

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
2014

OFFICERS

President—Bill Olah, KR4LO
Vice President—Randy Davis, K4WRD
Treasurer--Gail (Wally) Wallace, KK4ASP

ARES Emergency Coordinator—Mike Hurm, KK4HPS
Newsletter Editor--Jim Hartmeyer, AI4WL
N4PRS Web Master, Larry Wall, KK4SEO

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) JANUARY 2014 MEETING NOTES

- * 26 members and guests attended the January meeting at Brantley's Restaurant in Oriental last Saturday.
- * President Bill Olah KR4LO gave the financial report on behalf of Wally KK4ASP, Club Treasurer.
- * Mike KK4HPS, our ARES EC, was unable to attend the meeting. Bill reminded everyone that the Pamlico Emergency Net meets on the W4SLH Oriental repeater every Wednesday evening at 1930 hours for a short practice session and rag chew. [See PARS Nets below.]
- * Jim Hartmeyer, AI4WL, noted he is changing computers and to let him know if you don't receive your PARSgram. It normally is sent out on Mondays. He then reported that the VHF bands have been abnormally quiet this Winter season so far. Some Sporadic E Layer Propagation is occurring as is Trans Equatorial Propagation into South America from the southern states. Although there are 9 Sunspot Regions facing earth, no sunspots are active and the Sun's K-Ray output seems to have flatlined. The Solar Flux Index on Saturday was 136 and the bands appeared quiet. The big DXpedition to Amsterdam Island in the southern Indian Ocean should be operational soon. He reminded everyone about the rise in postage starting January 26th.
- * According to Larry Wall KK4SEO our club WebMaster, over 30 members are registered on the new PARS Website, <http://n4prs.org> but there is no activity on any of the forums. Bill Olah suggested that "For Sale" and "Wanted" sections be added to the site.
- * Meeting planners are looking for suggestions for presentations at our club meetings. Bill asked those interested to stay for the discussion on grounding, both RF and DC. Dave Bacon KD2T suggested a round table on DX'ing, also a discussion of QSL'ing and logging. He's looking for those pearls to make the tough contacts and get response on QSL requests. Then there are those many logging programs to sort out....
- * Jack Russell KK4UTK, member of the PARS Fall 2013 Technician Class, was recognized for his recent upgrade to General Class.
- * All of the equipment donated to PARS by the Estate of Ross Knowles KG4AWF

(SK) was auctioned off except the IC-W32A Dual Band HT. The members agreed that the transceiver could be better used for short term loan to new Hams or otherwise used for instructional purposes.

* After the formal meeting was adjourned, Bill led the group in a "show and tell" discussion on DC grounding and lightning protection. He also covered the need for RF grounds in certain conditions.

* Bill offered to lead the round table on DX'ing, logging, and QSL'ing at the February meeting.

Again, meeting planners are looking for suggestions for presentations at our club meetings. What do you want to talk about, discuss, learn, or even build? Let Bill or Randy know, put a comment on our N4PRS Web Site, or reply to this PARSgram. Thanks.

(PARSgram 2014-01-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) FEBRUARY 2014 MEETING NOTES

* 21 members and guests attended the February meeting at Brantley's Restaurant in Oriental last Saturday.

* President Bill Olah KR4LO gave the financial report on behalf of Wally KK4ASP, Club Treasurer.

* Mike KK4HPS, our ARES EC, reported the Pamlico Emergency Net check-in numbers. He noted that we now have a new NC Section Manager with the "retirement" of Bill Morine. He urged ARES members to sign up for the monthly ARES E-Letter. The latest Feb 19th issue was especially informative.

* Jim, AI4WL, reported that VHF activity has been low. Pete AG7C noted that tropo propagation actually has been good--Donnie, KJ4RB in Pink Hill, was strong on the 6 meter net last Thursday. It's just that there are not many folks "making noise". Jim summarized the current Solar conditions.

* Tom Corwin, KI4NSP reminded everyone about the North Carolina QSO Party. Pamlico County contacts are in demand, especially for those who are county hunters or trying to work all NC counties during the event.

