

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
2018

OFFICERS

President—Bill Michne, WM3X
Vice President—Bruce Perkins, K4ONC
Treasurer--Gail (Wally) Wallace, KK4ASP
Secretary/Newsletter Editor--Jim Hartmeyer, AI4WL

ARES Emergency Coordinator—Mike Hurm, K4HPS
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 27, 2018 MEETING NOTES

- * 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. Bill and Wally are progressing on the club's application for IRS 501C3 tax exempt status.
- * Sam/Dave, KD2T, reported working all states on 30-Meters using the FT8 digital mode.
- * Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low (14 days without sunspots so far in 2018) yet opportunities for DX remain. The number of DXpeditions are scheduled for 2018 are surprising given where we are in the solar cycle's decline. Glenn, N4LV and others reported working the recent DXpedition to Eritrea. The Bouvet Island (#2 on the Clublog most wanted list) operation should be on the air next week. Bill, WM3X, reported working over 30 states in a few hours Friday night during the 160M CW contest. 6M remains quiet with some meteor scatter activity.
- * President Bill addressed other items of interest:
 - All of the 10 HT's have been recovered from the Pamlico High STEM class and sold. Bill still has 4 HF transceivers and 3 HT's and is holding them for graduates of the current licensing course as loaners/purchase.
 - Mike Marsh, K4NLC, advised that he has obtained all of the parts needed for the club build of the antenna analyzer described in the November QST magazine. Two prototypes will be built first.
 - The Washington Club visit has been rescheduled until Spring.
 - Bill will host club station (N4PRS) operation in the NC QSO Party on Sunday, Feb 25th. All are welcome. Operation from home stations is also urged as a club effort to make a big showing for Pamlico County.
 - Time to start planning for Field Day. Oriental Town Hall offers a great venue but is basically unusable unless the noise is eliminated. Any/all assistance welcomed to identify the source(s). In discussion, the college was suggested as an alternative location. Gary, NC3Z, having HF in his truck, offered to check for noise there.
- * From the floor:
 - In response, Bill advised that Joe Mattea, working with Gary our current administrator and Larry our web master, will soon start on the re-do of the N4PRS Web Page.
 - Bill updated the members on his "Amelia Earhart Radio Project". The 1937 era transmitter now in a testing phase. As expected, it is rich in harmonics.
- * An open question and answer session was offered after the meeting.

(PARSgram 2018-01-29)

AMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) FEB 24, 2018 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-seven 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. Bill will have three used HF transceivers to offer for sale with first option to graduates of license prep course.
- * Mike, K4HPS, reported being awarded the DXCC. Bill reported one of his class members, Ed Tratt KC3IZI, took the exam early and is now an "AG".
- * In his ARES report, Mike listed 5 nets in Nov for 11.65 Man-hours; 4 in Dec for 9.16 MH, 5 in Jan for 11.2 Man-hours. Mike's planning to host a meeting for ARES members in April.
- * Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low yet opportunities for DX remain. Fair conditions expected on 80 & 40 at night, poor otherwise. Expect no improvement until the cycle turns in 2019/20 however DX is still to be had. Our members worked Kosovo this month, there are many European stations on 20-Meters during the day, and the gray line offers opportunities into Asia on 40-Meters. 6M remains quiet with some meteor scatter activity--perhaps it's just that nobody is calling CQ on SSB.
- * Other items of interest:
 - The Washington club has a VE session on the Saturday following ours.
 - Bill Olah KR4LO hosted a "build-in" on 2/23/18 for antenna analyzer builders. 2 Beta models are working. Many thanks to Randy Davis, K4WRD for solving numerous software issues. The arduino based "kit" was found not to be one for beginners. For newbies to soldering, the learn to solder kit in the Jan QST was suggested.
 - After a noise survey of the PCC campus by Lor, Gary, and Randy, Bill and PARS VP Bruce, K4ONC, made a coordination visit. Both went well. Coordination is continuing to confirm operating space as the proposed Delamar Center is already scheduled. There are several alternatives. Site survey next.
 - ARRL DX SSB Contest next weekend offers fast track to DXCC award. Members were challenged to improve Pamlico County showing in the NC QSO Party--around 500 QSO's last year.
- * New Business - Bruce proposed PARS adopt a new logo, one that better identifies our mission and function. He "modeled" a tee shirt with a prototype logo. Comments on both are solicited from the members.
- * From the floor:
 - Bill KR4LO apologized for delay of his promised presentation with Mike Marsh K4NLC on solar power. It's coming...
 - Bruce requested suggestions for after-meeting presentations/round-table discussions. Please call him at 249-6015 send him an email at k4onc@aol.com with your ideas or topics (and on the logo and shirt).

