

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
2016

OFFICERS

President—Bill Olah, KR4LO (January-October)
Bill Michne, WM3X (November-December)
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) JAN 20, 2016 MEETING NOTES
(Thanks to Randy K4WRD, Mike K4HPS, and others who took notes at the meeting for this PARSgram.)

- * Twenty-five PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO.
- * Wally Wallace, KK4ASP, presented the treasurer's report.
- * Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our Pamlico County ARES EC, reported 4 ARES sessions in November for 14.5 volunteer man-hours. Mike also provided a summary of National ARES activities. Nets, events and volunteer man-hours were all significantly up in 2015. With only 33 of 71 ARES Sections reporting, volunteer man-hours totaled 232,093, a big donation of time and effort. Given a dollar value of \$19 per hour, that number--"Volunteer Value"--equals \$4,409,767. He also noted that a new satellite will be placed in geosynchronous orbit in 2016. It will be available for emergency communications.
- * There was no VHF report or Solar Summary this month.
- * Greg, KM4DZM, advised that on Saturday, March 19, there will be a "Color Run" in Aurora, a potential health safety service for the club.
- * Bill Michne is coordinating club participation in the NC QSO Party-- Sunday the 28th from 10am to 8pm. The intent is to have those without HF capability participating at "host" ham shacks open for group participation. Should make for great fun! Bill reported that In 2015 there were 325 logs entered and Pamlico stood 13th out of 100 counties, so let's make Pamlico one of the top ones again! [See details below.]
- * Next Fox hunt is being planned for the end of March. A directional antenna with attenuator is required and members can get help with both. Email Randy, K4WRD, for info on the attenuators (randyd@centurylink.net) We will have a build day at Bill Olah's for those needing to build the "measuring tape antenna". Let Randy know if you need materials for your antenna. You should procure your own attenuator first if possible.
- * Dave Bacon's suggestions for meeting presentations were offered for

discussion:

1, Everyone's most cherished QSL cards (bring them to the meeting) and maybe a story to go with it.

2, Talks on RTTY, JT65, PSK31 etc from club members who are into different modes.

3, Talk on logging programs and why member chose the program they did.

4, Talk about the HF rig that members chose and what they like about it.

5, After the business meeting a field trip to different hams shack to have a show and tell.

* Regarding ongoing business, President Olah 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.

* There was no new business raised by members at the meeting.

* FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING, Bill suggested that we go with Dave's first program suggestion. Members should BRING IN A FAVORITE QSO CARD and say a few words about that QSO or the card itself.

(PARSgram 2016-02-08)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) FEB 27, 2016 MEETING NOTES

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

* Wally Wallace, KK4ASP, presented the treasurer's report.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our Pamlico County ARES EC, reported 4 ARES sessions in January for 13.8 volunteer man-hours.

* According to AI4WL, there has been little VHF activity recently, only weather enhanced tropo on 2M and a few E layer skip Q's reported on 6M. For DX this month, look for the DXpedition to Heard Island to be active starting on 20 March.

* Bill Michne, coordinating club participation in the NC QSO Party, advised several stations will be hosting PARS members including his station, WM3X, Glenn's, N4LV, Bill Olah's, KR4LO, and Jim's AI4WL. N4LV and KR4LO will focus on RTTY, AI4WL on weak signal (SSB) VHF. The intent is to have those without the equipment and those wanting contesting experience a station to use and help if desired.

* Next Fox hunt is being planned for Saturday, March 19. A directional antenna with attenuator will be helpful and members can get help with both. Email Randy, K4WRD, for info on the attenuators (randyd@centurylink.net) Let Randy know if you need materials for your antenna.

* Dave Bacon KD2T reported reaching the 8 band DXCC level. Mike Hurm, K4HPS, passed the exam for Extra Class.

* There will be an equipment auction following the March meeting before the SKYWARN course. SKYWARN training is being provided by John Cole from the Newport National Weather Service.

