

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
2015

OFFICERS

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

ARES Emergency Coordinator—Mike Hurm, K4HPS
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 2015 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty-eight PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO, at Brantley's in Oriental last Saturday.
- * "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report. She is still receiving 2015 membership renewals. If you have misplaced your renewal letter contact Wally. [or just reply to this email and I will forward your request on to Wally--Jim].
- * Mike K4HPS gave the ARES Report detailing the activity for the months of October 2014 through January 2015. A Simulated Emergency Test is planned for the Pamlico Emergency Net Practice at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, February 4. The SET will allow testing of the new dual band antenna at the EOC in Bayboro. The Oriental 440 Repeater will also be used for this test. If you have not already done so, PROGRAM YOUR RADIO to use this repeater on the frequency of 444.350 MHz, standard offset, PL tone 85.4.
- * Jim AI4WL reported the VHF SSB bands have been extremely quiet although solar activity has increased recently. (SSN-193, SFI-165, KP-2 at 0700.) No workable stations were heard on 6M during the recent January VHF Contest. He reported that the Navassa Island DXpedition advance group was on the island and operation should start as early as tomorrow, Feb 1. Only Dave, N4ENE reported having KP1 (Special call K1N for this DXpedition) in his log.
- * Dick, K4JJW wondered if others had worked the Iran DXpedition EP6T on Kish Island. He apparently was the only one who had.
- * After comments regarding the increasing lack of operator couth during the Iran and other DXpeditions, Dick recommended reading "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur" by John, ON4UN, and Mark, ON4WW. It can be found on the ARRL web site at www.arrl.org/operating-ethics Just click on the document for a download.
- * With a surprise presentation of a personally handcrafted "plaque", Bill graciously thanked me for years of producing the weekly PARSgram. I was humbled and without words to adequately respond.
- * Jim Scheer, W4NLD, reported on the sale of some donated high value sound

equipment on EBay. Four of the five items listed were sold and he presented Wally with a check for nearly \$400 for deposit to the club treasury.

* Regarding upcoming presentations, Bill advised that a SKYWARN class was being planned as was the club Fox Hunt. Randy, K4WRD, suggested members talk about projects they were working on.

* As for new awards, Sam/Dave KD2T reported that he had received DXCC awards for the 30 Meter band and the 12 Meter band.

* Carl Baxley, KJ4CFG, complimented Bill Michne WM3X on the fine quality of his instruction. (Carl is taking Bill's General class license course.)

* With that, Bill Michne reminded all of the FCC Examination session at 6:30 PM on Monday, March 2nd. It is an open exam to qualify for not only the General Class license but also Technician, and Extra.

* John Keating, KB1KW, of the Carteret County Club talked about the annual Neusiok Trail Run normally held the second weekend in January. He outlined the need for communications support and asked for ours next year. The Neusiok trail is 21.5 miles long running from the Pine Cliff Recreation area on the Neuse river (just east of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point) to Oyster Point Campground east of Newport, NC. Running this course is a very big challenge and some do it several times as part of the event.

* After the formal meeting, Bill conducted an auction of a large number of electronics items, mostly test equipment, specialized power supplies, wire and cable.

(PARSgram 2014-02-02)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) FEBRUARY 2015 MEETING NOTES

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

* "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report. She is still awaiting a few more 2015 membership renewals. If you have misplaced your renewal letter contact Wally [or just reply to this email and I will forward your request on to Wally--Jim].

* Mike K4HPS gave the ARES Report. There were four drills during the month. The test of the new dual band antenna is being rescheduled. Of particular interest is evaluating simplex operation capability with remote stations in the county.

* Greg KM4DZM will be at the VE session Monday [Mar 2]. Expect to see photos on the PARS website soon after.

* Under-utilization of the PARS Website was discussed by Tom, KI4NSP. According to Larry, KK4SEO, our webmaster, there are only 38 regular users and limited activity on the forums. Since the PARSgram is limited to text emails without enclosures or photos, this is the place to go for all the details. The seven forums now cover 54 topics including DX, items for sale, latest on local repeaters, technical issues.... The forums can be expanded with user interests. There is even a page listing the frequencies and tones of our local repeaters. The site has photos of past field days, our trip to the VOA Grimesland Transmitting Site, a video on the Scouts JOTA last year and more. Don't miss the discussion on CHIRP, the free tool for programming many radios using your computer. The URL is <http://www.n4prs.org> It is easy to get a login and password to access PARS only areas.