(PARSgram DATED & SENT 2018-02-26)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MAR 31, 2018 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-nine 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 for Wally, KK4ASP. Recent equipment sales have added \$250 to the balance.
- * Bill reported that 10 candidates took their exams at the March VE session, all passed: 1 Tech, 8 upgraded to General, and one upgraded to Extra. From PARS, upgrading to General were Janice Hopkins, Eddie Lyon, Rose Humphrey-Harris, and Gill Grabowski. Bruce Perkins upgraded to Extra. Congratulations all!

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, reported 4 ARES nets in March for 12.65 Man-hours. Mike's planning to hold a meeting for ARES members after our April PARS meeting to discuss AUXCOM (see the Oct issue of CQ Magazine) and the ARRL's changes to ARES.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. Watch the Solar Flux Index 90 day average, not day to day variations. Generally, you can expect the better conditions on the lower bands 160-80-60-40-20 for the next few years. DX is still to be had, especially if using one of the digital modes. Remaining known DXpeditions for 2018 were listed. 6M remains quiet with some meteor scatter activity.

* For the 2018 Field Day, subject to unfavorable noise test results, our operation will be from the Pamlico County Shrine building on NC-306. Excellent indoor facility, Class 2A operation likely. Leads for Equipment, Food/Social, Equipment/Antenna setup, Operations, GOTA needed. Janice encouraged members to invite youngsters (under 18). Bill stressed the need for more operators to keep the radios active.

* Jim Fitzpatrick, W1SJF, solicited PARS members expertise to advise and assist the Florence-Whortonsville VFD and other Pamlico County emergency services. Help is needed from training in use of hand-held radios, configuration and set up of those and mobile radios, system requirements, system planning, and more. Possible conversion to "Viper Radios" is of concern. If you can help, contact Jim at tugcapn48@gmail.com.

* Bruce, K4ONC, summarized his February meeting discussion and proposed changes to the PARS logo and the proposal solicited to members by email shortly after. A motion to adopt the new logo was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Bruce, anticipating approval, had invited Gray Winfrey from Oriental Tees to the meeting. He described and answered questions about logo clothing options, "license" plates, stickers. Bruce will provide members with the details and pricing.

* Jim, AI4WL, updated members on Joe Taylor's FT8 digital mode software beta (test) version enhanced to support DXpeditions. (see https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT8_DXpedition_Mode.pdf). In ideal conditions, it enables FT8 QSO's at very high rates, up to 500 per hour. In a user test on the evening of Mar 6th, the DXpedition (the "Fox") worked 320 calling stations ("Hounds") on 20Meters in one hour, 189 on 30Meters in one hour, 454 on 40Meters/one hour, and 351 on 80Meters/one hour. Considering this is a "weak signal mode" with a sophisticated algorithm allowing short scripted contacts with signals below the ambient noise level, it is well suited to the poor propagation conditions in a declining solar cycle. [A new extensive FT8 operating guide has just been released by Gary Hinson, ZL2IFB. The 54 page pdf "FT8 Operating Guide" is actively maintained. Find the latest version at http://www.g4ifb.com/FT8_Hinson_tips_for_HF_DXers.pdf --Jim]

* A presentation on Solar Power for homes and ham stations is scheduled for the April meeting, SKYWARN Basic/Refresher Training after the May meeting.
(PARSgram 2018-03-02 DATED & SENT APR 4, 2018)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) APR 28, 2018 MEETING NOTES

* Thirty-five PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant. Andy Denmark, WD4MIA, got the award for the one who came the farthest. Andy now resides in Snohomish, WA. [According to QRZ.com, that's 2470.7 miles LOS from Whortonsville at 305.2 degrees--Jim]

* Sam/Dave, KD2T, reported making 1500 towards the ARRL DXCC Challenge. Dick K4JJW countered with 2403! [Appears a local challenge is on--Jim]

* Bill presented the treasurer's report for Wally, KK4ASP.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, gave the ARES report. Mike's planning to attend the NC AUXCOM meeting. (At a follow-on ARES meeting, a mix of home FM VHF simplex (and duplex through available repeaters) into several WinLink HF stations was recommended as a proper ARES solution for Pamlico

County. The WinLink capable stations would support record traffic to, from and for served agencies and connect with the statewide and other exterior networks as required).