* Tom KI4NSP reminded that all are welcome to check into the SKYWARN practice net on the Oriental or other local repeaters at 2100 local Tuesday evenings. He emphasized that SKYWARN not gives emergency warning to those monitoring, but in turn provides the NWS eye-witness ground truth reports on

severe conditions in the reporting area.

* The Kingston Hamfest for 2016 will be on Saturday, April 23. A VE Testing Session will be offered as well as SKYWARN training.

* Following the business meeting, several members talked about memorable QSOs and the (QSL) cards or documents that confirmed them.
(PARSgram 2016-02-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MAR 26, 2016 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-eight PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olay, KR4LO.

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally Wallace, KK4ASP.

* There was no ARES report. Bill asked for volunteers to back-up Mike Harm, K4HPS, our Pamlico County ARES EC, who conducts the Pamlico Emergency Net on Wednesday nights. A script will be provided.

* According to AI4WL, there has been some VHF activity recently--several contacts reported from the mid-West into Eastern Europe and the Med on 6 Meter CW. He also reported that the Heard Island stations now active with over 8,000 contacts made in the first few hours of operation. Glenn, N4LV reported he had logged the 20M CW station early through heavy QRM.

* Jim cautioned everyone to be wary of email from alleged hams identified only by call sign. He had just received one from a silent key. The text contains only a short greeting--the same as in the email subject line-- followed by a URL likely to produce a virus or worse.

* At the urging of the President, Bill Michne, WM3X, described how he helped a local ham report his house on fire. Just happening to be up late with the Oriental repeater on, he heard Mike, KM4COD, call for help. His phone was out and he had smoke. Bill called Pamlico 911 which then immediately switched him to Carteret 911. The Stacy Fire Station quickly responded. Due to the rapid response, the fire was contained to the attic and damage was not severe. Congratulations and thanks went to Bill.

* The Fox Hunt on Mar 19 went well according to Randy, K4WRD. The challenge may have been too easy with Wally, KK4ASP finding the fox only 35 minutes after the 0930 start, quickly followed by Tom, W1TGB. Others found the fox shortly thereafter. Randy promises a tougher course next time.

* A talk about Ham Radio as used by mariners was given by Tom Finta, K8TF last Sunday to about 25 folks at the Oriental History Museum. In the last of a series of presentations related to navigation before GPS, Tom talked about the services provided then and now by and for amateur radio. The talk was well received.

* Bill O. conducted an auction on boxes of vintage vacuum tubes, test equipment and a FT-101 and VFO. All proceeds from the items donated by Mike Hurm went to the club treasury.

* A SKYWARN Basic Course conducted by John Cole of the Newport NWS office followed the PARS meeting. About 20 PARS members and others participated.

* Next month, look for a presentation on Digital Modes by Ed, WD4EDW.
(PARSgram 2016-03-28)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) APR 30, 2016 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-six PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olay, KR4LO.

- * Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally Wallace, KK4ASP.
- * Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our Pamlico County ARES EC, reported 3 Pamlico Emergency Nets in March for 15.2 man-hours; 4 in April for 6.94 MH. He noted that the ARRL has negotiated a new MOU with the American Red Cross. No background checks will be required for licensed qualified amateurs who serve with the ARC during emergencies.
- * According to AI4WL, with E Skip openings occurring, VHF activity has increased on 6 Meters over the last few days, mostly in the afternoons and evenings.
- * Tom Corwin, KI4NSP, advised that a new package has been produced by the Pamlico Rescue Squad, an updated version of the "Card of Life" distributed several years ago by Carl Baxley, KJ4CFG. Stuck on front of the refrigerator, the user provided medical data provides vital information for first responders.
- * Although there was interest expressed in participating in the 2016 Field Day, no one stepped up to organize the effort. Bill invited interested members to attend the May PARS planning meeting 0900 on Saturday, May 21 at Brantley's.
- * Sam/Dave KD2T reported receiving his certificate for working 1000 "countries" in the ARRL Challenge award program.
- * Following the business meeting, Ed Wafford, WD4EDW gave an overview of the HF Digital Modes to an interested audience. It was well received. (PARSgram 20160502)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) APR 30, 2016 MEETING NOTES
CORRECTIONS--

Mike Hurm's ARES report should read: " Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our Pamlico County ARES EC, reported 5 Pamlico Emergency Nets in March for 15.2 man-hours; 4 in April for 6.94 MH...." This corrects an error in the number of Pamlico Emergency Net practices in March. Sorry Mike--ed.

