

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
2017

OFFICERS

President—Bill Michne, WM3X

Vice President—Randy Davis, K4WRD (January-October)

Bruce Perkins, K4ONC (November-December)

Treasurer--Gail (Wally) Wallace, KK4ASP

Emergency Coordinator—Mike Hurm, K4HPS

Newsletter Editor--Jim Hartmeyer, AI4WL

N4PRS Web Site Administrator—Gary Michelson, NC3Z

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 28, 2017 MEETING NOTES

* Thirty-seven PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.

* Tom, K8TF, and Ellie, KI4ELE, Finta were presented with a plaque in recognition of their many contributions to PARS and the Amateur Radio Community at large as they prepare to relocate to Texas in March. Avid sailors involved with the Waterway Net for years, Tom and Ellie were instrumental in the founding of our Society 15 years ago and will be sorely missed.

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

* Bill, on behalf of Mike Hurm, K4HPS, reported 4 ARES nets in January for 8.5 Man Hours. In CY 2016 there were 54 net practices/activations for a total of 130 MH.

* Propagation: Jim, AI4WL, advised the VHF bands were virtually closed for the January VHF Contest, propagation fair for the NAQP, both over the weekend of 21-22 Jan. There were 10 days without sunspots so far this month as cycle 24 continues its long decline. The first sunspot of cycle 25 was reported as occurring in December. Several folks have reported working the weekly challenges so DX is still do-able.

* Bill reported on some recent activities and open items--

- PARS fielded 12 contesters in 3 teams in the recent SSB version of the twice a year North American QSO Party. He noted that 6 others scored well in an earlier RTTY version. After combining all 12 scores, Bill found that they made 501 contacts reaching 39 states, for a total over 52,000 points--very impressive, especially since most players only worked it for a couple of hours. This a great way to log those missing states for the Worked All States Award.

- The Tech Course starts on Feb 2nd, Thursday evenings at the Pamlico Community College. An open licensing exam for all classes will be on March 30th. Even after a big, but short, publicity campaign, the course is under-subscribed. Please help get the word out.

- More of the old paperwork is surfacing that will help in rewriting the Bi-Laws. This should help in our pursuit of 503C3 certification and after establishing a current public service portfolio.

* Bill Cresswell, K2ONN, talked about the Cycle NC event scheduled for 27-29 April. He has also done some research on APRS, an application that would be very helpful.

* Bill Olah, Mike Marsh, and Randy Davis took a road trip to search out PARS Communications trailer candidates finding at least one.

* Randy and Bill Olah are still trying to get the Scouts involved in radio possibly through Fox

Hunting.

* Bill Michne has found PHS AP Physics teacher Kara Walton excited about possibilities with PARS supporting their STEM program.

* In closing, Bill announced the next PARS planning meeting will be on Saturday, Feb 18th. All are invited.

* Gary Mitchelson NC3Z followed the meeting with an overview and live demonstration of WINLINK, a radio based resilient global messaging system. Gary was assisted by Lor Kutchins, W3QA, a long time member of the WINLINK development team. Lots of interest, very well received. (PARSgram 2017-01-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) FEB25, 2017 MEETING NOTES

* Thirty-three PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant. All signed a "get well" card for Ms. Sil who has just been released from the hospital after a serious illness.

* Wally, KK4ASP, presented the Treasurer's report. Most members have renewed for 2017. In March, a roster of current members will be posted on the PARS web site. It will be accessible only by members with a password and login.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, reported 4 ARES nets in February for 6.88 Man Hours.

* Propagation: Jim, AI4WL, advised the 6 Meter band, although great for local communications, was extremely quiet during the month. On the other hand, exhibiting VHF characteristics, the 10 Meter band was wide open on Sunday, the 26th. The downward trend for Cycle 24 Sunspots continues--11 days with no Spots in 2017 so far. All said, DX is still to be had. Dick, K4JJW reports working several DXpeditions in Africa, Gary, NC3Z, has had good success on 160 Meters. Best conditions remain on 80 & 40 Meters at night.