- * Pete AG7C did a quick show-and-tell on Raspberry Pi, the card sized low cost computer. Originally produced in England for learning and experimentation, the device has almost unlimited applications. Pete is considering using it to run his digital computing application and remotely control his antenna rotator. [Photos taken by Greg of Pete holding his Raspberry Pi are already on the PARS website.]
- * PARS now has added backup power capability for the Oriental repeater. A local sailor, Doug Siedens donated 6 used 415 Amp Hour, 6V batteries to the club. Bill Olah has found four to be in excellent condition.
- * Andy Denmark donated a 5KW generator to club before moving west. With the availability of small quiet generators for Field Day, the very noisy larger generator will be auctioned at one of our future meetings with the proceeds going to the club treasury.
- * Field Day planning is going smoothly according to Mike Marsh, K4NLC. PARS will return to the Neuse River site it has used for the past several years.
- * Members were reminded of the VE (FCC Examination) Session scheduled for Monday, 6:30 pm, at the Pamlico Community College.
- * The Spring Foxhunt will be announced when the weather improves. Contact Randy, K4WRD, to join the group making "tape measure" antennas and for information on building an attenuator for your handheld.
- * Jim AI4WL reminded the group about the NC QSO Party and gave a heads-up about the Eritrea DXpedition to be operational the first week in March.
- * After a short break, Dick, K4JJW, led a roundtable on working DX, and particularly the DXpeditions to most wanted "countries". He highly recommended reading "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur" that can be found on the ARRL Website <http://www.arrl.org/operating-ethics>
- Dave N4ENE, and others also recommended reading the response by Glenn W0GJ, of the Navassa Island DXpedition to questions posed by the Mediterraneo DX Club, especially, question 3 asking why so many European operators did not make contact. It is a most insightful commentary on how or how not to get through. See <http://www.mdxc.org/k1n-interview-for-mdxc-by-w0gj/#more-6209> (PARSgram 2015-03-02)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MARCH 2015 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty-four PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO, at Brantley's in Oriental Saturday.
- * "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report. 2015 membership renewals are still slowly coming in. She will provide an updated roster soon.
- * Mike K4HPS gave the ARES Report. There were four drills during the month generating 7.63 man hours. He plans to attend the Area 3/4 Meeting on April 18th in Warsaw, NC.
- * With few days being exceptions, solar activity has been declining according to Jim AI4WL. He noted that the bands will be active this weekend with the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest. Look for South Cook Island, Reunion Island, "Pleasant Island", and Cyprus this week
- * Larry KK4SEO advised that Greg KM4DZM has been producing significant new content on the club website. Check it out at www.n4prs.org

- * The club's 5KW generator will go on the auction block at the April meeting according to Bill Olah. Although it works well, it's too noisy to use at our present Field Day site. Member owned small Honda generators will be used instead. He also advised that the club will continue to assist with the annual cost of insurance for the equipment at the Oriental Repeater. The repeater is owned by member Chris Mele W4SLH. She provides it as a key asset in emergencies and for use by the ham community at large.
- * Bill noted that the Kingston Hamfest is being held today. It has been in conflict with the March PARS meeting in recent years. He proposed if this is the case next year that the club meeting be held in Kingston that day. A significant number voiced approval.
- * The "Fox" for the coming Fox Hunt was demonstrated by Bill. Still planned for sometime this Spring, it will be followed by a lunch for the hunters. Randy K4WRD showed a homemade "tape-measure yagi" and attenuator. Members should contact Randy or Bill if interested in a session to construct their own handheld antenna.
- * Field Day planning is on track. Mike K4NLC has started a list for those wanting either a cap, shirt or both. [See page 106 or 112 of the April QST Magazine for color and design]. Contact Mike to get yours at 636-1257 or mike@marshconsulting.org
- * Pete Zawasky AG7C recommended reading the editorial on remote operating in the April QST Magazine [page 9] . Evolving technologies have made it easier to do, but the proliferation of remoting raises new concerns, especially regarding contesting and awards programs. That said, Pete offered his experience for those interested in pursuing remoting their operation. [Pete's email is pzawasky@pzef.net]
- * Pete also reported success getting FLDIGI running on his Raspberry Pi pocket computer and offered help to those wanting into the Raspberry Pi computing world.
- * Tom Corwin KI4NSP talked about a number of things that members can do to bring new folks into the hobby and the club. They included dropping no longer wanted magazines at public frequented places like doctors offices, barber/beauty shops, libraries; providing license manuals to the school, college, and public library; a float in the Croakerfest Parade. And for our new hams, encouraging participation in the Monday Night 10 Meter roundtable, the SKYWARN NET, and of course, the Pamlico Emergency Net on Wednesday nights. He advised that he now is storing a club owned handheld for short term loan to members without one.

