

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, LTD
2019

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 (January-March)
Mike Marsh, K4NLC (April-December)
Web Master, Paul Jodoin, K4MMB

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 26, 2019 MEETING NOTES

- * Thirty PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
 - * Treasurer Wally Wallace, KK4ASP, presented her treasurer's report. A roster will be available next week by email and a hard copy at the next meeting listing members in "good standing".
 - * There was no ARES report.
 - * Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. Although the propagation indexes indicate poor operating conditions, members are still making DX contacts. The bottom of Cycle 24 appears to be a year away.
 - * Starting with this meeting, due to the generosity of Jamie (KJ4JK) and Susan (KI4NSS) King, a door prize will given--raffled--to some lucky member. For this meeting, two additional prizes were donated by Pete Zawasky, AG7C.
 - * President Bill Michne, reported that he had met with the Pamlico Middle School STEM coordinator. He proposed a Spring program on radio, how it works, perhaps building a crystal set, a low power AM transmitter, and ending with a Fox Hunt. He is awaiting a response on his proposal.
 - * Bill has had requests for and interest in license exam sessions and CW training. Both will be pursued. Those interested in learning Morse code should contact Bill. "Over-the-air" training using the Oriental repeater was suggested.
 - * Latent water damage to feed lines and antenna components from the September hurricane is a real possibility. Bill showed examples and recommended members look for evidence of damage.
 - * Lor Kutchins, W3QA, updated the members on the ARRL petition to the FCC to remove the outdated 300 baud limit on HF in favor of a 2.8 KHz bandwidth limitation. New protocols allow for much higher speed data transfer on narrow bandwidths. The proposal has been sitting without action for over 6 years and recently has come under attack by a "wireless expert", using this petition to claim all WinLink protocols are "encrypted" and forbidden by Part 78 rules. Lor, as president of the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation has submitted a rebuttal that clearly and factually justifies the petition. FCC action has been slowed by the government shutdown.
 - * The meeting was adjourned at 1045.
- (PARSgram 2019-01-28)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Feb 23, 2019 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-eight PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
- * Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Treasurer Wally Wallace, KK4ASP.
- * Emergency Coordinator Mike Hurm, K4HPS, reported 5 emergency nets in October for 7.94 man-hours (Mh), 4 in November for 7.38 Mh, 4 in December for 11.72 Mh, and 5 in January for 14.25 Mh.
- * Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low with no Sunspots on 37 days in 2019 so far. Lack of Sunspots correlates with a mostly quiet geomagnetic field and low radio noise levels. DX signals may be weak but stations workable in these conditions, particularly on 160, 80 and 40 meters.
- * President's update--
 - The club license admin info has been brought up to date. The club call can be "checked out" for use during contests. Bill maintains and responds to requests for QSL cards.
 - Quarterly license exams sessions are on track, the first will be on Saturday, Apr 6th. "Field stocking" of materials has been approved. Exams can be administered on other than scheduled days as needed.
 - PARS' ARRL Field Day will be at the Pamlico Shrine Building again this year. According to Mike Hurm, the Shriners are planning to offer a BBQ Dinner for contesters and guests. More details to come.
 - Challenges continue with proposed PARS support to the STEM program for Pamlico Middle School. Bill is now researching possible involvement in the state regional science fair.
- * From the Floor- Bruce, KS8L, asked members to help with the 2019 MS 150 Bicycle Ride this year now scheduled for 7-8 September. The long rides through Pamlico County are on Saturday, those closer to New Bern on Sunday.
- * On behalf of our members, Bill presented a plaque to Jamie (KJ4JK) and Susan (KI4NSS) King recognizing their broad contributions over the years to the Amateur Radio service in Pamlico County. Founding members of PARS, they have been involved in almost every activity. They are moving to Salisbury, NC in March.
- * The meeting was adjourned at 0945.
(PARSgram 2019-02-25)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Mar 30, 2019 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-eight PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
- * Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Treasurer Wally Wallace, KK4ASP. He noted that he still has some donated HF transceivers available for short-term loan or purchase with the proceeds going to the club.
- * After over six years as Pamlico County ARES Coordinator, Mike Hurm, K4HPS, has retired from the post. Mike Marsh, K4NLC, has volunteered to take on the demanding task. On behalf of the members, Marsh thanked Mike for his years of service. He then spoke of the changes that ARRL has made to its program to keep in step with government and emergency services demands. He is organizing training sessions open to all those interested. (See discussion elsewhere in this PARSgram).
- * Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. Although there has been some recent activity, we have been without Sunspots on 58 days in 2019 so far. For a period approaching the cycle bottom, there are a surprising number of DXpeditions scheduled this year. DX is still to be had, especially on the low bands and during the "gray line". Both Bill and Jim, AI4WL, reported lots of activity on the bands during the recent QRP Sprint and the NC QSO Party. Apparently, there has not been much activity on the local repeater lately. Members were encouraged to make some noise.
- * President's update--
 - Bill reported he has reached a dead-end in his attempts to provide support to local STEM