* Bill reported on some recent activities and open items--

- The Tech Course with 8 students is going well. Practice exams are starting ahead of the Mar 30th exam.

- Planning and discussions continue on PARS support to the PHS STEM initiative. PARS will purchase and provide the high school with Technician Study Manuals for those students that wish to get their license. Satellite communications has sparked considerable interest.

- For the NC QSO Party, Bill will process paper logs for submission, record claimed scores and post them on the PARS web site. He and some tech students will activate the PARS call from his QTH.

* Regarding CycleNC, Lor, W3QA, sees PARS filling comms gaps on the three days. Will need 6 people per day for the three days, primarily to provide connectivity between the Race HQ, the Town Manager, and the ambulances on standby. Lor plans to check APRS/VHF/Cell coverage along the cycle routes.

* Efforts on acquiring the targeted trailer have stalled according to Bill Olah, KR4LO. Any progress is locked up in more ways than one. A new search effort is likely.

* The planned short course on APRS by Lor was postponed due to equipment failure. He noted a second APRS implementation session will be held at noon, Thursday March 2, at Brantley's.

(PARSgram 2017-02-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MAR 25, 2017 MEETING NOTES

(Thanks to Tom Corwin, KI4NSP, for capturing the highlights of the meeting.)

* Thirty-one PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.

* Wally, KK4ASP, presented the Treasurer's report. The club is solvent.

* It was announced that Tom and Ellie Finta made it to Houston. We all wish them well.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, reported 4 ARES nets in March with one remaining for 8.83 Man Hours as of

the meeting.

* Propagation: Dick Goodwin, K4JJW updated members on band conditions. There are ongoing solar storms making band conditions poor because of noise from the storms.

* Bill Michne reminded members that the April Meeting is rescheduled for Saturday, May 6th. Many members will be involved with the CycleNC event on the last weekend in April necessitating the change.

* Gil Grabowski, KB1GHA is the proud new owner of antennas donated by the Fintas to the Club for auction.

(PARSgram 2017-04-03)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MAY 6, 2017 MEETING NOTES

(The April regular PARS meeting was deferred to this date to avoid conflict with CycleNC.)

* Twenty-eight PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.

* Bill presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally, KK4ASP. He remarked that the PARS account has reached a point where Federal Non-exempt 501c3 tax status should be actively pursued.

* Upgrades/Awards: Gerald, KN4CKL, upgraded to General since the last meeting. Bill noted that PARS members put Pamlico County on the map during the recent 2017 NC QSO Party. In the Club Station High Power Mixed category PARS N4PRS was runner up; Dick K4JJW was second in the Mixed Low Power category, and Jim AI4WL was second in the Mixed QRP category.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, reported 4 ARES nets in April for 7.6 Man-hours. The Public Service activity (28-30 April 17) supporting CycleNC required 181 Man-hours..

* Propagation: Jim, AI4WL, reminded all of the 50 MHz Sprint coming up on May 13th. He also talked about the origin of our Pamlico 6M Net. It fills a gap left after the long standing DownEast 6M Net established by Don Smith, KJ4RB went inactive. After being off the air for over a year, Don was a welcome surprise check-in to the Pamlico Net on April 27th. HF Propagation continues to be fair to poor although some DX is to be had. Dave, N4ENE reported working Adaman-Nicobar, VU4CY. Best conditions remain on 80 & 40 Meters at night.

* Bill Cresswell, K2ONN, reported-out on PARS' support to last weekend's CycleNC. The event brought 1400 bicyclists and their supporters to Pamlico County. PARS contribution was recognized by event organizers and Oriental Town officials. The effort provided a valuable opportunity to obtain and use a new technology--APRS--and train for future public support missions. The group applauded Bill and Lor Kutchins, W3QA for their leadership. (See Bill's detailed wrap-up elsewhere in this PARSgram.)