(PARSgram 2015-03-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) APRIL 25, 2015 MEETING NOTES

(Thanks to Tom Corwin and Greg Wadsworth for taking notes at this meeting.)

- * Twenty-five PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO, at Brantley's in Oriental Saturday.
- * "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report. She passed out copies of 2015 PARS member roster.
- * Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our ARES EC, reported on the Area 3/4 Meeting held April 18th in Warsaw, NC that had about 30 attendees from ENC. They talked about the Amateur Radio Parity Act (HR 1301), the importance of documenting for

Federal decision makers the value amateur radio contributes to public service, and about emergency communications system plans. Interestingly, the ability to fall back to simplex communications is being re-emphasized despite the ongoing adoption of new voice and digital technology.

* Bill Cresswell, K2ONN, circulated the sign-up sheet for Field Day caps and t-shirts. Mike Marsh, K4NLC, plans to order them this week. [Contact Mike at 636-1257 or mike@marshconsulting.org if you want one]. The Saturday dinner will be prepared by Brantley's, cost anticipated to be \$12. Field Day set up will be Friday, June 26; operations start 2 pm. Saturday and run through Sunday closing at 2 pm.

* Greg KM4DZM, our publicity chair updated members on new content on the Club Website (<http://n4prs.org>). Greg has taken on the PARS "float" for the Croakerfest Parade on July 4th and wants suggestions. He also will order new Technician License Manuals for the County and Pamlico College libraries.

* Randy Davis, K4WRD, reported that 8 measuring tape 2M antennas were assembled in Bill Olah's shop for the coming Fox Hunt. A second session is planned as is a testing/training session for new fox hunters.

* The club's 5KW generator went on the auction block. It brought in \$300 for the club treasury--thank you Mike Hurm. The club members agreed to purchase a quieter portable Honda EU2000i to replace the one sold. (PARSgram 2015-04-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MAY 30, 2015 MEETING NOTES

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

* "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report. She still has copies of the club roster for those that were not at the April meeting.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our ARES EC, reported the Pamlico Emergency Net met four times in April for 12.29 man-hours.

* In my VHF report, I reported that Mid-Atlantic states are finally experiencing E-layer skip activity. An opening into the Upper Mid-west and Canada on the 25th provided many contacts for Mike K4HPS, Dick K4JJW and me. The improved conditions come just in time for the big June ARRL VHF Contest Jun 13-15 and for Field Day when strong signals can fill up the band.

* The new club generator is ready for Field Day according to Randy, K4WRD.

* The Fox Hunt trial has been delayed, but not for long. Probably after Field Day according to President Bill.

* Field Day planning is on track according to Mike K4NLC, Again at the Neuse River site of past years, 2 stations will be active as well as a GOTA station and a "free" SSB VHF station. GOTA rules have loosened to allow any "generally inactive" hams to "G-O-T-A". After the formal meeting, Glenn N4LV, demonstrated the n3fjp field day logging software and discussed logging do's and don'ts. Mike noted that PARS members can download a copy for familiarization. Call Mike for the password. A final planning meeting will be on Saturday, 0930 in Brantley's back dining room.

* PARS will again support the Annual Dragon Boat Races at River Dunes, 15-16 August, according to Tom Finta, K8TF. Tom's looking for a few volunteers with 2M HT's to provide coordination/control communications around the venue. Stepping down as PARS coordinator, Tom is looking for a

replacement for next year.

* Tom Corwin, KI4NSP, reminded all that he holds a club owned HT that can be checked out on loan. Call him for more info.