programs--this was after a very successful program at PCHS in 2017. He also received no response from the coordinator of the regional science fair. Discussion followed about school clubs, invitations to Field Day, articles in school newsletters with no viable way to stimulate interest evident. In contrast to this lack of interest, it was reported that Cartaret County has funded an initiative to provide equipment and training for fire and emergency personnel at four fire stations.

- Other ideas to expose the public to amateur radio and the service that it provides were raised. Bruce, K4ONC, noted opportunities such as Croakerfest, the Dragonboat Races, and the Old Front Porch Music Festival. Not only information booths, but special event stations were mentioned. Member interest will be explored.

- Quarterly VE Sessions are on track and Bill has been "field stocked" enabling "on call" testing. Notices have been placed in the local newspapers and on towndock.net as well as listed on the ARRL and N4PRS Web Sites. It was suggested that flyers be posted on local bulletin boards. The first session is coming up on Saturday, April 6.

* From the Floor- Bill Olah, KR4LO, reported that the Oriental Repeater is now operating on batteries solely charged by solar power. The panels were placed, the donated controller installed and, after a period of evaluation, it was found to be operating flawlessly.

* The meeting was adjourned at 0950.

(PARSgram 2019-04-01)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) April 27, 2019 MEETING NOTES

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

* Jim, AI4WL encouraged the members to participate in next year's NC QSO Party, Sunday, Mar 1, 2020. Only 10 hours long on a

Sunday, it is a chance to offer much wanted Pamlico County and perhaps take away an award. Jim was 2nd in the In-State QRP category this year. PARS was second in the club category two years ago.

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Treasurer Wally Wallace, KK4ASP. The club replaced the filters used for Field Day originally purchased by Glenn, N4LV and lost in the hurricane.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low, 68 days (58%) without sunspots this year. The approaching bottom may be stretched out. DX is still to be had, especially on the low bands and during the "gray line". The digital modes, especially FT8 well suited to these unfavorable conditions, remain very popular.

* Jim noted that Joe Taylor and crew have developed and are releasing (beta) on April 29, 2019 the new FT4 Mode. Designed for contesting, it will compete with RTTY in terms of contact rates (more than 2 times faster than FT8) and retain many FT8 characteristics, e.g, narrow bandwidth, forward error correction, work with weak signals.

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our new ARES coordinator again spoke of the changes that ARRL has made to its program to keep in step with government and emergency services demands. Mike, Bill Olah KR4LO and Bruce, K4ONC, attended several training sessions and he welcomed others to participate. This month there were 4 practice Pamlico Emergency Nets for which there were 22 WinLink check-ins. Total April participation involved 54.2 man-hours. The May 2nd training session at PCC will be hands-on: practice installing Anderson power pole connectors. Next up, NVIS antennas and fan dipoles.

* President Bill addressed Field Day.

- Again at the Pamlico Shrine Club on NC306 in Grantsboro. Antenna/equipment set-up on Friday.

- Antennas and multiplexers accounted for.

- Full time or part time stations/providers: GOTA (Olah), CW (Michne), SSB (Perkins), Digital/FT8 (Go kit)(Kutchins), VHF (Hartmeyer), Satellite (Michne). Probably operate 2A.

- After FD, consolidate club equipment at Mike Marsh's barn.