We wish also to apologize for the typographical error in the spelling of our PARS President's last name--it's Olah of course, not Olay. Sorry Bill-ed. (PARSgram 2016-05-09)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) May 28, 2016 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-nine PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olay, KR4LO.
- * Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally Wallace, KK4ASP. Updated club rosters were provided.
- * Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our Pamlico County ARES EC, reported 3 Pamlico Emergency Nets in May for 5.42 man-hours. He noted that the annual Hurricane Center Station Test started at 9am this morning and runs until 5pm. A Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is scheduled for Wednesday night in place of the regular Pamlico Emergency Net practice. It will focus on simplex operation on 146.55 MHz after a net call on the Oriental repeater.
- * According to AI4WL, we are finally seeing more 6 Meter E Skip openings from Pamlico County. Single hop distances of 700 to 1100 miles were obtained into the Midwest last Tuesday morning. Locally, the NC 6 Meter

net on Saturday mornings is still being called at 7am-8:30 Eastern on 50.200 MHz. local by the NCS in Zebulon. This net has been a regular on Saturdays for over 15 years.

* Bill, WM3X, representing an ad-hoc planning group, proposed a low key approach for PARS members to participate in this year's Field Day. Avoiding the challenges of set up and operation under hot, humid and often stormy weather conditions, members can operate one or more "host" stations at times convenient to them. They will have an opportunity to learn about and operate a variety of equipment in modes of their choosing. Stations will have SSB, RTTY, CW, and digital capability, at least one will also focus on the VHF bands when they are open. The approach was well received. Charlie Overcash suggested PARS continue the annual Field Day dinner. More information will be in the June PARSgrams.

* In discussion, Bill Olah determined there was interest in another Fox Hunt. Randy Davis offered to look at a 2 stage Hunt with strong and weak signal foxes.

* After the business meeting, Bill opened a roundtable discussion on antennas. Bill Michne described his "new" 43' vertical, Bill Olah his horizontal loop, Gary N3CZ his "T Top Vertical". Pros and cons of various kinds of wire for radiators and radials were raised.

(PARSgram 2016-05-30)

NO PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MEETING THIS MONTH

Just a reminder, our meetings are held the last Saturday of each month EXCEPT JUNE when the club participates in the annual ARRL Field Day or when the regularly scheduled Saturday is in conflict with a major holiday. Take this opportunity to participate in Field Day from your home station or visit one of the host stations listed below. For more information about PARS contact Pamlico Amateur Radio Society President Bill Olah, KR4LO, 249-0287 or w_olah@yahoo.com.

(PARSgram 2016-06-20 Addendum)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) July 30, 2016 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-three PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Olah, KR4LO, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our Pamlico County ARES EC, reported 5 Pamlico Emergency Nets in June for 20.05 man-hours and 4 sessions in July for 7.4 man-hours.

* In the VHF report, I (AI4WL) related that DXmaps has been showing daily VHF 6 Meter E layer skip openings. The Northeast has been particularly favored with openings into Europe. Even here in the Southeast we have experienced double hop propagation to the west coast during the month.

* Dave, N4ENE, and I offered our observations--lessons learned--from recent lightning strikes.

* Bill, WM3X, reported on our members participation in "Field Day From Home", operating either as Class D (grid) or Class E (off-grid) stations. He noted that this low-key comfort-friendly operation was intended to get new and infrequent HF operators on the air at host mentor stations. Pete's 10 Meter Monday night "Swamp Net" was an earlier and still on-going activity toward the same goal.