* PARS involvement with the Pamlico High STEM program has met with singular success. After several weekly class sessions, Bill Michne, reported that his team, including Charlie Overcash, WA4GSI, and six Volunteer Examiners, administered the Technician Level exam on May 5th to 17 students and their Physics Teacher. All but one passed, most with flying colors! PARS had provided the high school with Technician Study Manuals and the ARRL waived the exam fee. Satellite communications has sparked considerable interest, the elements of which will be covered by Bill in sessions this month.

* The group thanked Dodge Hickman, KJ4CFE, for donating a Kenwood TS-140S HF Radio to PARS to be the initial piece of a Pamlico High Club station.

* Field Day Weekend is taking shape. Janice, KJ4JPE is working publicity. The site will be in-doors at the Town Hall, food will be catered by Brantley's. Expecting many of the new hams to attend, ideas to further stimulate their interest are welcomed.

* Our next regular meeting will be Saturday, May 27th at Brantley's. The emphasis will be on Field Day.

(PARSgram 2017-05-08)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MAY 27, 2017 MEETING NOTES

* Thirty-eight PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant. Bill recognized some special attendees: Pamlico High Principal, Chris Meadows, five of our newest members (KN4DFU, KN4DEN, KN4DEO, KN4DEI, and KN4DET), all graduates of the PCHS STEM Technician License Course, and at least one future ham, Ms. Kara (KN4DET) Walton's 2 year old daughter, Sydney.

* As the school year is ending and with license grants obtained, Bill noted that not only have the students used VHF handhelds, several have made at least one satellite contact. With only a 6 minute pass window, that is no small accomplishment. The students are doing all the calculations, directing the antenna, and making the calls.

* In appreciation of the efforts of PARS and recognizing the excitement and enthusiasm that Bill generated as instructor and mentor, Principal Meadows thanked PARS--and especially Bill--for our significant contribution to the STEM program. On behalf of the class and the school, Wes Altman, KN4DFU, presented Bill with a signed thank-you photo of Bill with "his" class.

* The frustrating limited range of club purchased "training" handhelds was discussed. Bill recommended buying an inexpensive magnetic mount antenna for each radio. Total estimated cost, \$150. Bill Olah moved that the antennas be purchased. The motion was seconded and approved.

* Recognizing the need for continuity and the possibility of a PCHS club station, Bill Olah moved that PCHS students newly licensed through PARS programs should have their no-fee membership extended through their year of graduation. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Michne noted that the policy will be documented in the Society By-Laws.

* Wally, KK4ASP, rendered the Treasurer's report. The club is solvent.

* Propagation: HF Propagation continues to be fair to poor although some DX is to be had. While long distance HF communications is becoming more challenging, weak signal (SSB) VHF and UHF communications is improving. The summer cycle of E-layer skip has begun with reports of daily openings on 6M and occasionally on 2M. Exhibiting the properties of VHF propagation, even the 10M band is seeing activity.

* Bill Cresswell, K2ONN, reviewed previous PARS support for the Dragonboat Regattas held at River Dunes and solicited help from the membership for the next annual event on August 12. Three hams with HT's operating between 0830 and 1500 should suffice. Contact Bill at cressbill@gmail.com if you can help at this PARS public service activity.

* Field Day--

- Bill Cresswell delivered the Field Day T-shirts previously ordered by members.

- Bill Michne reminded all that PARS 2017 Field Day operation will be in the meeting room of the Oriental Town Hall and hopes all who can will participate.

- Charlie Overcash, WA4GSI, has been actively coordinating with town management and plans to obtain a banner advertising the event to be placed over the street in front of Town Hall.

- Mike Marsh, K4NLC, reported that a block with guy ropes for wire antennas has been installed on the tall fire siren pole by a volunteer bucket truck operator. He also reported that in doing so, the bucket broke a window. It was moved, seconded and approved that the club pay for the repair.

- Brantley's will cater the annual PARS dinner planned for 6 pm on Field Day Saturday, June 24th. A sign-up sheet was circulated. Cost per person is a modest \$10. Mike needs a confirmed head-count days ahead.

- A final planning meeting is planned in mid-June.

* There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 0950. [Note that in favor of Field Day, there is no regular Society meeting in June.]