- Tall pole will be operators. Plenty of seats to be filled.
 - Annual social/dinner planned for Saturday night.
 - * George Robinson, WG8AR, President of the Washington club spoke on their repeater upgrade. Taking advantage of a Yaesu promotion for clubs, the old Chocowinity repeater will be replaced with a 144/430MHz C4FM/FM Digital Repeater. It will allow continued use of conventional FM communication while integrating digital functions. In the following discussion, some interest was shown for replacement the Pamlico repeater to add the digital capability.
 - * From the Floor- Bill Olah, KR4LO, offered to present a class on repeaters following a future meeting. He also invited those interested to visit the Pamlico repeater site after this meeting.
 - * The meeting was adjourned at 1015. In the interest of time, the question of "What's a Hellschreiber?" was not answered.
 - * Bill Morine, N2COP, Vice Director of the ARRL Roanoke Division, will be our special guest speaker at the May meeting.
- (PARSgram 2019-04-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) May 25, 2019 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-eight PARS members, visitors and guests attended the breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantley's Village Restaurant. As part of our round of introductions, Bill welcomed our special guest, Bill Morine, N2COP, Vice Director of the ARRL Roanoke Division, to our meeting.
- * Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Treasurer Wally Wallace, KK4ASP.
- * Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low; no Sunspots now, 80 days (55%) without this year. The approaching bottom may be stretched out. DX is still to be had on HF and 6 Meters has awakened with E layer skip.
- * Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator reminded all of the next ARES Training Session on June 6th at which the emphasis will be on developing a radio plan for Field Day. Operations will involve at least 5 transceivers, 3 sharing one antenna.
- * The annual PARS Dinner on Field Day Saturday will be BBQ with all the fixins cooked on site by Shrine members at \$15/plate. A sign up sheet was started. By all reports these folks cook a great meal and it's not to be missed.
- * President Bill re-addressed Field Day.
 - Again at the Pamlico Shrine Club on NC306 in Grantsboro. Antenna/equipment set-up on Friday.
 - Transceivers, antennas and multiplexers accounted for. Expect to operate Voice, CW, Digital including WinLink and FT8.
 - WE WILL NEED OPERATORS. Plenty of seats to be filled, no waiting!
- * Bill gave KUDU's to Paul Jodoin, K4MMB, for his major improvements to the N4PRS Web site. It's now open, reorganized, easier to use. Give it a try! Send your photos and suggestions to Paul.
- * Bill, VP Bruce Perkins, K4ONC and Mike Marsh, K4NLC all attended Pamlico Non-Profits Breakfast. Mike gave a well received short pitch on ARES and EMCOM. Planning has already started for likely Oriental hosting of Cycle NC in CY2020.
- * PARS sponsored VE session scheduled for Saturday, Jul 6. Please get the word out to prospective HAMs.
- * Bruce reported that we will not participate in Croakerfest this year; that PARS shirts and Logo items are for sale on the web site, and the HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FORUM by the NWS is on track for June 12th. Expect forecast for this year. a H. Florence report, and questions answered.
- * Bruce yielded the floor to Vice Director Morine, who offered remarks that were wide ranging but centered on 4 major outcomes of the January ARRL Directors meeting:
 1. The ARRL has withdrawn its support for the Amateur Radio Parity Act. Those living in restrictive HOA's will not be insured consideration by their HOA for installation of effective antennas. After

nearly 6 years of review and near passage in Congress, one director convinced a majority of the others, mostly new, that the legislation as written was flawed.

2. Entry Level Licensing expanding HF privileges to the technician class is expected to go into effect in October.

3. New ARES Plan with 3 levels recognizes requirements of served agencies for acceptably trained and deployable volunteers while also recognizing the contribution of and need for "untrained" members.

4. Symbol Rate Petition to eliminate the current symbol rate restriction is expected to be accepted by the FCC. US only Country to be so limited, FCC has allowed "Pactor 4" rates in emergencies. The petition has a small but loud, vocal, and well funded opposition but with unfounded justification.

Q&A discussion included the Field Day Rules (no dupes) that frustrates GOTA success, QST Magazine focus, ARRL fiscal condition (good), ARRL membership survey and more.

Bill was thanked for a most thoughtful, informative and interesting presentation.

* The meeting was adjourned at 1055.