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low and will be so for the next few years. DX can still be had, especially if using one of the digital modes. DXpeditions in May include Mozambique, Rodrigues Island, Central Kiribati, and Lord Howe Island. The Armed Forces Day Crossband Test is on Saturday, May 12. The 6 Meter band remains quiet as the Summer E skip season approaches.

* Bill confirmed that our Field Day operation will be from the Pamlico County Shrine building on NC-306. Tests found noise to be negligible. Anticipate class 2A operation with GOTA and VHF stations in a 4 hour session on both Saturday and Sunday. SATCOM will operate as available. Leaders for Radio Equipment, Power, Food/Social, Equipment/Antenna setup, Operations, GOTA needed. Mike Marsh volunteered to handle the Food/social, Bill Olah the Antennas and GOTA if no other volunteers. Sources for generators were identified. Janice encouraged members to invite youngsters (especially those under 18). Bill again stressed the need for operators to keep the radios active.

* Bruce, K4ONC, delivered PARS logo shirts and had logo bumper stickers and license plates available for purchase. He has had our PARS banners changed to the new logo and given "The Signman" the new logo for those wanting to order name badges (go to www.thesignman.com). PARS logo-ware is being sold at cost. Money from members "rounding up" and not wanting change will be donated to the club.

* Help was requested to support the MS Bike event on Sunday, September 9th. The rides that day will mostly be on roads in Pamlico County.

* A box of items donated by Priscilla Wormell, N4TNP, and a Power Supply were auctioned yielding \$81.00 for the treasury.

* After the business meeting, Bill Olah and Mike Marsh gave a very informative "show and tell" presentation on solar power for ham stations. A SKYWARN Basic/Refresher Training will follow the May meeting from 1030 to noon.

(PARSgram 2018-04-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) ~~APR 28~~ MAY 26, 2018 MEETING NOTES

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

* Bill reported that PARS won 2nd place, In-State Mixed Mode club division, in the NC QSO Party. Jim, AI4WL, showed the plaque he won for taking first in the NCQP Single-OP In-State Mixed Mode QRP division. Both reported tough going due to high noise levels and poor propagation.

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

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, gave the ARES report. There were 3 drills in May so far. Mike attended the NC AUXCOM meeting.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. Two sunspot regions have appeared offering some short-term improvement in the Solar Flux Index. The VHF bands are showing activity with the arrival of the Summer E-skip season. DXers are looking forward to the Baker Island, KH1/KH7Z DXpedition 26 June through 7 July.

* Bill and Mike will attend the May 31st meeting at PCC for non-profit organizations and present a 2 minute blurb on the Pamlico County ARES WinLink plan for emergency communications.

* Tom Corwin, KI4NSP, attended a meeting hosted by the Pamlico Chamber of Commerce now publishing a directory of non-profits. PARS will be listed. [Announcement of PARS Field Day activity is in the Chamber's recent "Newsflash" inviting all members to visit and GOTA--ed]

* Bill noted that Field Day preparations are on track thanks to the efforts of Mike Marsh, Glenn Everest, Bill Olah and other members. A single antenna will be used to support three stations, 2 contest and the GOTA station. VHF (6M) SSB and satellite operations are also planned as well as solar power

and WinLink demos.

* VP Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, updated members on PARS logo items/shirts and opened a discussion on PARS' special event station possibilities, e.g., Croakerfest.

* After the business meeting, the NWS Newport provided SKYWARN Basic/Refresher Training for both PARS members and the public, with over 30 attending.

PARSgram 2018-06-04)

PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX [No PARS Meeting in June due ARRL Field Day]

What a great Field Day we had! While space in the PARSgram does not allow mention of all those who made it so successful, special mention goes to Mike, K4HPS, for arranging and managing the use of the Shrine Club for the event. We had a total of five stations on the air at various times, and several guests that included non-member hams as well as non-hams. We were even favored with a surprise visit by our North Carolina ARRL Section Manager, Karl Bowman, W4CHX. All of the equipment, antennas, and generators worked flawlessly. A detailed summary of the event will be presented at the July PARS meeting. We may even have some new members by then! de WM3X, Bill Michne, 252-249-1175, billmichne@embarqmail.com.