* According to Larry Wall KK4SEO our club WebMaster, he has now posted photos from the 2011 PARS Field Day weekend. He has set up a mechanism to make captions/comments for the pictures. He welcomes help from those who were there to make the pictures more meaningful as part of the club history. There are now "For Sale" and "Wanted" sections back on the site.

* Bill reported that the club had been contacted by the organizers of the big Cycle North Carolina event to be held in Oriental in early April. Mike Hurm and Mike Marsh will co-chair our support with an assist from Bill Cresswell, K2ONN.

* Mike Marsh is taking the lead on the 2014 Field Day activity, the 4th weekend in June. Plans are to keep it at the Neuse Ave. site with no major changes from past few years.

* There will be no "Lucky Charms" event this year.

* Bill asked those interested to stay for the roundtable discussion on DX'ing, QSL'ing and logging. He seeks topics for presentation or roundtables at future meetings. A discussion on FM repeaters and how to stimulate repeater use was suggested.

* After a short break, assisted by Dave Purifoy, N4ENE, Dick Goodwin, K4JJW, led a very informative roundtable on logging, loggers, DX'ng, and QSL'ng. From the questions asked and participation, there remains significant member interest in DX'ng, not only working the rare ones, but also making contacts with fellow hams around the world.
(PARSgram 2014-02-24)

NO MEETING NOTES OF THE MARCH 2014 MEETING
PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) APRIL 2014 MEETING NOTES
Thanks to Tom KI4NSP and Randy Davis K4WRD for the notes they took at the April Meeting. Below is a compilation:

- * President Bill Olah KR4LO gave the financial report on behalf of Wally KK4ASP, Club Treasurer. He asked all paid members for 2014 at the meeting to check the sign-in roster as they should be listed.
- * Mike K4HPS, our ARES EC, said that a SET (SIMULATED EMERGENCY TRAINING) has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th. Do make sure your backup power system is working and plan to use it during the SET even if it is just a fully charged battery.
- * Bill Olah reminded everyone that ARES and PARS are two (2) separate groups. The Pamlico ARES plans to increase training activities for it's members. After discussion, it was decided to hold separate meetings for most ARES business.
- * Larry Wall, KK4SEO indicated that some new material has been added to the N4PRS.org website. It might be time to revisit the site if you haven't been there for a while.
- * Mike Marsh KK4NLC advised that the preparations for the 2014 ARRL/PARS Field Day are on track. Shirts are being ordered for those that indicated they want one. Antennas will be put up on Friday, June 27 and the rest of set up will be on Saturday morning, June 28. Operations start at 1400 that afternoon. The annual PARS Dinner will be that evening. Operations continue until 1400 on Sunday afternoon. A date for a Field Day Committee meeting will be set soon.
- * Tom Finta K8TF announced the PARS has been invited to assist with the August Dragon Boat events. For information or to volunteer call Tom at 249-9838.
- * Work on the Kershaw tower continues. The tower height is being reduced to handle the increased wind load anticipated due to additional commercial antennas. While this work is going on, the W4SLH repeater is connected to a secondary and much lower antenna. The main antenna will be repositioned as part of this effort as early as Monday or Tuesday (April 29 or 30th). The antenna will be at on top at 360 ft; it was at 600 ft. The antenna is a four element folded dipole facing West South West. A progress update is expected during the Pamlico Emergency Net practice on Wednesday evening.
- * The auction of the items donated by Ilona Forngeng in memory of her late husband John Knauth KF4OIP raised \$625.00. Our sincere thanks to Ilona Forngeng for her generous donation to PARS.
(PARSgram 2014-04-28)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MAY 2014 MEETING NOTES

Thanks to Tom Corwin, KI4NSP, for taking notes at the meeting.