(PARSgram PARS Weekly, 5/29/2017)

PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX [No PARS meeting in June to allow participation in Field Day]
Field Day 2017 is history. We had a good turn out of members to help with equipment and antenna setup. We had operations on 40, 20, 15, and 6 meters, and even attempted a satellite contact. The heat, humidity, and rain outside on Saturday didn't bother us in the least as we pursued making contacts in air conditioned comfort. On the down side, though, we were plagued with a continuous intense broadband electromagnetic noise level that made it difficult to copy all but the strongest signals, and completely wiped out weak signal work such as the satellite station. We were able to improve the situation somewhat by changes to the transmission line filtering systems and antenna orientation. The noise was a bit less intense on Sunday, and more contacts were made. These are exactly the kinds of challenges that Field Day is supposed to train us for, and in that sense our operation was a success. Add to all that the food and socializing and, well, we had a great time. There were many people who worked very hard to put this event together, and individual mention would consume the remainder of the PARSgram. I thank each of them for their support. Special thanks, however, go to Charlie, WA4GSI, for getting us the town hall and making all associated arrangements. Charlie stayed on top of everything for the duration of the event, and when we departed the site it was as if no one had been there. Great job! ... Bill Michne, WM3X, billmichne@embarqmail.com.
(PARSgram 2017-06-26)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) JUL 29, 2017 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty-five PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.
- * Wally, KK4ASP, rendered the Treasurer's report. The club is solvent. She also provided updated club rosters.
- * Propagation: With no Sunspots showing solar activity is very low. So far 2017 has had 54 days without Sunspots. 6M openings intermittent as season declines.
- * ARES: Mike, K4HPS reported 4 Nets in May for 15.26 man-hours, 4 in June for 18.6 man-hours, and 4 (including the annual SET) in July for 20.5 man-hours. Mike reported meeting with PCC staff and looking at PARS installed antennas at the Chem and Delamar buildings. Bill Olah and Tom Corwin also participated. Discussion followed regarding need to upgrade the Delamar antenna to dual band, establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PCC on access, use, responsibilities and other details. Gary, NC3Z, offered to assist. Motion passed to replace the Delamar antenna using PARS funds. Lor Kutchins, W3QA, outlined the benefits of a portable WinLink HF package for messaging deployed to the County Command Center during emergencies.
- * President Bill led discussion on other items of interest:
 - PARS will support the Dragon Boat Races at River Dunes on August 12. Bruce, Glen and Lor to provide communications as needed. [see <http://www.orientaldragonboat.com/odb/> for more on the festival --ed.]
 - PARS asked to join County officials doing Internet Survey. Members requested to contact Gary Mitchelson, NC3Z, if they can assist with tech support.
 - John Radke KB2NNC, on behalf of Pamlico Rescue in Bayboro, offered a no longer required standing Rohn Tower to PARS. Dave N4ENE will take it, Bill Olah will assist with the dismantling.
 - Bill asked members to support passage of the Senate Bill giving relief to antenna restricted HOA members. The House has already passed the bill. A simple easy to use form is on the ARRL web site to send a letter to our Senators. [go to <https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-us-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act> See more below --ed.].
 - The 10 Baofang HTs and 3 donated HF radios for the High School STEM students and club station are not being fully used. Of several alternatives, Bill recommended that the equipment be used as loaners/trainers for new Hams. Power supplies (20A continuous) are needed to pair with the HF radios.