(PARSgram 2019-05-27)

PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX [NO MEETING IN JUNE DUE TO THE ARRL FIELD DAY]

Field Day 2019 is in the history books! All the equipment worked flawlessly. We were a little light on the total number of contacts made, in no small measure due to the poor propagation conditions. Bill, KR4LO, our GOTA guy, reports having heard only one station on 15 meters for the entire event. The 6 meter station struggled on Saturday, but seemed to open up a bit on Sunday. On 20 meters SSB QSO's were also hard to come by. The CW station fared the best, with many contacts on both 40 and 20 meters. New this year was a station set up for email via WinLink, which included interactive tutorial sessions by Lor, W3QA. Also new this year were the used equipment tables. A lot of great stuff found new homes. But the real highlight of the event was the dinner. The Shrine guys put on a barbecue (pork and chicken) which was among the best I've ever had. And folks were still raving about the dessert pudding the next day. I would like to thank each one individually who participated to make this event what it was, and would do so in this column except I'm sure I would miss someone. However, I would like to particularly thank Mike, K4NLC, for the outstanding job he did with the antenna system, the dinner arrangements, and the general interaction with the Shriners. Well done, all! I will have a complete report of the event at the July PARS meeting. de WM3X, Bill Michne, 252-249-1175, drnichne73@gmail.com.

(PARSgram 2019-06-24)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) July 27, 2019 MEETING NOTES

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

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Treasurer Wally Wallace, KK4ASP, and distributed copies of the club roster. The club made a \$250 donation to the Pamlico Shrine Club for the use of their building for Field Day. It was enclosed with a letter of thanks describing PARS achievements during the event.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low; no Sunspots now, 136 days (65%) without this year. DX is still to be had on HF especially when using digital modes. 6 Meters has delivered surprisingly well with E layer skip this season.

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator reported 9 sessions in May for 51.5 mh and 42.66 mh in June. Due to training sessions for AUXCOM, the monthly ARES training has been rescheduled to August 15 and the planned local SET to Aug 21. Participation in the national SET 5-6 October is being considered.

* President Bill delivered PARS Field Day results: 17 participants plus uncounted guests; no GOTA

contacts due to poor propagation and few signals on 17 meters. 128 QSOs, 83 of those on CW. 1772 points claimed, most being bonus points. ARRL reported participation up in 2019 with 3070 entries submitted.

* Cycle NC is coming back to Oriental in April 2020. After lengthy discussion, the need for PARS services was questioned although requested by the Tourism Board. The event organizers now bring their own equipment and cell service in the county has improved. At the same time the APRS infrastructure used by PARS to support the event with location service last time has disappeared. A not-to-interfere parallel ARES exercises a possibility.

* The Bike MS organizers do welcome amateur radio support. A number of PARS members continue to assist each year. Expect more information as the 2019 event dates of September 7-8 get closer.

* As with the Cycle NC operation, although our help was requested by the local planners, the commercial Dragon Boat organization brings their own communications equipment. As PARS POC, Bruce, K4ONC, proposed a special event HF station instead. This would promote the event and also amateur radio on Saturday Aug 10th. Both the event planners and PARS members agreed. [See Bruce's request elsewhere in this PARSgram.]

* Three lucky members took home the remaining door prizes donated by Jamie King, KJ4JK. Thanks, Jamie!

* The meeting was adjourned at 0950.

(PARSgram 2019-07-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) August 31, 2019

No notes were taken during this meeting. It is likely that most of the discussion revolved around approaching Hurricane Dorian.

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Sep 28, 2019 MEETING NOTES

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

* Sam/Dave, KD2T, circulated his recent 13 Colonies award, clean sweeps using CW and Digital modes.

* Treasurer Wally Wallace, KK4ASP, presented her monthly report.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low; no Sunspots for 196 days (72%) so far this year. Considering the bottom year in our previous cycle had 73% of its days without, the bottom for cycle 24 is near. DX is still to be had on HF especially when using digital modes.

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator reported 5 training sessions in August for 13.2 mh and 45 mh of Auxcom training. In Sep there were 4 sessions for 14.4 mh.

The training session on 8 Aug involved set-up and use of fldigi. The 21 Aug SET focused on coms to/from the County Evacuation Center using both repeater and simplex.

Hurricane Dorian which passed during the early morning of 6 Sep caused activation of the Pamlico Emergency Net the day prior. Glenn N4LV, deployed for 48 hours to the Evac center. The net proved a most valuable resource during the 4 hours the phone lines were down that Friday. Mike, Bill KR4LO, and Bruce, K4ONC deployed in shifts to support the County EOC.

Due to set-up and test of State WinLink equipment on 13 Oct, there will be no ARES training session in October.

Bill Michne observed that the August SET showed a need for more simplex training and better station equipment, especially antennas. HT's with rubber ducks will not do if the repeater fails.