- * Thirty-one PARS members and guests attended.
- * President Bill Olah presented the Treasurers report on behalf of Wally, KK4ASP, Club Treasurer. A new PARS Membership roster was distributed
- * Mike K4HPS, our ARES EC, provided an update of ARES activities during the month of May,
- * PARS Webmaster Larry, KK4SEO, advised that there was a small glitch with the server that was quickly rectified. He apologized to any who might have been affected.
- * Field Day Chair, Mike Marsh, KK4NLC provided an update on plans for the PARS effort. Operators are needed. A sign up sheet was passed around for the Brantley's catered dinner which will be served about 5::30 on Saturday, June 28th. The cost for the dinner is \$12.00. To sign up to operate or to reserve your dinners, please contact Mike Marsh at mike@marhconsulting.org or call 636-1257. PARS PIO, Torrey, KA4TMN, passed around the New PARS Field Day Poster for members to take and post at businesses and kiosks around the county.
- * Dragon Boat Festival Comms Support Coordinator, Tom Finta, K8TF, advised the dates are Friday and Saturday, August 8 and 9. Tom will need three (3) people to assist on the Friday practice day and Five (5) on the Saturday race day. Please call Tom at 249-9838 if you can assist for all or part of a day.
- * President Bill Olah proposed establishing a new "Honorary Life Member".membership category: After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to modify the By Laws to include this category. It was also proposed and agreed that Ilona Forgeng, KI4NSN, would become the first PARS Honorary Life Member. Randy Davis volunteered to make a certificate.
- * Bill Olah said that there will be a FCC License Preparation Course for the General Class License. Dates are to be determined. Bill Michne WM3X followed up by offering to give an Extra Class Course if there is enough interest. Michne is also seeking the whereabouts of any Morse Code equipment owned by PARS that may have been loaned to members.
- * A suggestion was made to have a separate ARES meeting. Mike K4HPS said he would work on that.
- * The auction of electronic items donated by Jack Russell, KK4UTK added \$61.00 to the club treasury. .A big thank you to Jack Russell KK4UTK.
- * A round table discussion followed the business meeting on the results of the ARES Simulated Emergency Test conducted May 14. Communications from operators around the county to and from the Pamlico Emergency Center via the Oriental Repeater, and the Red Cross Evacuation Center via the Greensboro Repeater went well. Simplex communication with the two centers remains problematic, primarily due to low power and/or lack of adequate antennas at most residential stations. Discussion will continue at the suggested ARES meeting.

(PARSgram 2014-06-02)

A FINE FIELD DAY ON THE NEUSE [NO JUNE MEETING, ARRL FIELD DAY, JUNE 2014]
Wow, what a great weekend on the Neuse River. After the big deluge early

Saturday morning, we had fine weather for this year's ARRL Field Day in Oriental. Although propagation was expected to be poor, the group made a good number of contacts with hams in over 25 states and Canada demonstrating we can work "off the grid". As in the past, PARS' low-key daylight only operation emphasized the capability for providing emergency communications when needed. Some highlights:

- o The set-up crew started early Friday morning making short work of hanging wire antennas from the few "Pamlico Towers" remaining on the site. Bill Olah KR4LO used his patented "Air-Boss" to expertly put the guy ropes high over the pine tops. He should know how to do this--Bill makes and sells the "Air-Boss" launcher. The take-down crew on Sunday was even faster. It took less than an hour to take all the stations apart and the antennas and tents down.
- o Around 40 Hams, family members, friends and visitors signed-in at the registration desk. Many attended the social and dinner Saturday evening.
- o The Get-On-The Air Station netted 67 contacts by seven operators on the very crowded 40 and 15 Meter bands. Four of those operators were Boy Scouts on their way to earning their Radio Merit Badge. Each of them made at least five contacts with hams up and down the east coast and into the mid-west.
- o Again it was proven that the GOTA station gets us a lot of "bang for the buck" . Teresa Marsh, Mike's (KK4NLC) wife, made 20 QSO's. Since she made 20 QSOs, she garnered 20 additional points as a bonus. Even better, since she had a dedicated coach (Bill Olah), her bonus was doubled. But wait, there's more... a power multiplier of 2 is calculated against all our contacts, so she alone produced 80 points for those 20 QSOs. Like last year, Teresa had so much fun she moved over to one of the HF stations where she continued to make contacts under the supervision of licensed operators.
- o The Sun powered two stations for the entire weekend. Actually, the Solar panels kept the battery charged that provided the constant 13 volts needed for the 90 watt transceivers. Mike Marsh demonstrated the flexibility his compact solar generation system provides, be it direct connection to a DC load or through an inverter for 120V AC devices.
- o We were again wowed by Dick Goodwin, K4JJW and Bill Michne for their prowess with the CW key. Many of the CW contacts made were contributed by Dick on Saturday, the rest by Bill on Sunday. On Saturday, Bill offered a short introduction to Morse Code. It was a big hit! A number of folks now can recognize and send at least two letters in CW.
- o It was good to see Christine Mele W4SLH and Larry Summers in their elected official hats this year. We have to remember that Field Day, although a social event and a "contest", is really to demonstrate and practice operating under emergency conditions to support the public need.