(PARSgram 2018-06-25)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) JUL 28, 2018 MEETING NOTES

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

* Bill circulated the certificate recognizing that PARS won 2nd place, In-State Mixed Mode club division, in the NC QSO Party. Gary, NC3Z, reported he had logged his 100th country and when confirmed will earn him the DXCC Award on that band.

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally, KK4ASP. The club is solvent.

* After discussion, a motion made by Bill Olah was approved to donate \$300 to the Oriental Volunteer Fire Department in memory of Brantley Norman Sr. whose recent passing was a great loss to the Oriental community. Brantley hosted PARs since its founding in his restaurant.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, gave the ARES report. There were 5 drills in May for 9.35 Mhrs, 4 in Jun for 17.33 Mhrs, and 4 in Jul for 8.3 Mhrs. 17 members participated in the SET conducted in June. Because of it's location, the radiation pattern of the Delamar Center antenna was found to be directional, strong towards the Bayboro EOC but unhearable in the simplex mode by some. Also, with fewer direct simplex contacts made in the SET, it was recommended that Emergency Net members consider upgrading their home stations--HT's are inadequate for most point to point communications. Message transfer (of SITREPS) practice in the point to point mode is needed.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low and will continue to decline until the solar nadir is reached. Less affected by the solar cycle, the VHF bands are showing activity as the Summer E-skip season continues. Both HF and 6M operators taken to the FT8 digital mode due to it's throughput in a weak signal environment.

* Gary and Jim AI4WL reported the progress of 11 members learning the ins and outs of WinLink. WinLink is a worldwide radio email service that uses radio paths where the internet is not present but can interconnect with it where it is. It is particularly well suited for AUXCOM/emergency communications. The task based instruction provided by Lor, W3QA, is "student" paced. (For more info or to join the group contact Lor at kutchins@w3qa.net or 252-349-0466)

* A Disaster Preparedness Expo is slated for the Pamlico Senior Center on Aug 15, 10 am to 2 pm, according to Tom Corwin, KI4NSP. A number of Emergency Services representatives will speak. For more info call Pamlico Senior Services at 745-7196.

* Bill reported out on our very successful 2018 Field Day operating out of the Pamlico Shrine Building. He compared it with last year's event. This year more contacts were made (168 vs 108), more

participants (29 vs 16), and more total points (1818 vs 1154). Both the NWeatherService rep and a County Sheriff made GOTA contacts as did a number of others. The CW station was productive as was the SSB VHF station on Sunday. The antenna multiplexer worked well. All together, a "smooth" operation due to coordinator Mike Marsh, K4NLC; Shrine rep, Mike Hurm, K4NLC, Bill Olah, KR4LO, Lor, W3QA, and Glenn Everest, N4LV and the ops team.

* VP Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, requested help for the Oriental Dragon Boat Races on Saturday, Aug 11. This annual event requires the manning of 3 stations from mid-morning until mid-afternoon. Lunch and a T-shirt will be provided for helping at this fun event at River Dunes. More volunteer operators will make for shorter "tours". If you can help, please contact Bruce at 252-249-6015 or K4ONC@aol.com.

* Bruce Arnold, KS8L previewed the Bike MS (Bike 150) event coming 8-9 September. With over 1,000 riders and 100's of volunteers it has brought in millions of dollars toward finding the cure for MS. Ham help will be needed at rest stops, as "shadows" for officials, and on patrols on the course. Three repeaters will be used. Assist where you want and when you can. For more information and to volunteer please contact Bruce at KS8L@arrl.net.

* After the business meeting, Bruce auctioned bags and boxes of parts and equipment donated by Jamie King, KJ4JK, with the proceeds going to the PARS treasury.
(PARSgram 2018-07-30)

NO AUGUST 2018 MEETING NOTES PUBLISHED DUE TO HURRICANE FLORENCE PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

Great news from the PARS meeting on Saturday [AUG 25, 2018]. Paul, K4MMB, has volunteered to manage the club website. The members also voted to approve the purchase of a refurbished laptop computer primarily for his use in working on the website. We are all excited about the possibilities going forward. _..._ Lor, W3QA, gave an update on the developing expertise within the club on applications of WinLink during emergency situations. Besides its applications in emcomm it has proven to be a great learning experience for the participants. _..._ I gave a brief description of my method for taking down a guyed vertical antenna using a ride on lawn mower sweeper combination...
de WM3X, Bill Michne, 252-249-1175, billmichne@embarqmail.com.
(PARSgram 2018-08-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) SEP 29, 2018 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-seven 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.