* Three folks responded to a call for presentation ideas. Installing mobile and boat antennas, using "Club Log", remote operations, radio connectivity with the internet, digital operations, and IRLP were just a few that were listed.

* As for awards, Bill, WM3X, advised he now has all states confirmed CW/QRP--power at 5 watts or less. Quite an accomplishment!
(PARSgram 2015-06-01)

A HOT QUIET FIELD DAY ON THE NEUSE [FIELD DAY MONTH, NO MEETING]

In the downright hot and sultry weather this past weekend, PARS 2015 Field Day activity was almost all in slow motion. With no one moving fast except when seeking shade, activity was mostly social for the folks that spent some time on the Neuse River site. Even the gulls were having trouble. One dropped a nice young eel on the grass, unable to get it to a shady place to enjoy. Only two hours in, the forecasted storm hit and operations were halted. The halt came just a little early for the well attended annual social and dinner at the Overcash's just down the street. Although propagation was expected to be poor, the group made a good number of contacts with hams in the US, Canada even some DX stations demonstrating we can work "off the grid". As in the past, PARS' low-key mostly daylight operation emphasized the capability for providing emergency communications when needed. A few observations:

- o Operations were consolidated on a single lot facing the Neuse and across the street at the Had residence. Dennis, W4USR loaned us his in-place vertical for the weekend. Over the year, a number of the towers we used in the past--the pines along the water-- have been removed reducing our wire antenna options. The vertical was a big help. The VHF beam was put up in his front yard and away from the power lines that have caused noise problems in the past. The two radios were operated protected from the rain in the sunroom. Thanks Dennis!
- o Our new Honda EU2000 generator worked like a charm, sipped gas, and was very quiet. Randy K4WRD tended to it as if it was a newborn. Even more quiet and economical was Mike Marsh's solar power system.
- o We had a first for PARS this Field Day. We were visited by our ARRL Section Manager. Karl Bowman, W4CHX. He arrived during the storm and had dinner with us after briefly visiting the site. Karl talked for a few minutes about the state of amateur radio in North Carolina and the Amateur Radio Parity Act. He appeared genuinely impressed with our club's Field Day effort. Karl was last heard on the repeater heading south for his final stop for the day.
- o Although the contacts have not been tallied, probably more CW contacts were made than sideband this year. Fortunately, the expected Coronal Mass

Ejection never arrived. The noise coming out the speakers was mostly atmospheric--lots of static crashes on Saturday. The Magic Band again was fickle. There were very few stations heard and worked on 6 meters Saturday, but we enjoyed a nice opening on Sunday morning. The operator in New Mexico could not believe we were coming to him with less than five watts with our QRP operation.

- o Mike Hurm, K4HPS, demonstrated the PARS Amateur Radio Emergency System (ARES) go-pack running it off the solar power set-up. Mike used it to monitor the PARS Field Day talk-in frequency.

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's now five 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 that kept our bacon from frying, it is a wonderful location.

- o The plentiful Fried Chicken from Brantley's was great and Wally and husband Will baked a big batch of cookies for dessert! Charlie provided bagels and coffee from The Bean for a Sunday continental breakfast. Thanks to Greg KM4DZM for the cake and drinks and to Mike Hurm K4HPS who kept us supplied with cold refreshing water.

- o Greg KM4DZM for his PR efforts. Greg, when not operating the GOTA station, Ellie KI4ELE and Tom Finta K8TF, along with Tom KI4NSP ran the welcome table.

- o President Bill Olah, KR4LO, was our GOTA guru again. He loves doing the Get-On-The-Air Station and particularly, working with the young folks.

- 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 Olah who provided their HF rigs. Mike Marsh for his solar system that powered one of the HFstations and the ARES package.

- o And our especial thanks go to those who donated their time and effort to the cause, and of course, to Mike Marsh K4NLC, our Field Day Coordinator who made it happen.

(PARSgram 2015-06-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) JUL 25, 2015 MEETING NOTES

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

- * "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report.

- * Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our ARES EC, could not attend. His ARES report will be

presented at the next PARS meeting.

* VHF weak signal activity declined in July. The series of Sunday openings on 6M ended in Pamlico with a burst of activity on July 5th. Double hop contacts were made with coast to coast Es propagation that day. Few big (in duration and activity) openings are expected for the rest of this Summer.