Our thanks go to lots of folks who made our PARS Field Day a success:

- o Charlie WA4GSI and Sigrid for generously providing their home as a support base again this year. It has to be four years in a row that they have done this and PARS is grateful for what they do. With a view of sailboats on the Neuse River and a nice breeze off the water, it is a wonderful location.

- o Charlie for arranging for the site, mowing the two lots, and spraying with something that got the bugs. What a delight it was to operate in the relative cool without being bitten, even after all the rain we had earlier in the week.

- o The plentiful Fried Chicken from Brantley's was great. And Wally's husband Will baked a big batch of brownies for dessert! Some enjoyed the left-overs a second time on Sunday! Charlie arranged for bagels and coffee from The Bean for a Sunday continental breakfast.

- o Torrey Neill, KA4TMN for a most excellent PR effort. Torrey, Ellie KI4ELE and Tom Finta K8TF, along with Tom KI4NSP ran the welcome table.

- o President Bill Olah, KR4LO, our GOTA guru again. He loves doing the Get-On-The-Air Station and particularly, working with the Scouts. PARS is hoping to see these young folks again. Talk is of a dedicated Technician License Course. A general level course is also in the works.

- o As always, Glenn N4LV for his technical advise, assistance and, when needed, fixes on the run to keep the HF rigs on the air.

- o To all those who loaned equipment and antennas, especially Glenn, Tom KI4NSP, and Bill KR4LO who provided their HF rigs. KR4LO brought along the PARS generator for the cause. It was used on Saturday. Randy Davis K4WRD, fired up his little and very quiet Honda generator on Sunday. Mike Marsh for his solar system that powered two of the four stations.

- o Tommy Banks, W4XMT, for being there as always to help with site setup and take-down.

- o Our thanks go to all the many more folks who I've not specifically mentioned including those that came by to help with setup and take-down.

- o And our especial thanks go to those who donated dollars for the cause, and of course, to Mike Marsh KK4NLC, our Field Day Coordinator.
(Jim Hartmeyer, AI4WL, PARSgram Editor)
(PARSgram 2014-06-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) JULY 2014 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting at Brantleys in Oriental.

- * Wally KK4ASP presented treasurer's report.

* Jim AI4WL, in the "PARSgram Report", updated the members on VHF activity (hit and miss), current Solar Activity (weak), and DX stations to look for over the weekend during the RSGB IOTA contest.

* President Bill Olah KR4LO thanked Mike Marsh KK4NLC for organizing an extremely successful PARS ARRL Field Day weekend. Mike reported that our operators made 432 contacts during the approximately 14 hours of daytime only operation. The submitted club score was 1070 points. Our score was enhanced by bonus points for solar operation, youth participation, and educational activities. Bill Michne's "Intro to Morse Code Class was particularly well received. Through operating the GOTA station and Bill's class, a number of Scouts are on their way toward earning their Radio Merit Badge. The Saturday evening dinner was enjoyed by over 30 members and guests.

* President Bill commented that he wrote a letter to the ARRL Field Day folks regarding the need to allow duplicate contacts for the GOTA station. Allowing duplicates would significantly reduce the frustration when a new GOTA operator finds only hearable stations that have been already contacted.