* Mike Hurm, K4HPS, gave the ARES report. There were 5 drills in August for 17.9 Mhrs and 4 in Sep for 27.1 Mhr. Several PARS members (Jamie, Susan, Eddie, Mike Hurm, Ralph and Bruce) provided public service communications for the Bike MS weekend contributing 144 hours of their time.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. There have been no sunspots for over two weeks and the SFI running between 69 and 66 during the period. The poor conditions have not slowed DXpedition activity with Rwanda, Niue Island, Christmas Island and much wanted Duce Island on the horizon. Most will add the FT8 digital mode to their arsenals due to it's better throughput in a weak signal environment.

* Members were urged to respond to the mailing from the ARRL and vote their choice for Roanoke Division Director and Vice Director.

* Bill reported that he and Beth completed their move from Dolphin Point just before the Hurricane but lost almost everything they had hurriedly placed in the garage, including the PARS generator and club records. Expecting all their efforts for a period will be on recovery he will, at the urging of Vice

President Bruce and others, only be taking a "leave of absence" and will return as President when able.

* This being Randy Davis' last meeting before moving to the mountains of Virginia, he was thanked for his contributions to PARS. As an active member and Vice President for several years, he will be missed. The members present all wished him well.

* Lor Kutchins W3QA responded to questions about emergency communications during and after Hurricane Florence. Jim (AI4WL) noted that he heard no local AM or FM radio stations providing coverage or advisories. Radio is especially important during the long power outages. The best and most current source of information was from Towndock.net. The Oriental Repeater held up well and was used by the few hams in the county that sheltered in place. State and local communications were reliable according to Lor, WinLink and other auxiliary communications were ready but not needed. Cell service was spotty, Verizon lost some antennas. Reportedly, a weak point was the inability to get health and welfare messages in and out of the County Shelter. Better and prior coordination with the Red Cross and other officials at the shelter is needed. Lack of access to a viable 2M antenna at the PCC remains a problem. Our antenna is on the uncertified and therefore unused Delamar Building. The Oriental repeater batteries lasted for over six days and still delivering when commercial power returned. They were later replaced by Bill Olah and Mike Marsh and before they were entirely depleted.

* Bruce adjourned the meeting at 0950.

(PARSgram 2018-10-15)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Oct 27, 2018 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-nine PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by Vice President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.

* Wally, KK4ASP, presented the treasurer's report. There were no expenditures this month so far.

* There was no ARES report.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. There have been no sunspots for the last 9 days, none for 175 days (56%) so far this year. For comparison, in 2008, the bottom year of the last cycle, there were 268 spotless days (73%). We have a while to go until the bottom of this cycle, likely end of 2019 or in 2020. However, DX contacts are still doable, especially on the digital modes.

Contacts using FT8 into SE Asia are routine, members reported working Ducie Island on several bands and modes, and others noted the bands are filled with DX today in the CQ WW DX Contest.

DXpeditions on Christmas and Ducie Islands are underway and Zimbabwe and Bouvet coming up.

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, is awaiting seasonal computer sales before ordering a laptop for use by the new website administrator, Paul Jardin, K4MMB.

* Gary Mitchelson, NC3Z, has a PARS Facebook Page up and running. He asked members for input and reminded them, he's the editor, not an author. Send him your posts. Photos of Field Day are on the PARS Website.

* PARS President Bill Michne, WM3X, offered a slate for consideration as PARS officers for CY 2019. All were incumbents willing to serve again. They were reelected by acclamation: Bill Michne, President; Bruce Perkins, Vice President; Jim Hartmeyer, Secretary; and Gail (Wally) Wallace, Treasurer.

* Bill advised he is preparing the club's annual report for the ARRL. It is required to maintain active affiliation. He asked members to renew their ARRL membership through PARS. Wally advised members at renewal time, to send her their ARRL and PARS forms and check made out to PARS for both memberships. The club is allowed to keep \$2 of the ARRL membership dues.

* Bill also noted, as custodian, that he updated the club FCC license to reflect his address change. The administrative change was made quickly through a phone call to ARRL, a service available to all ARRL members.