* The Fox Hunt trial was set for next Saturday, 10 AM, August 2, at Bill Olah's place in Grantsboro. Contact Bill or Randy for more info. [See calendar below].

* Greg, KM4DZM, our PR Officer, drove the "PARS Float" in the July 4th Croakerfest Parade giving the club new exposure. He also noted that he is acting as a "funnel" for postings on the club website www.n4prs.org just send him your photos or news.

* A club booth at the next Croakerfest was discussed. A booth at the event attended by thousands appears to be a best way to inform the public about amateur radio and the club.

* PARS will again support the Annual Dragon Boat Races at River Dunes, 15-16 August, according to Tom Finta, K8TF. Tom's looking for a few volunteers with 2M HT's to provide coordination/control communications around the venue on August 16th. Sufficient volunteers will allow for two shifts and short hours. Stepping down as PARS coordinator, Tom is looking for a replacement for next year.

* Jim Scheer, W4NLD, visiting from New Bern, talked about the Straight Key Century Club, a fast growing group of CW operators favoring the straight key. Jim just reached the Club's Centurion level and is working his Tribune level.

* In response to a question by Jan KK4LSQ, President Bill is entertaining the idea of members hosting Elmer sessions to help those preparing on their own for FCC License Exams. These sessions would be more like study assistance, less like formal classroom instruction. An open test session would be scheduled to follow.

* Tom Finta donated a length of coax and an ICOM 735 to the club. These items were quickly sold at auction with the money going into the club treasury.

* The meeting concluded with a review of our 2015 Field Day activity by Mike Marsh and Bill Olah. They offered some alternatives to consider for next year. The lack of member participation, especially as operators, and the lack of visitors from the community were the greatest concerns. Hams at the meeting from nearby clubs echoed they have the same problems.

(PARSgram 2015-07-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) AUG 29, 2015 MEETING NOTES

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

* "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our ARES EC, detailed ARES activity for May through August: 18 sessions with 49.05 person-hours participation.

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, is coordinating PARS' participation in the 2015 Pamlico County Heritage Day celebration on Oct 3. Planned is the field day setup last used by Pamlico ARES, possible HF station, both to compare with

other forms of communication such as GMRS, family radios, Goal is to inform the public and promote Amateur Radio as an emergency service and as a fun hobby.

* VHF weak signal activity continued its decline in August. A 2 Meter Sprint will be from 1900-2300 local on September 21. It may bring out the weak signal operators.

* Solar activity has decreased resulting in a corresponding decrease in propagation on the higher HF bands, 17 Meters and above. Geomagnetic storms have increased further degrading radio communications when they occur.

* Mike Marsh is working with Pamlico College to host an FCC License Session in November. Open to all, this will offer a local testing station for those studying on their own.

* Tom Finta, K8TF, reported out on the recent Oriental Dragon Boat Regatta at River Dunes. Bill Olah, Greg Wadsworth, Charlie Pyles, Torrey Neill, Carol and Joe Glorioso, Gary Mitchelson, Mike Hurm, Dodge Hickman, and John Radtke all came out to support. The business providing the boats and race management has developed its own capability for communications ending the need for PARS support in the future.

* The last Fox Hunt practice is set for 10 am Saturday, September 12 at Bill Olah's place in Grantsboro. (455 Bennett Neck Rd, Grantsboro. For directions Bill Olah, KR4LO, 249-0287 or w_olah@yahoo.com.)

* The First FOX HUNT will be on Saturday, September 19. The Fox Hunt will be open to all. Teams are encouraged. The goal is to use a suitable radio with directional antenna to find the FOX broadcasting on a 2 Meter Simplex frequency somewhere in the county. The FOX will be easily identifiable once located. The registration and starting point will be at Brantley's Restaurant in Oriental. Registration starts at 9 am, the Hunt begins at 10. A buffet sandwich luncheon will be provided by PARS to the entrants at Brantley's following the hunt. A new dual band Yaesu FT-60R radio will be the prize for the first to find the FOX. There will be no entry fee for this first PARS FOX HUNT. Contact either Bill Olah or Randy Davis, K4WRD, 249-1680 or randyd@centurylink.net for more information.