* The CW Morse Code Course is going great according to Bill Michne, WM3X. The 5 hams have put together code oscillators, brushed up on their electronics basics, and have studied the code sufficiently for four of them (K2ONN, KJ4CFE, KK4NLC, & N4DAM) to make their first over-the-air contacts. [All of this in about 6 weeks-ed.] Their next goal is to earn their ARRL10 WPM Certificate.

* Dragon Boat Festival Comms Support Coordinator, Tom Finta, K8TF, asked for help to provide comms for the public service activity. He advised the dates are Friday and Saturday, August 8 and 9. He gained several volunteers but could use more. Tom will need three (3) people to assist on the Friday practice day and Five (5) on the Saturday race day. Please call Tom at 249-9838 if you can assist for all or part of a day.

* Bill Olah, handed out proposed club By Laws changes to formally add the "Honorary Life Member" category. Members were requested to review them before voting at the August meeting.

* Bill will respond to an Oriental ROTARY request for a short presentation, the exact subject not specified.

* Thanks to Wayne Mulligan, K1CBI, for his donated Rohn Tower Top. It was auctioned off adding \$70 to the club treasury. Thanks Wayne!
(PARSgram 2014-07-28)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) AUGUST 2014 MEETING NOTES

* Thirty-two PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting at Brantley's in Oriental.

* President Bill Olah KR4LO presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.

* There were 4 Pamlico Emergency Net practices for 16 man hours during the month according to Make Hurm, K4HPS, our ARES Coordinator. Nine hams contributed 36 public service man-hours during the Oriental Dragon Boat Festival. Coordination is ongoing with the Craven County ARES EC concerning use of the Grantsboro Repeater during emergencies. Grantsboro is Pamlico's back-up to the Oriental Repeater. The New Bern area no longer has a

repeater.

* Jim AI4WL, updated the members on VHF activity (non-existent) and current Solar Activity (weak). Big news on the VHF Reflector is the soon to be available Yaesu FT-991 all mode, HF, VHF and UHF desktop transceiver.

* Larry Wall, KK4SEO reported only 9 members logged in during the month. Just one, David N4ENE, has been active on the Forums.

* The Dragon Boat Festival on August 9th was very successful according to Tom Finta K8TF. Nine hams used 2 Meter Simplex for rapid communications between officials from around the race site.

* The Constitution and By-Laws change to add the "Honorary Life Membership" class of membership was voted upon and approved.

* Bill solicited topics for future presentations at the club meetings.

There are no presentations currently scheduled.

* Dave Bacon KD2T is awaiting confirmation on DXCC Awards for the 40, 20, 15 and 12 Meter bands.

* Dave reported on his dream of a lifetime: a voyage by tour ship around Cape Horn. He was able to take advantage of an unscheduled stop at the Falkland Islands to visit Bob Mcleod, VP8LP. Bob is the amateur radio voice of the Falklands for most of us. A most accommodating host, he gave Dave and XYL Linda a tour around the Islands.

* Dick Goodwin solicited member comment on an item he might add to his "product line" He received encouragement for his Wire Antenna Tension Release Linking System. Designed for wire antennas supported by tall trees, the link connects to the end of one of the antenna guys and is designed to release before the antenna breaks during strong winds or icing conditions. Upon releaving the tension, hidden line from the device is played out to maintain guy line connectivity. This allows the antenna to be re-raised easily and quickly.

* Support for the Bike MS Ride (see below for details) was requested by Jamie King KJ4JK. He reported that the communications coordinator, Bill Sanford K4VHO is still short hams to assist at the rest stops and as SAGS. The race is next weekend. Call Bill Sanford if you can help.

* Bill Michne, WM3X, announced the dates for the long anticipated Amateur General Class preparation course, Monday Jan 5, 2015 through Mar 2, 2015. The 8 weekly 3 hour or less evening class sessions will be followed by the FCC Exam on March 2nd. Class times to be determined. The examination session will be open to all.