* President Bill reminded all of the VE session next Saturday, Oct 5.

* A tech/general preparation course is a possibility if there is sufficient interest. Suggestions were for a course after the New Year and at the PCC Bayboro Annex.

* The President's Soapbox on what we are called--Amateurs--and the impression that "Radio" is an

"ancient technology" sparked by a Weather Channel interview has drawn considerable comment. We need to re-title ourselves and what we do to remain relevant. We are not "amateurs" and "wireless" might well replace "radio". "Federally Licensed Wireless Operators" has been suggested. Thoughts and ideas to Bill please!

* Annual election of officers will occur at the October meeting.

* In New Business, Paul, K4MMB, reported he is advertising the PARS website on Towndock. The idea is to inform the public on PARS and generate interest in ham radio. Kudus to Paul on the much improved site.

* Eddie Lyon, K4NGR, has found interest by a few others in gaining proficiency in CW. Are there more? Perhaps a practice net could be started. Contact Eddie at elyon47@aol.com.

* The meeting was adjourned at 0950.

(PARSgram 2019-09-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Oct 27, 2019 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-five PARS members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* Charlie, WA4GSI, had an uplifting contact with a young operator at K6DGE, the station of the Dorothy Grant Elementary School Radio Amateur Club. There's hope, Charlie says. And Dick, K4JJW, reported a recent contact with Brian Otter, 9J2BO in Zambia. This was a truly remarkable contact: it was on the 47th anniversary of their first QSO!

* Treasurer Wally Wallace, KK4ASP, presented her monthly report. We're solvent.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low; no Sunspots during the most recent 23 day stretch and none for 222 days (74%) so far this year. This surpasses the 221 days with none in all of 2018 and considering the bottom year in our previous cycle had 73% of its days without. The question now is how low will this cycle go. All said, DX is still to be had on HF especially when using digital modes.

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator, reported 4 training sessions in October for 9 mh. On 3 Oct, 5 members rang out two State AUXCOMM WinLink kits. Log on to NCterms to sign up for the 23 Nov WinLink operation class using the WinLink kits at the Florence-Whortonsville FD.

* Lor, W3QA, updated the group on the challenge to WinLink and other digital services by the NYU Wireless group and Prof. Rappaport. They have petitioned the FCC to ban all forms of digital communications that cannot be readily decoded (read) off the air. This promises to reel back the state of the art, end compression, and most forms of digital communication, many of which are used to support EMComm. A group in opposition is to meet with the FCC. Gerald, KN4CKL, and others from the floor, questioned the motives of the NYU group and its sponsors.

* President Bill reported that all current officers were willing to stand for re-election and asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, Dick K4JJW, moved that the slate of current officers be nominated as a group. The motion was seconded and the slate was elected by acclamation.

* There appears to be enough interest for a tech/general preparation course. Now likely, it will be after the New Year and at the PCC Bayboro Annex if arrangements can be made.

* Bill advised that the Newport Repeater is IRLP capable and users are welcome. IRLP operation is now simplified. More to come on this capability.

* According to Bill Olah, KR4LO, there also appears to be sufficient interest in a Fox Hunt. Planning will begin.

* Bill Olah advised that PARS member Dennis Giorgio, KD2DSY, sustained a severe stroke recently and is in the Pruitt Nursing Home in New Bern. Visitors are encouraged as are phone calls (cell 862-324-5339). Members plan to help Dennis toward gaining his General license.

- * VP Bruce, found enough interest in a PARS logo baseball cap to proceed with an initial order.
 - * The meeting was adjourned at 0951.
- (PARSgram 2019-10-28)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Nov 30, 2019 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-one PARS members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am breakfast meeting chaired by Vice President Bruce Perkins, K4ONC at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* Dick Goodwin, K4JJW reported receiving the Worked All States Award (WAS) on 160 Meters.

* Treasurer Wally Wallace, KK4ASP, presented her monthly report. Notice of PARS and ARRL renewals were mailed to members early in November.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low; no Sunspots during the most recent 17 day stretch and none for 253 days (76%) so far this year. We are at the bottom of Cycle 24--the bottom year in our previous cycle had 73% of its days without. A quick survey indicated PARS members have not abandoned their radios. During the past month of those present:

-12 (57%) were on HF

-10 on HF SSB

-6 on digital (other than cW)

-4 on CW

-4 (20%) on Weak signal VHF

-12 (57%) on a FM Repeater

And 7 members indicated they use Over-the-Air (Antenna) TV! Local users will need to rescan their channels on or after 10 December. ENC FOX and PBS stations are changing their RF channels as mandated by the FCC to provide spectrum for G5 cell service.