* Bill solicited and determined there is interest in a short presentation on handhelds and their programming, repeaters and how they work, sub-tones and more.

(PARSgram 2015-08-31)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) SEP 26, 2015 MEETING NOTES

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

* "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report.

* There was no ARES report. Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our ARES EC, was unable to attend.

* I reported that activity on the VHF bands has been light. There was some sporadic E activity on 10 Meters this morning just before the meeting. There will be a 222 MHz sprint Sunday night. The next sprints will be on the UHF bands. NOAA reports indicate that the best HF conditions are now on 12 and 20 Meters and that 40 Meters should be very good at night.

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, is coordinating PARS' participation in the 2015 Pamlico County Heritage Day celebration on Oct 3, 9 am to 3 pm. The Pamlico ARES portable station will be compared with other forms of communication such as GMRS, family radios and cell service, The goal is to inform the public and promote Amateur Radio as an emergency service and as a fun hobby. If you can lend a hand for a couple of hours, please give Mike a call.

* Mike is also working with Bill Michne, WM3X, our Chief Instructor and with Pamlico College to host an FCC License Exam Session Monday evening, November 16, 2015. Open to all, this will offer a local testing opportunity for those studying on their own.

* Bill reported the first PARS FOX HUNT a big success. Finding the fox was such a challenge that the time limit had to be extended. Several hunters got close and then realized they were on the wrong side of Dawson Creek. For some obscure reason, they elected to drive the 10 or so miles around rather than swim across to the fox barking near Camp Jo Jane. Mike Marsh was the first touch the Fox Mobile at 1134. After solving several equipment problems, Wally was the second to find the Fox Picking up the scent, Greg decided to speed by the bunch of hunters in Janereo aiming antennas across the creek. He said he missed a great photo opportunity. Another Fox Hunt apparently will be in PAR'S future, Bill thanked Randy Davis, K4WRD, for his support, especially his help assembling equipment and training the new hunters at practice sessions.

* Public Relations Officer, Greg, KM4DZM noted that photos of the Fox Hunt are on the club website www.n4prs.org Greg now has administrator privileges so can help with forgotten user names, passwords, or other such issues. Look for publicity in the media about the November VE Session and License Manuals donated to the local libraries.

* Bill advised that the 2015 Scouting Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) will be the third weekend in October, (16-18). This year the Pamlico County Scouts will be operating from Camp Sea Gull. Set-up will be on Friday evening with operation expected on Saturday and perhaps into Sunday. More information to come. Bill can always use some relief during this long weekend. He would welcome a call from members that can spend some time with the Scouts.

* Jamie King KJ4JK will be starting a world geography related DX'ng challenge. Clues will be in the PARSgram.

* President Bill reminded members that the annual PARS officer election takes place at the October meeting. Those interested in running for office should contact him or reply to this PARSgram. Both Bill and Wally indicated they are willing to again stand for election.

(PARSgram 2015-09-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) OCT 31, 2015 MEETING NOTES

* Thirty-one PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting Saturday chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO.

* Bill Michne, WM3X, showed the "vintage" power supply he built using 1937 era components. Bill is building and assembling radio equipment comparable to that in Amelia Earhart's Lockheed Electra airplane flown on her last flight. Bill identified several of the reasons for Amelia's communications failure that, once lost and out of gas, greatly contributed to her likely

demise on July 2, 1937 near Howland Island in the Pacific..

* Dick Goodwin, K4JJW, briefly talked about ladder line and how simple it is to construct with available plastic snap spreaders and 14 ga. wire.

* "Wally" Wallace KK4ASP presented the treasurers report.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our ARES EC, reported 5 ARES sessions in September for 11.63 man-hours and 4 in October for 17.48 man-hours. A display was set up for Pamlico County Heritage Day comparing Amateur Radio as an emergency service with CB and Cell service. The ARES go package and an HT with amp were both demonstrated. A significant number of visitors attended. Thanks to the team of Greg Wadsworth KM4DZM and Joy McCracken, Mike Hurm K4HPS, Dennis Giorgio KD2DSY, Randy Davis K4WRD, and Mike Marsh K4NLC who manned the Heritage Day booth.