* In this same light, Bill described "Team/ Club Contesting" as introduced in an article by N3FJP in this month's QST issue [pg. 61]. He proposed getting started with several two-person teams in the North American QSO Party on August 20th, a 12 hour event... paper logs, competition within PARS [see article below].

- * Dave Purifoy, N4ENE, reported making the DXCC Honor Roll.
- * Tom Finta, K8TF, announced that communications help has been requested for the Dragonboat Races on Saturday, August 13th, three hams with handhelds. Contact Tom (249-9838) or Bill Olah if you can help for a couple of hours at River Dunes.
- * After the business meeting, Bill Olah auctioned a donated HDTV, antennas, and antenna accessories with all proceeds going to the club bank account.
(PARSgram 2016-08-01)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Aug 27, 2016 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-six PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by VP Randy Davis, K4WRD, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.
- * Wally Wallace, KK4ASP presented the treasurer's report. She also advised that she will provide a member roster by return email upon request. Contact her at wallyandwill@gmail.com.
- * Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our Pamlico County ARES EC, reported there were 4 Pamlico Emergency Nets in August for 6.66 man-hours. Regarding Public Service activity, Bob Melle, AJ4XS, solicited assistance for the big "Bike MS" ride, 10-11 September, that starts and ends in New Bern. Help from "locals" would be welcomed at rest stops and as SAGS in Pamlico County. Contact Bruce at N8UTY@ARRL.net. Carl Baxley, KJ4CFG, circulated a card that he delivered to his 40 neighbors offering amateur radio help if they lost phone and net service during an emergency.
- * In the VHF report, I related that the 6 Meter band has been mostly quiet although a nice opening on Friday morning allowed those in the Southeast to log St. Paul Island, CY9C.
- * Bill, WM3X, reported on our team participation in the North American QSO Party. [See the recap below.]
- * Awards/Licenses--It was reported that Howard Cheetham took and passed both his Tech and General Exams at the New Bern VE Session, August 20. Bill Michne, WM3X, took second in the NA QRP CW Club (NAQCC) August Sprint, Straight Key category, for the W4 call area.
- * Reportedly, our Public Relations Officer can not be reached. Greg, if you read this, please give Randy Davis (249-1680) or Bill Olah (249-0287) a call.
- * Randy explained President Bill Olah's absence was due to his need to be with his wife Katie who was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with them both.
- * Randy put out an early call for candidates to be officers in 2017 and as presenters/speakers at club meetings. Bill does not plan to be available as a club officer next year. Randy will be available as a candidate for VP but not President due to travel plans. Wally will stand for re-election as Treasurer. Randy noted that, after all the recent lightning hits, antenna grounds and grounding will be a topic for discussion at the September meeting.
(PARSgram 2016-08-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Sep 24, 2016 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty-one PARS members and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by Mike Marsh, K4NLC, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.
- * Wally Wallace, KK4ASP presented the treasurer's report.
- * Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our Pamlico County ARES EC, corrected last month's report for August--there were 5 Pamlico Emergency Nets in August instead of 4 for 9.91 man-hours.
- * In the VHF report, I reported that although the 6 Meter band has been very quiet for "DX" recently, net activity continues. Stations were heard this morning on the NC 6M Net (0800 Saturdays on 50.200 MHz) and there are several other very active nets in the Southeast. Although the DownEast 6M Net went dark about a year ago, Pete, AG7C, and I and occasionally others still hold the fort, Thursdays at 8:pm local on 50.200 MHz USB. Most new transceivers can operate on 6 Meters and with a minimal horizontal antenna (even a 9.75 ft dipole) good quality local communications can be expected. Come

join us and perhaps we can breathe new life into the old net.