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator, reported 4 training sessions in November for 14.6 mh. On 7 Nov, Lor, W3QA, briefed the AUXCOMM group on APRS; on 23 Nov Gary, NC3Z, conducted a course on WinLink for AUXCOMM at the Florence-Whortonsville FD. Over 20 from around NC attended including 6 PARS members.

Mike encouraged members to look at the VARA software as inexpensive substitute for PACTOR hardware.

The next AUXCOMM/ARES meeting will be 6 Feb 2020 at Pamlico Community College.

* Paul, K4MMB, reported that the PARS Website has been active: 129 visitors during the month, some of those were due to a PARS add on the Towndock.net website. Ten of those present indicated they had used the site during Nov.

* Bill Olah updated the group on the condition of PARS member Dennis Giorgio, KD2DSY, who sustained a severe stroke and is in the Pruitt Nursing Home in New Bern. Dennis now has a handheld but can only reach the New Bern repeater due to his location. Visitors are encouraged as are phone calls (cell 862-324-5339).

* PARS will not be involved with the Cycle NC visit to Oriental in 2020. The organization has its own communications capability.

* Contact Bill Michne if you can help take down antennas at Priscilla's, N4TNP, on Whittaker Creek Rd.

* There appears to be interest in an overview of WinLink following a future PARS meeting. Bruce mentioned several WinLink nets that he uses to maintain proficiency.

* Is the proposed Tech/General class still on? There is some interest.

* The group discussed increasing the \$10 "limit" on gifts for the Christmas exchange. It was agreed that \$10 should remain but only as a guide.

* VP Bruce, distributed PARS logo baseball caps to those who ordered them.

* The meeting was adjourned at 0955.

(PARSgram 2019-12-02)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) Dec 28, 2019 MEETING NOTES

- * Seventeen PARS members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
 - * Bill presented the treasurer's report and opened a discussion of the club's liability insurance policy. The current policy appears adequate although it does not provide Directors and Officers' coverage which will be addressed. Coverage for the privately owned W4SLH Oriental Repeater which our members maintain was discussed. It was noted that ARRL may offer insurance coverage.
 - * Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. Two sunspot regions from Cycle 25 appeared on Dec 24 but disappeared 3 days after. Although the bottom continues, DX is still to be had on HF especially when using digital modes.
 - * Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator, reported 4 training sessions in December for 10.7 mh. The next ARES/AUXCOMM meeting will be 7 p.m. February 6th at PCC. Required to qualify at level 2, EC001-S is now available on-line; courses 100, 200 and 700 are prerequisites. See the ARRL website for more.
 - * Bill reported that Marvin Hoffman, WA4NC, of Boone will become the new ARRL NC Section Manager when Karl Bowman's term expires this Spring.
 - * He also announced that Paul, k4MMB, has volunteered to handle club PIO duties for Pamlico County media. Janice has agreed to continue for outlets outside our county. It was a stretch for Janice to cover Pamlico from her home in Stella.
 - * Licensing exams will continue on a quarterly basis in CY2020--they are now scheduled for Jan 4, Apr 4, Jul 11 and Oct 3.
 - * Plans are being made for a 4 week Tech course followed by a General level course this Winter. They will be at the PCC Bayboro Annex if arrangements can be made.
 - * Bill remarked on ARRL lab compliance tests reported in the Jan 2020 QST Magazine. One manufacturer sells products clearly out of compliance.
 - * Paul reported the club web site has had 471 visitors in the last 120 days. Most came from Google searches, many from Towndock add.
 - * Bill Olah has visited Denny Giorgio, KD2DSY, weekly and Denny would welcome visitors. He is in the Pruitt Nursing Home in New Bern. Visitors are encouraged as are phone calls (cell 862-324-5339).
 - * Bill O. also shared his excitement with his new SDR Play, a remarkable device for a relatively low price.
 - * Ahead: "Intro to WinLink" in February, Skywarn Course/Refresher.
 - * The meeting was adjourned at 0956 followed by the annual holiday gift exchange.
- (PARSgram 2019-12-30)