

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
2020

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 Marsh, K4NLC
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 25, 2020 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-six PARS members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am breakfast meeting chaired by President Bill Michne, WM3X, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
- * Sam/Dave, KD2T, reported reaching his 9th band DXCC after getting his endorsement for 160M. Dick, K4JJW has his stamps for 300 countries on 40, 30, and 20M, all since moving to his current QTH in 2000!
- * Bill presented the treasurer's report and updated the group on the club's liability insurance policy. The current policy covers liability for a premium of \$320 but does not provide Directors and Officers coverage. It could be added for an additional premium of \$750. Much less expensive, coverage for both through an ARRL vendor was found for \$200/year. It will start when the current policy expires in February.
- * Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. After 10 days of none, one sunspot region from old cycle 24 appeared yesterday. We can expect a mix of old and new cycle sunspots as we move into the new cycle. The Solar Flux Index 90 day average has already risen over the last month from 69 to 71. The geomagnetic field has been very quiet. Expect slowly improving conditions, especially on the 80 to 20 meter bands.
- * Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator, reported 4 training sessions in January for 10.8 mh. The next ARES/AUXCOMM meeting will be 7 p.m. February 6th at PCC, a go-kit show and tell.
- * Rather than purchase an expensive (\$60) replacement lamp for the club's projector purchased in 2008, it was agreed to purchase a new projector (NTE \$300) and sell the old one.
- * Only one person has registered for the Winter Technician course slated for Monday nights at PCC. Rescheduling to another night will be investigated to allow interested station 25 firefighters and others to take the course.
- * Priscilla, N4TNP, thanked those who removed her hurricane damaged antennas and Bill, WM3X, for restoring her VHF station to operable condition.
- * Bruce, KS8L, advised that Bike MS information has been emailed to those who assisted in past years. He asked that others that wish to help this year contact him (at 252-670-2937). The event will be on 26-27 Sep 2020.
- * Paul, K4MMB, reported the club web site (www.n4prs.org) has had 400 visitors in the last month. Members were reminded by Jim, AI4WL, that the PARSgram is archived on the site soon after it is emailed to members. Given email distribution to yahoo and AOL users has become unreliable,

consideration is being given to stop emailing the newsletter as it is available on the website.

* Following the business meeting, Lor Kutchins, W3QA, presented an overview of WINLINK, the Winlink Global Radio Email system. The system, now over 25 years old, consists of radio messaging connectivity that uses amateur and government frequencies that interfaces with the internet to provide a robust means of utilitarian as well as emergency, and relief communications. Lor announced a NEW WINLINK individually paced "COURSE", a set of 10 tutorial exercises that will explore the features of WinLink, not only for PARS members but also for AUXCOMM members statewide. TO PARTICIPATE CONTACT Lor at lor_kutchins@gmail.com and receive your first task. (PARSgram 2020-01-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) FEB 29, 2020 MEETING NOTES

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

* Dick, K4JJW showed and talked about his recently awarded ARRL DXCC Challenge plaque recognizing confirming "2500 countries" (250 entities X 10 bands). This is most remarkable since it has been done in less than 17 years from Fairfield Harbor using wire antennas!

* Wally presented her treasurer's report. Bill advised he will soon order the new projector to replace the old one, recently sold.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. The Sun has been blank, no sunspots, for almost a month. We can expect a mix of old and new cycle sunspots as we move into the new cycle. The geomagnetic field has been very quiet. Expect slowly improving conditions, especially on the 80 to 20 meter bands.

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator, reported 4 net training sessions in February for 11.59 mh, one other training event for 9 mh. The next ARES/AUXCOMM meeting will be 7 p.m. March 5th at PCC. Cross-band operations will be covered by Bill Olah, KR4LO. Establishing a Community Emergency Response Team in Oriental was discussed; Mike and Bruce, K4ONC have just completed the CERT Train the Trainer course.

* Lor, W3QA, updated the group on the ongoing individually paced WINLINK "COURSE", a set of 10 tutorial exercises that explores the features of WinLink. 54 folks are participating, statewide. Contact Lor if you wish to take the course.

* Two Technician courses are underway, the first on Monday nights at PCC, the second on Friday nights at the Florence-Whortonsville Fire Department. Students will take their exam at the scheduled session in April.