- * And Bill, reported that items lost in his detached garage were covered by insurance. One of them was the club's generator for which the club will be reimbursed.
 - * Mike suggested a discussion at the November meeting on Hurricane Florence, observations and lessons learned including how individuals could be better prepared for the next one.
 - * Pete Zawasky, AG7C, revealed that the lightning that destroyed his remote station and other electronics actually struck a nearby tree then came up through his station ground. It was limited to one AC circuit but took out everything connected directly or indirectly (e.g, LAN) to the ground wire. He recommended members re-look their grounding systems.
 - * Pete also noted that he has a contract on his Mills Road home and expects to complete his move to NJ within a month or so.
 - * Bruce adjourned the meeting at 0930.
- (PARSgram 2018-10-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Nov 24, 2018 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty-three PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by Vice President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
 - * The recent PARS/ARRL membership renewal mailing understated the ARRL membership cost by \$10.00. An old ARRL form was used by mistake. The current membership is \$49/year, not \$39. Bruce urged PARS members to renew their ARRL membership through PARS. Your club is allowed to retain two dollars of your dues as an administrative fee. (PARS annual dues are \$20/family.)
 - * There was no ARES report.
 - * Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. Although the propagation measures indicate poor operating conditions, members continue to report they are making DX contacts. The DXpedition to Bouvet appears on track for late December. The team plans to be on the island for two weeks, weather permitting.
 - * Mike Marsh, K4NLC, has purchased a laptop for use by the new website administrator, Paul Jodoin, K4MMB. He delivered it to Paul at the meeting.
 - * Bill Michne, WM3X, reported that the insurance company has paid for the hurricane damaged club generator, less depreciation. It was cleaned and appears to run but its reliability is suspect. A new one will be obtained if necessary.
 - * Bruce led the group in an "after action" discussion on Hurricane Florence [see "PARS--Hurricane Florence Discussion Points in the 26 Nov 2018 PARSgram].
 - * Bruce reminded members that SKYWARN Appreciation Day is on Saturday, December 1st. He and several others plan to visit the Newport NWS facility.
 - * The New Bern club apparently is considering getting rid of their their communications trailer. After discussion, members decided not to accept the trailer if offered. Storage, maintenance, insurance concerns overrode the limited benefit seen.
 - * Joy Baker, spoke on the Pamlico County Disaster Recovery Coalition. The group acts as a liaison between County officials and the public, in part to explain procedures and process for those with loss to obtain financial and other help. She urged those with a loss to complete a damage assessment and submit it to the County Manager to support the County's request for FEMA relief. So far, monetary loss to Pamlico County residents and businesses is significantly understated.
 - * Bruce reminded all that business is put aside at the December meeting in favor of the annual member gift exchange. These gifts should be amateur radio related and, if new, of a value of around \$10
 - * Bruce adjourned the meeting at 1040.
- (PARSgram 2018-12-03)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) DEC 29, 2018 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by Vice President

Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, at Brantleys' Village Restaurant.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low (219 days without sunspots so far in 2018) yet opportunities for DX remain as supported by member reports.

* The DownEast 6 M net hosted for over 20 years by Don Smith, KJ4RB, is expected to return to its old form by late next month after a nearly two year hiatus. With a return to health and a new tower, expect Don's loud signal again on Thursday nights (50.200MHz, 2000 hrs local).

* Bruce reported the passing of PARS member Samuel (Fitz) Fitzpatrick, W1SJF, while visiting family in New Hampshire. A Celebration of Life is planned for 1630 Friday, Jan 18, at the River Dunes Chapel.

* For the Oriental Repeater solar power project, Fred Eisner, W4FAE, donated a charge controller that Bill accepted with the thanks from the club.

* From mention of a donation of items for auction, Jamie King, KJ4JK, suggested that his donation be the start of a monthly meeting door prize. The first will be given at the January meeting.

* Bill Michne, who will return to "active duty" in January after recovery from H. Florence, thanked Bruce, on behalf of the members, for his superior performance as acting President. His weekly "VP's Corner" kept readers up to date on club plans and activities. Bill's goals for 2019 include finding ways to involve young folks in the hobby, license courses and a morse code class.

* Bruce adjourned the meeting at 0940.

* The annual holiday gift exchange was held following the business meeting.

(PARSgram 2018-12-31)