- * Bill Olah advised the 440 Oriental repeater is underused; works OK during the summer but does not during the Winter cold weather. In discussion, removal not an alternative as grandfathered tower space would likely be lost. Evaluation of serviceability ongoing.
- * In response to a question from the floor, PARS name badges with logo can be obtained from "The SignMan of Baton Rouge". [To order go to <http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/pamlicoars.html> --ed.]
- * After the business meeting, Bill led a open discussion on the theory, limitations, application and experiences with Off Center Fed (OCF) Dipole Antennas.
(PARSgram 2017-07-31)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) AUG 26, 2017 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty-four PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.
- * Wally, KK4ASP, rendered the Treasurer's report. The club is solvent. She also provided updated club rosters.
- * Sam/Dave, KD2T, reported he received his DXCC for the digital mode. Bill, WM3X, worked all of the 13 Colonies in this year's event earning the much desired certificate.
- * Propagation: Solar activity is very low. 6M openings few as season declines. Most activity on 6M and much on 20M using digital modes, especially the new FT8 mode.
- * ARES: Mike, K4HPS reported 4 Nets in Aug so far. The new dual band antenna for the County Evacuation Center at the Community College Dalamar Center will soon be in place. Expect a "mini" SET to evaluate it.
- * President Bill led discussion on other items of interest:
 - Based on participants reports, no changes in propagation were noticed during the Great Eclipse QSO Party.
 - Based on the two logs from the recent NAQP, one station using a vertical the other an OCF Dipole, the stations otherwise comparable, the two antennas were nearly equally effective during the event.
 - With the school year about to start, plans will soon be made for support for the STEM Program.
 - Several HF transceivers are available for short term loan to PARS members.
- * New Business
 - Bill addressed PARS' participation in the forthcoming contest season. First up, the CQDX RTTY contest on Sep 23. Noted is possible confusion between PARS and the Washington Club with a similar name, Pamlico Amateur Radio Club (PARC).
 - The PARS Website appears to be seldom visited by PARS members. Some significant portions being open only to members is questioned.
- * Subjects from the Floor
 - Town Hall area RF noise remains an issue if it is to be used for Field Day or even as an emergency communications center.
 - Interest in a Fox Hunt was shown. Interest by local Scouting Council for participation in the Jamboree On The Air October 20-22, 2017 questioned.
 - Need to restart effort on updating the By-Laws to enable completion of application for 501C3, Federal non-profit status.
- * After the business meeting, Bill led a "show and tell" about his version of a Power Supply Tester--a "dummy load for power supplies".
(PARSgram 2017-08-28)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) SEP 30, 2017 MEETING NOTES

- * Forty PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant. This may have been the largest attendance ever for a PARS meeting.

- * Flora Morman, Dragon Boat Festival Chairman, recognized PARS for its continued support of the annual event, and in particular, Bruce K4ONC, Lor W3QA, Glenn N4LV, and Jamie KJ4JK for their valuable assistance at this year's event. High winds were a challenge to competitors, race officials and spectators alike.
 - * Wally, KK4ASP, presented her Treasurer's report. The club is solvent.
 - * Sam/Dave, KD2T, reported he received his DXCC for the digital mode using FT8. Gerald, KN4CKL upgraded to Extra. Mona, KN4CKN upgraded to General. Gary, NC3Z, was #2 in NC during the recent CQ 160 SSB contest, #75 in the US!
 - * Propagation Report: Solar activity is very low yet opportunities for DX continue, especially if using FT8, the newest of the digital modes. 6M quiet until Winter Es Season.
 - * ARES: Mike, K4HPS reported 5 Nets in Aug for 9.8 Man hours, 4 in Sep for 4.2. The new dual band antenna for the County Evacuation Center at the Community College Dalamar Center was installed.
 - * Janice, KJ4JPE, announced the Eastern NC Repeater Association's annual picnic will be on Sunday Oct 15 at the Issac Building on Hwy 58 in Stella. All are invited. For more info, contact Janice.
 - * President Bill led discussion on several items of interest:
 - Maysville Hamfest is Sunday Oct 8th, from 8 to 2 pm.
 - Good time to work on your WAS with CA, PA, NY, SD, and IL QSO parties this month. Also there are several contests including the Stu Perry Top Band Challenge, CQ WW SSB Contest. If we get enough interest, PARS can make a showing in the CQ Contest.
 - A knowledgeable non-ham has volunteered to take on the PARS website as Webmaster. Both Larry KK4SEO, our original designer and Gary NC3Z, our current administrator, have done a wonderful job but need relief from this very time demanding task. After discussion, the members agreed to pursue this course of action.
 - The STEM program in Pamlico is undergoing reorganization. With apparent lack of use of the loaned club HTs, it was agreed by the members to recall them for sale. It was also agreed to re-purpose the donated HF radios, originally earmarked for the program, as loaners to our new hams to get them on the air.
 - Members of the Pamlico Amateur Radio Club in Beaufort County are interested in attending our October meeting. PARS members are invited to PARC's annual picnic. More info to come.
 - For the October meeting, a casual show-and-tell was proposed. Bring your favorite QSL card, show off your newest award, your rebuilt/refurbished antique radio, homebrew antenna, whatever.
 - * Subjects from the Floor
 - Bill, K2ONN, offered on behalf of member Chuck Sterin, AB3NZ, a roof top tower and 20-6 Yagi with rotator for sale. Chuck is moving to Washington state.
 - Lor, W3QA, talked about HamAid, WinLink, the American Red Cross Network, and SATERN, the Salvation Army Network, all in relation to the devastation in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. He encouraged members to assist/participate if they can.
 - Glenn, N4LV, reported that he and several others participated in the recent ARRL RTTY contest and expected to score well. He invited anyone interested to give him a call for more information on RTTY contesting.
 - * After the business meeting, Mike K4NLC and Randy K4WRD led a "show and tell" about a homebrew vertical antenna for 160 Meters.
- (PARSgram 2017-10-09)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) OCT 28, 2017 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty-eight PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.
- * Wally, KK4ASP, presented her Treasurer's report. The club is doing well financially.