* Bruce Arnold, K8SL advised the Down-East Hamfest at Lenoir CC in Kinston will be held this year on Saturday, April 4th

* Paul, K4MMB, reported the club web site (www.n4prs.org) had 97 visitors last month. Please send in your photos of club activities. Members were again reminded by Jim, AI4WL, that the PARSgram can be found on the site soon after it is emailed to members.

* The meeting was adjourned at 0940.

(PARSgram 2020-03-02)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) March 28, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

* Nineteen PARS members checked-in to the 9 am breakfast meeting net chaired by President Bill Michne using the club call, N4PRS, on the Oriental Repeater. Bill advised that the net will meet on the last Saturday of the month during periods of restricted activity or mobility such as that caused by the corona virus pandemic.

* There being no reports of awards or upgrades, Bill reported first try success while testing his homebrew vertical. With only 4 radials planted, he had to give it a try and worked 5B4MAA in Cyprus on 40 meters CW. [Reportedly, he's resting on his success while putting down the other 36 or so

radials--Jim]

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. Our balance is little changed from last month. Bill advised he will order the new projector to replace the old one when it seems prudent. The projector is coming from NYC, hotspot of the virus.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity continues to be very low. The Sun has been blank, no sunspots, for an 18 day stretch; 77 percent of our days so far this year have been without. We can expect a mix of old and new cycle sunspots in the months ahead but we are unlikely to see much improvement until year's end according to the experts. The geomagnetic field has been mostly quiet. Expect slowly improving conditions, especially on the 80 to 20 meter bands.

* On the contest side, Jim, AI4WL, offered the 4 hour long North American SSB Sprint Contest on Saturday night, April 4th, 8 pm to midnight. Only on the 20, 40, and 80 Meter Bands, it is rather unique with "running" not permitted. Check it all out at <http://ssbsprint.com>

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator, reported 4 net training sessions in March for 15.9 mh, and the March ARES/AUXCOMM meeting for 7 mh. Cross-band operations were covered by Bill Olah, KR4LO. Due to COVID-19 there will be no ARES/AUXCOMM meetings in April or May.

* Bill reported that the two Technician courses are continuing, the Monday night class at PCC is being finished via self study and telephone/email assist, the second continues on Friday nights at the Florence-Whortonsville Fire Department. Students will take their exam at the restricted VE session on April 4th at the FHVFD.

* Paul, K4MMB, reported the club web site (www.n4prs.org) has had 382 visitors this year with 921 pages visited. This month the site had 192 visitors, 43 in the past week.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned/net closed at 0921.

(PARSgram 2020-03-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) April 25, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

* Fourteen PARS members checked-in to the 9 am breakfast meeting net on the Oriental Repeater controlled by President Bill Michne using the club call, N4PRS, Bill advised that the net will meet on the last Saturday of the month during periods of restricted activity or mobility such as that caused by the corona virus pandemic.

* There were no reports of awards or upgrades. VEC testing is at a standstill.

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. Our balance is up \$20 since last month due to sale of donated equipment.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity remains very low with no sunspots for 90 days so far this year. The solar minimum continues. Early this month the Space Weather Prediction Center published its prediction for Cycle 25. SWPC predicts a solar maximum between 105 and 125 (sunspot number) with the peak occurring between Nov. 2024 and Mar. 2026. Most forecasts have the maximum plus or minus 20% of Cycle 24. For comparison and in response to Bill's question, the peak of famous Cycle 19 occurred in Oct. 1957 with monthly values around 360 and a smoothed monthly average of 284. [For interactive charts go to <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression>].

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator, reported that net checkins are running 12-13, with 5-7 WinLink checkins. His total is 15.74 man hours for the month with one Wednesday night practice yet to go. All AUXCOMM training is on hold pending re-opening of PCC.

* Webmaster Paul, K4MMB, delivered the stats on N4PRS.org usage. For the month to date there were 159 visitors, 347 pages seen, and most of the visitors were from the US. Please send your photos of PARS/ham related activities for posting to the club website.

* Regarding Field Day, what should we do? With Covid-19 restrictions precluding a normal field day, ARRL wants clubs to be "creative". Operation from the Shrine Club is a non-option so Bill offered three options noting there are probably more:

1) Operate from home with or without emergency power, individually submit score and report PARS

club membership. Scores not aggregated by club. This is the ARRL proposal.