* Bill, WM3X, advised George and Joanne Hurley, (N2UCH and KG4MVQ) have been cleaning house and via Bill have donated a lot of equipment to PARS. Bill is checking the equipment and will list the unsold items here in the PARSgram with money received going to the club treasury. [See For Sale section below]

* Mike Marsh advised we are still looking for folks to stand for election in October, particularly for the office of President. Both Randy Davis, K4WRD and Gail (Wally) Wallace KK4ASP, incumbent VP and Treasurer respectively, plan to stand for re-election at the October meeting. [A full complement of officers is needed for PARS to maintain affiliation with the ARRL--ed.]

* The Scout's Jamboree On The Air is scheduled for the weekend of October 14-16 according to Randy. Jamboree On The Air provides the opportunity for millions of Scouts around the world to meet on the air via Amateur Radio. With the Pamlico County operation at Camp Sea Gull on Saturday, plans include a 2M/70CM focus as well as a HF presence out on the Neuse River. Volunteers are needed to work with the youngsters. Contact Randy or Bill Olah if you can help for a couple of hours. (PARSgram 2016-09-26)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Oct 29, 2016 MEETING NOTES

* Thirty-three PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by VP Randy Davis, K4WRD, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant. Our long distance attendee award went to Torrey Neill KA4TMN, our past member who was visiting from Riverside, CA.

* There was no treasurer's report this month. Wally separately advised two members joined recently, Al Webb KB1N and Eric Baxter N1LDG.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, our Pamlico County ARES EC, reported there were 4 Pamlico Emergency Nets in October for 9.5 man-hours. Hurricane Matthew operations involved 336 manhours over the weekend of October 8-9.

* In the VHF report, I reported that although the 6 Meter band seems quiet for "DX", there is activity. Of the 30 contacts reported on DXmaps just before the meeting, 13 were E-skip, 12 meteor scatter, 1 EME, and 3 tropo, and for one propagation was unknown. Three folks on the most recent Monday 10M net switched to 6M finding stronger signals. None used a dedicated 6M antenna, just whatever antenna they had and would load, OCF, vertical, long wire. Four members showed up for the new Thursday 6M net--Thursdays at 8:pm local on 50.200 MHz USB.

* Bill Michne, WM3X, reminded members that they can renew their ARRL membership through PARS. The club earns a small amount for this service. (Many of us simply renew our ARRL membership at the same time we pay our annual PARS dues).

* Bill proposed members participate in the annual ARRL Frequency Measurement Test on Wednesday, Nov 2nd. Starting at 8 pm it's easy and fun. See the November QST, page 95 for more information. (See also Bill's item below).

* Randy reported that our local Scouts had a good time at the annual Jamboree-On-The Air, October 15, this year at Camp Sea Gull.

* Bill Olah KR4LO inquired about interest in another Fox Hunt. There appears to be considerable interest and a number of members had suggestions.

* Bill Olah nominated Bill Michne as President for the coming year completing the slate of officers with Randy Davis, K4WRD and Gail (Wally) Wallace KK4ASP, incumbent VP and Treasurer respectively agreeing to continue in their positions if elected. A quorum being present, the slate was approved and the new officers elected by acclamation.

* All thanked Bill Olah for his long and greatly appreciated service as President.