* I reported that the VHF bands have been quiet for weak signal operations (SSB/CW/DIG) but better winter conditions are coming.

* According to Bill Olah, our local Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) had lots of competition this year from other activities. Only the younger scouts participated at Camp Sea Gull, but they seemed to have a good time. Jamie King KJ4JK reported the 30 or so scouts mostly enjoyed 2 Meter repeater contacts with Carteret County scouts. Few HF contacts were made. Thanks go to Mike Marsh, Jamie King KJ4JK, Billy Blanchard KM4EFX--a visitor from Burlington, Alamance County-- all led by Bill Olah KR4LO who worked with the scouts.

* Bill opened a short discussion about changing the date of the annual election to November and for those elected to begin their term in January. Wally talked about adding more detail to the Bi-Laws. This is needed if the club is to successfully apply for Federal Tax exemption.

* The slate of Bill Olah for President, Randy Davis for VP, and Wally Wallace for Treasurer was presented for election as officers for 2016. They were reelected by acclamation.

* Bill Michne reminded everyone of the November 16th Amateur License Testing Session at Pamlico Community College. Open to all, this will offer a local testing opportunity for those studying on their own.

* In response to Dick Goodwin's request, Bill Olah replied that another Fox Hunt is being considered.

(PARSgram 2015-11-02)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) NOV 28, 2015 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-three PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting Saturday chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO.

* There was no treasurer's report.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our ARES EC, reported 4 ARES sessions in November taking 9.7 man-hours.

* The VHF bands have been quiet for weak signal operations (SSB/CW/DIG), but it is time to start paying attention. The Winter E-skip Season is near.

* Dick Goodwin K4JJW and Glenn Everest N4LV both talked about working the DXpedition stations on Willis Island this month.

* Greg, KM4DZM, asked for photos of the recent Fox Hunt and Heritage Day to post on the PARS Web Site, www.N4PRS.org

* The meeting date for the Christmas Gift Exchange was confirmed as

Saturday, December 26, 2015.

- * Bill again advised that the Bi-Laws are under revision to add the information needed for Federal Tax Exemption as a non-profit organization. Changing annual election to the November meeting is also being considered. Those elected would begin their term in January.
 - * Setting a date for the next Fox Hunt was set aside until the December meeting. There appeared to be no clear preference from the members present.
 - * Thanks went to the VE's and especially to Mike Marsh and Bill Michne for organizing the November 16th VE Session/FCC License Exam. Congratulations went to those who gained their license or upgraded. At the meeting was Hunter Albert, Mike's grandson, who passed his exam for technician. Also present were Tom Hill KM4OLR who upgraded to General and Mike Marsh K4NLC who upgraded to Extra. Jan Dique KK4LSQ was also recognized for her upgrade to Extra.
 - * Dick Goodwin K4JJW recently confirmed his latest DX contacts to reach 2,300 DX entities. That's a lot of DXCC Band and Mode Awards!
 - * There was no new business nor discussion offered from the members at the meeting.
 - * Bill reminded all that the very short December business meeting is to be followed by the annual members holiday gift exchange. New, used, old, ham related wrapped items valued at \$10 or less are pooled, then picked by lottery number. They then can be swapped.
- (PARSgram 2015-11-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) DEC 2015 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirteen PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO, at Brantley's in Oriental on the 26th. Business was dispatched quickly in favor of the Christmas End of Year Gift Exchange.
 - * There was no treasurer's report this month. Bill assured those present that the Society is solvent.
 - * He updated the group on plans for the club's next "Fox Hunt". Decision on a date was deferred until the January meeting
 - * Jim, AI4WL, gave a quick report on current solar and geomagnetic conditions and "weak signal" VHF/UHF activity reported during the month.
 - * Oriental History Museum management is putting together a program about "Navigation Before GPS". According to Tom Finta K8TF, the museum folks are looking for a person to talk about amateur radio as part of this program in late Spring.
 - * Pete Zawasky, AG7C, reported that he had just completed assembling the components to remotely control the direction of his roof mounted yagi. This enhances remote operation of his Pamlico home station via the internet from a condo in New Jersey. Pete offered help and advice to anyone interested in remote station operation.
 - * The meeting concluded with the exchange warm wishes for the holiday and the coming New Year.
- (PARSgram 2016-01-04)