- * Propagation Report: Solar activity is very low yet opportunities for DX exist. Look for a DXpedition to VK9M, Mellish Reef with QRV expected Nov 3-16. 6M quiet except for meteor scatter contacts.
 - * ARES: Mike, K4HPS reported 4 Nets in October for 9.27 man-hours. A military (MARS) interoperability drill is planned for Nov 4-5. As primary operation will be on 60M, Mike looking for members with that capability.
 - * Election of Officers for CY2018 was held. With Randy Davis, K4WRD, planning to relocate from the area, the proposed slate included Wally KK4ASP, Treasurer; Jim, AI4WL, Secretary; and Bill, WM3X, President, all incumbents, and for VP, Bruce Perkins, K4ONC. There being no others proposed from the floor, as moved by Bill Olah, KR4LO, the slate was elected by acclamation. On behalf of the club, Bill thanked Randy for his years of service to the club.
 - * President Bill covered several items of interest:
 - The CQ WW SSB Contest is underway. Lots of action on 75M. Gary NC3Z, reported heavy QRM on 160M. Coming up--ARRL Nov Sweepstakes CW on the 4-6th, the Phone version on the 18-20th.
 - The hand-off of our PARS Web page is delayed. Joe Mattea will be helping our club as webmaster. He is currently involved with a major revision of the Oriental Dinghy Club Website.
 - As related last month, the STEM program at Pamlico High is in transition. There appears to be no place for amateur radio in the current schedule. Bill is on a quest to recover club HTs loaned to last year's students.
 - About 10-12 members of the Pamlico Amateur Radio Club in Beaufort County are expected to attend our January 2018 meeting
 - With no technician level license exam preparation course planned, Bill will entertain organizing a General level course if there are four or more people interested.
 - If there is sufficient interest, a hands-on project for members to build Arduino Antenna Analyzers can be organized. Let Bill Michne know if you want to build one.
 - * Bill, KR4LO, solicited member input for his future presentation on Solar Power, be it for the home (off-the-grid or grid connected) or ham use (portable or back-up). Appears most were interested in ham station back-up use.
 - * After the business meeting, Gary, NC3Z, displayed a legal limit+ HF/6M linear amplifier that he assembled from a component kit (B26 RF2K5 from www.rf-kit.de) that uses an Arduino display and Raspberry Pi controller.
- (PARSgram 2017-10-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) NOV 25, 2017 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-three PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.
- * Bill presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally, KK4ASP. The club is solvent.
- * Propagation Report: Solar activity is very low (87 days without sunspots so far in 2017) yet opportunities for DX exist. Multi-op operations are QRV in Ghana, Oman, the Galapagos Islands and The Gambia during the next days and weeks. 6M remains quiet except for meteor scatter contacts.
- * ARES: Mike Marsh, K4NLC, noted, as expected, there were few check-ins during the Thanksgiving week Wednesday night practice for which he was net control.
- * President Bill addressed new/ongoing items of interest:
 - Glenn, N4LV, reported the 2M Oriental repeater with intermittent noise and other issues, will be turned down on Tuesday for an undetermined time for replacement with a spare. The 440 Oriental repeater has been turned down for the Winter due primarily to issues with the feedline. It has been lightly used since activation.
 - Bill reminded all of forthcoming contests including the ARRL 160 Meter and 10M events.
 - Action on the 501C3 application is continuing, albeit slowly. Goal for submission is first of CY