* The meeting was followed by an auction of equipment donated to PARS by Gerda Lampe, the widow of Richard (Dick) A. Lampe, KG4QHU. Dick was a longtime resident of Oriental and early member of the Pamlico Amateur Radio Society. Dick passed away in November, 2013. The auction, conducted by Bill Michne, raised \$230 for the PARS treasury. Our thanks go to Gerda for her thoughtful contribution.

* After the auction, a number of those present then followed Bill Olah to the W4SLH (Oriental) Repeater Site on Kershaw Road for a short tour. (PARSgram 2014-09-01)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) SEP 2014 MEETING NOTES
Thanks to Tom Corwin, KI4NSP and Randy Davis, K4WRD, for taking

notes at the meeting.

* Thirty-six PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO at Brantley's in Oriental.

* "Wally" Wallace KK4NPS presented the treasurers report.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our ARES coordinator, advised that check-ins for the Wednesday night Pamlico Emergency Net during the month ranged from 6 to 13 members resulting in 8.43 participation hours. (The ARES headquarters keeps track of the hours--ed.) The County has agreed to allow the antenna height to be increased at the Emergency Center. Mike will put together a team to handle raising the antenna.

* Tom Finta, K8TF, presented DRAGON BOAT RACE T-Shirts to the volunteers, John Radke, Susan King, Jamie King, Bill Olah, Torrey Neal, Mike Herm, Ken Coit, Bob Mele. Tom is planning on coordinating our participation in the event again in 2015.

* Bill Olah announced that the annual elections will be held at the October 25th meeting. He is also looking for input from the membership on subjects for presentation at future meetings.

* Tom, KI4NSP, passed along that the General Class Licensing Course with Bill Michne, WM3X, as Lead Instructor will start on Monday night, January 5th at the Sea Harbor Yacht Club in Oriental.. Times will be determined after all the prospective students are contacted. (Note that this is a different venue than in the past--conflict with already scheduled activity at the Fire House--ed.)

* Bob Mele, of the New Bern Club, thanked the PARS members that assisted at the New Bern Bike MS Event.

* Bill Olah presented Honorary Life Membership Plaques to Christine Mele, W4SLH, and Ilona Forgeng, KI4NSN.

(PARSgram 2014-09-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) OCT 2014 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-eight PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO at Brantley's in Oriental.

* "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report.

* The local Jamboree-on-the-Air effort up at the Phosphate Plant Recreation Area in Aurora went well last weekend according to Bill Olah. He noted that mostly younger kids participated this year. Thanks go to Mike Marsh K4NLC, Brian Shepard, K4LTE and Randy Davis K4WRD who, along with Bill, set up the station and worked with the scouts. Joy MCCracken, wife of PARS member Greg KM4DZM, put together a collage of photos taken at JOTA. Extremely well done, you can see it at <https://animoto.com/play/sBllsaPFxDDGyCXXK04jM6g>

* The VHF bands are quiet. We are waiting for Winter weak-signal activity to begin according to Jim, AI4WL. In contrast, he reported lots of DX activity on the HF bands during the past 10 days. He cited several possible reasons: HF propagation has been good with significant solar activity including X-class flares bringing the SFU above 200, a number of DXpeditions are active, and many DX stations are on the air preparing for the CQ WW SSB DX Contest now underway.

* A final call for additional candidates for PARS officer positions was made by the President. There being none and as only the current officers

stood for election, they were re-elected for the 2015 year by acclamation. The slate: Bill Olah, President; Randy Davis, Vice President; and Gail "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP, Treasurer.

* Bill Olah announced that auctions will be held after the November and January meetings for items donated by Roland Johnson, W4KTG. Roland, a retired audio engineer, has lost his storage space and must part with lots of electronics items, mostly test equipment, wire and cable.

* Bill is still inviting ideas for short presentations at our coming PARS meetings.

* On Bill Michne's behalf, Tom KI4NSP read the announcement of the General Class course you can find below.

(PARSgram 2014-10-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) NOV 2014 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-nine PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO at Brantley's in Oriental.

* "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report. The annual membership renewal letters have been sent. If you did not get yours, contact Wally. [or just reply to this email and I will forward it to Wally--Jim].

