programs Chairperson for 2008 - any volunteers?)

The Wednesday Pamlico Emergency Net remained a weekly event, providing both practice for emergency operations and a communications opportunity for our members to enjoy a "ragchew". This will continue in 2008.

With Hank KI4MF, Joel W4SLH, Dan N6XWF and others helping, and Dennis W4USR heading up planning, our first annual "field day" event was held in conjunction with the annual ARRL Field Day (the last Saturday of June). This gave many of our members the opportunity to practice operating in temporary situations, using emergency power, makeshift antennas, etc. and also attracted interest from the general public. When the final results were published, we made an impressive score which attracted admiration from ARRL and ARES officials statewide.

At the regular November meeting we elected a new slate of officers to run the club for 2008. These officers will be calling on you for your advice and your help. Please be generous with both.

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" event are some of the opportunities we'll pursue, as well as working with other area clubs on the MS-150 Bicycle event and the Neuse River Days.

Thanks to every member who was active during 2007. Just as a note, the PARS has the highest percentage of total members who are active hams, of any club in the area! Please stay active. This is a "doing" hobby, not a spectator sport.

73 de KJ4JK,  
Jamie King [This report was distributed to PARS Members at the January 2008 Meeting.]