2018.

- Joe Mattea will soon begin work on updating/revising the PARS website.
- Not all of the HT's loaned to students after gaining licenses through the PCHS STEM program will be recovered. Expect those that are to be auctioned as well as several HF transceivers and other equipment donated to PARS. Others will be retained for short term loan to members.
- It was suggested to pursue involvement with the Arapahoe Charter School STEM program.
- Mike Marsh advised, despite a hiccup in obtaining one of the components, the Arduino Antenna Analyzer project is on track to start after Christmas. Eight members are expected to assemble these devices described in the November 2017 issue of QST Magazine. Parts should cost about \$70 for each unit.
- Two members committed to taking a General License preparation course if/when offered. Two more students need to be found for it to be offered. (Contact Bill Michne if you are interested or know of someone that is.)
- Our next meeting in December will be the annual gift exchange. Bill noted that there are many kits now available for around \$10, the suggested maximum value of a gift. It should be related to amateur radio in some way--no canned ham or ham steaks please.
- About 10-12 members of the Pamlico Amateur Radio Club in Beaufort County are still expected to attend our January 2018 meeting
- * After the business meeting, Dick, K4JJW, assisted by Jim, AI4WL, led a discussion on the FT8 digital mode developed by Joe Taylor and released this past summer. Despite it being a terse scripted exchange, in a period of poor propagation FT8 provides a means to make contacts at or below the threshold of audibility.. Four times faster than other weak signal (low power) digital modes in the WSJT suite, FT8 has been eagerly adopted by the ham community. Used on the 160 through 6 Meter bands, technician licensees can operate FT-8 on 10 and 6 Meters where they have data privileges. (PARSgram 2017-11-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) DEC 30, 2017 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-two PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.
- * Bill presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally, KK4ASP. The club is solvent. Bill and Wally plan to restart the effort to update and submit the club's application for IRS 501C3 tax exempt status.
- * Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low (103 days without sunspots so far in 2017) yet opportunities for DX remain. A surprising number of DXpeditions are scheduled for 2018 starting with Eritrea (14-23 Jan) and much awaited Bouvet Islands (late Jan). We've added a DXpedition Calendar to the PARSgram. 6M remains quiet except for meteor scatter contacts; some SSB was heard Thursday below the Pamlico 6M Net.
- * ARES: Mike Marsh, K4NLC, noted that some national administrative changes are coming. Expect more to come.
- * President Bill addressed new/ongoing items of interest:
 - Nine of the 10 HT's were recovered from the Pamlico High STEM class and 7 have been sold. The last two were spoken for at the meeting and sold for \$30 each. A complete HF station has been donated (FT-890) to the club and will likely be auctioned at a future meeting.
 - Six to 8 students are expected in the General Class License preparation course starting January 8th. Audits are welcomed. An open VE session will end the course in March.
 - Responding to Bill's inquiry, Mike advised that he was obtained most of the parts needed for the club build of the antenna analyzer in the November QST magazine. One or two will be built by Mike and Bill Olah KR4LO to verify the process before leading the members through the project in late January.
 - The Onslow club will be participating in the Winter Field Day, Jan 27-28. PARS members were

invited to join them in Swansboro.

* The annual holiday gift exchange was held following the business meeting.
(PARSgram 2018-01-01)