* Bill gave the ARES Report for Mike K4HPS: A replacement antenna for the EOC has been obtained. The 17 ft. dual band Diamond and 10 ft. mast are planned to installed next week by Bill and Mike. If you can assist, contact Bill KR4LO.

* Jim AI4WL reported the Six Meter band is warming up for the short winter E Layer skip season. The 10/12 Meter Bands are also showing good action, particularly into the East Africa and Indian Ocean regions as well as into the Pacific. Increased solar activity has helped. The 9 Sunspot regions facing the earth generated a sunspot number of 166 this morning, The solar flux index was 181. No storms.

* Bill talked about Fox Hunting and proposed a hunt as a future club activity. Randy K4WRD showed a handheld 3 element yagi he assembled from pVc tubing and lengths from a tape measure. Early Spring was suggested for the first club hunt. Bill offered his help to anyone needing it to assemble the equipment needed.

* The next meeting will be the Christmas Breakfast and Gift Exchange. Those that wish to participate in the exchange should bring a wrapped amateur radio related item out of the junk box or of a \$10 cost or less. Business will be kept to a minimum.

* Tom Corwin KI4NSP reminded the group that the 2014 SKYWARN Appreciation Day is coming up on Saturday December 6th. Take advantage of the opportunity to visit the Newport Weather Station on Roberts Road just off US-70 to get a personalized tour, meet the forecasters on duty, and operate the station's HF radio in the annual SKYWARN QSO party. If you have time, stay for lunch, probably hamburgers or pizza. Tom also mentioned the club should consider arranging another SKYWARN Course this Spring, good training for boaters and for our members, old and new. He last talked about the area SKYWARN VHF Net that meets on Tuesday nights, 9 pm Eastern time on all local repeaters on a round-robin basis. Janice KJ4JPE, net controller, normally starts on the

Trenton or Grifton Repeater and then calls the net on most local repeaters in turn. No need to have a SKYWARN number to check in. The net exists to pass weather warnings and receive timely reports of real-world conditions around the area.

* Dick K4JJW reported he is up to 2230 Challenge Award points, equal to 22 DXCC awards.

* Gill, KB1GHA, is looking to buy a used transceiver for his sailboat. He can be contacted at Sea Harbor Marina.

* After the formal meeting, Bill conducted an auction of a large number of electronics items, mostly test equipment, specialized power supplies, wire and cable. They were donated by Roland Johnson, W4KTG, a retired audio engineer. The auction netted over \$560 for the PARS treasury.

(PARSgram 2014-12-01)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) DEC 2014 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-four PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO, at Brantley's in Oriental last Saturday. Business was dispatched quickly in favor of the Christmas End of Year Gift Exchange.

* There was no treasurer's report. "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP was out of town. Bill assured those present that the Society was solvent.

* He updated the group on plans for a club "Fox Hunt". The control unit has been assembled; portable "hunter-antennas" being built. A first hunt is being considered for an early Spring day with a noon lunch to follow. [Of course, the well hidden Fox must be found first.]

* After hearing that Torrey Neill had to step down, Greg Wadsworth, KM4DZM, volunteered to pick up the Public Relations effort for PARS.

* Jim, AI4WL, gave a quick report on current Solar conditions and VHF operations. He thanked those who contributed to the PARSgram during the year. He also noted that the big DXpedition Navassa Island is set for late January 2015. The long-quiet entity is number one the Club Log most wanted list.

* Bill advised there is an auction of equipment planned for the January meeting. Some equipment is very high value and would provide a greater benefit to the club treasury if sold on Ebay. He asked for help from someone that is "Ebay proficient".

* Bill Michne WM3X reported that the General License Course is on track. It starts on Monday, January 5th at Pamlico Community College.

* John Hopkins KJ4EJH advised that there would be no SKYWARN Net on Tuesday, January 30th. He also solicited help for the Neusiok Trail Run on Saturday, January 3rd, 2015.

* The meeting concluded with the exchange warm wishes for the holiday and the coming New Year.

(PARSgram 2014-12-29)