(PARSgram 2016-10-31)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) NOV 26, 2016 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-seven PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by VP Randy Davis, K4WRD, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.
 - * Randy provided the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally, KK4ASP. Last week Wally mailed members their annual renewal forms. Please consider renewing your ARRL membership through the club. It is allowed to retain two dollars from each renewal for club operations.
 - * With Mike Hurm, K4HPS, being away, there was no Pamlico County ARES EC report this month.
 - * In the VHF report, Jim, AI4WL, reported openings on 6 Meters are increasing in number and size but unpredictable. DXmaps has been showing more contacts of 1200 miles and even double Es hop contacts of 2400 miles. Members were reminded that we now have a PARS 6 Meter net at 8pm local Thursday evenings on 50.200 MHz.
 - * Five members (Tom KI4NSP, Randy K4WRD, Tommy W4XMT, Bill WM3X, and Jim AI4WL) participated in the ARRL November Sweepstakes yielding a combined PARS claimed score of 16,284. This was our second venture into "Club Contesting".
 - * Randy outlined some of the major issues discussed at the recent club planning meeting led by President Bill Michne, WM3X.
 - Consider making the Secretary and Treasurer positions separate; fixing some inconsistencies in the By-Laws.
 - Encouraging use of the club Web Site (www.n4prs.org) by increasing content, easing log-in requirements. Gary, NC3Z has populated the "QRZ" page for our club (N4PRS) and initiated a "Facebook" page. Suggestions for content for all are welcomed.
 - Increase our participation in public service activities to obtain more club visibility and support our petition for tax exempt status.
 - Provide even more support to members and new and aspiring hams. Provide hands-on help for first HF stations and antennas, mentoring, "Elmernars", class instruction, and VE sessions.
 - More club activities, e.g., Fox Hunts, Club Contesting, electronics labs (kit building, programming etc), and increasing participation in Field Day
 - Related to increasing participation in club field activities and visibility, Mike Marsh K4NLC, solicited help in finding a travel trailer that the members would convert to a operator friendly communications van. It should be 28-30 ft long, tow-able. The bathroom would remain and air conditioning added. The trailer would be used at Field Day, Croakerfest, Heritage Day, public service events, and as an Emergency Communications Center when required. The initiative sparked lots of interest, suggestions and offers to help with the work.
 - * Tom Corwin, KI4NSP, reminded all that the club has hand held radios for short-term loan.
 - * SKYWARN Recognition Day is Saturday, Nov. 3rd. Tom encouraged members to visit the Newport NWS Office and participate in the SKWARN QSO Party.
 - * Jim encouraged all members support the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The legislation was approved in the US House of Representatives but must be voted upon and passed by the Senate before the current session ends or the effort will fail. ARRL has a very easy and quick way to get a letter to our US Senators urging them to vote yes. (see separate item below).
 - * An auction of several tower grounding components donated by Chris Mele, W4SLH, followed adjournment.
- (PARSgram 2016-11-28)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) DEC 31, 2016 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty-two PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.
- * Jim, AI4WL provided the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally, KK4ASP. Wally advised that all applications and dues received as of Thursday have been deposited and any members who paid for

ARRL membership via the club have had their applications sent on with payment.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, reported 5 ARES nets in November and 4 in December.

* For the propagation report, Jim, AI4WL, advised there has been digital activity (MSK144) reported on 6 Meters and some Es as the Winter season deepens. There is hope for a good VHF contest on the 21st through the 23rd. There were 7 days without sunspots so far this month with many days with noisy reception due to ongoing solar winds.

* Bill reported on the most recent planning meeting issues--

- Bi-Laws need rewriting, with Jim and Bill Cresswell, K2ONN, agreeing to help. This should help in our pursuit of 503C3 certification.

- The Secretary/Treasurer position will continue as-is in the near term. Jim will assist Wally with administration.

- Gary Mitchelson, NC3Z, has already established a club Facebook Page and updated the club N4PRS QRZ page. He agreed to take over the administration of the club Website (www.n4prs.org).

- Emphasis will go toward Field Day, Club Contesting including the NC QSO Party, Licensing Courses, and mentoring.

- In response to the need for more visibility through publicity, Janice Hopkins, KJ4JPE, volunteered to take on the role as club PIO.

- To further our education role, Randy, our club VP, will help by coordinating meeting presentations and programs.

* In New Business--

- Mike Hurm requested ARES members to keep their info updated, especially phone numbers. He uses it when calling up the ARES net in emergencies.

- Bill Olah, KR4LO, in discussion about a class on grounding, offered PDF copies of the Polyphaser Grounding Manual, which he will send upon request by email. Contact him at willyo@centurylink.net.

- Janice advised that Hal Austin, NC4HA, is now doing the SKYWARN classes and will query him about an advanced class.

* The annual Christmas Gift Exchange followed the meeting.

(PARSgram 2017-01-02)