2) Intra-club competition. Competition between members to see who made the most contacts, highest score etc.

3) Set up some inter-club competition, perhaps with New Bern or Cararet.

Bill recommended option one but encourages other other ideas. Lively discussion followed on issues such as no GOTA station, dups if individual scores are aggregated to make up a N4PRS submission, keep it simple to encourage members to participate, differences in logging programs, prizes for any intra-club competition like PARS caps, limits to operating time for option 2 [operate the contest like a short sprint] etc. Send your thoughts and ideas to Bill.

* Bruce, K4ONC, with Hurricane season approaching, reminded members that the TarHeel Emergency Net is being given a new life. It meets daily at 1930 hours on 3.923 MHz. Marv Hoffman, WA4NC, our NC Section Manager, hosts the net on Thursday nights,

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned/net closed at 0938.
(PARSgram 2020-04-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) May 30, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

* Fifteen PARS members checked-in to the 9 am breakfast meeting net on the Oriental Repeater. It was controlled by President Bill Michne using the club call, N4PRS. Bill was operating from the Florence-Whortonsville Fire Department, the site of the postponed VE Session/License Exam for students of the Winter Tech Course. Before the net check-in sequence, examinees Steve, Bud and Joe greeted net members.

* There were no reports of awards or upgrades.

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. There was no change from the April report.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity remains very low with no sunspots however flare activity occurred yesterday on the backside of the Sun giving us a very slight chance of an M-Class flare in the next few days. [The Sunspot dissipated before rotating into view--Jim]. We are into a 28 day stretch without Sunspots, 119 days for the year, so the solar minimum continues. That said, there is DX to be found on HF and VHF, even from Pamlico County. Six Meters has been particularly active this past week.

* Mike Marsh, K4NLC, our ARES coordinator, reported 13.9 man hours for the four net practices in the month of May. All AUXCOMM training is on hold pending re-opening of PCC.

* Regarding Field Day, the ARRL has made two important rule changes for 2020. First, Class D (home stations using commercial power) stations can work other Class D stations for credit. Second, home stations can report club affiliation. From that, a total aggregate score will be published for each club. This is just like what most major contests provide: a total score for clubs made up of those reported by club members. The ARRL has urged vendors of contest logs to modify their programs to accommodate these important changes. Bill offered we will talk more about Field day via the PARSgam in the weeks ahead.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned/net closed at 0914.
(PARSgram 2020-06-01)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) June 27, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

* Eleven PARS members checked-in to the 9 am meeting net on the Oriental Repeater. It was controlled by President Bill Michne using the club call, N4PRS.

* There were no reports of awards, upgrades or special QSO's.

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. The only activity was to pay the annual rental for our post office box.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity remains very low with no sunspots for 11 days in a row. The solar minimum continues. For Field Day weekend we should have good conditions on 80 and 40 Meters,

poor on the higher bands. Six meters was active this morning on FT8 so we hope for some good E layer skip.

* Regarding Field Day, Bill invited all to operate his station which will be using the club call, N4PRS. Jim reminded the members not to forget that copying the W1AW Bulletin adds 100 bonus points to your score as does operating with emergency power for 1E stations. Visiting operators under 18 earn 20 bonus points for each contact. Most important, list our club, the "Pamlico Amateur Radio Society, LTD." on your entry. Bruce added that there are bonus points for WinLink messages so check out the Field Day rules for formal messages. Bill asked those operating to monitor the Oriental Repeater over the weekend for more on Field Day.

* Paul provided the monthly numbers for hits on the club web site: 3 today, 6 yesterday, 25 over the last 7 days, 212 during the last 30 and 1,515 the last 12 months.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned/net closed at 0915.

(PARSgram 2020-06-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) JULY 25, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

* Twelve PARS members checked-in to the 9 am meeting net on the Oriental Repeater. It was controlled by President Bill Michne using the club call, N4PRS.

* There were no reports of awards, upgrades or special QSO's.

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. There was no financial activity in July.

* Propagation Report: Solar activity remains very low. A sunspot region has just appeared. It is from new Cycle 25. We are experiencing some geomagnetic activity due solar wind mixed with remnants from a minor coronal mass ejection. Six meters has been quiet for the past week.

* Mike, K4NLC, reported the Pamlico Emergency Net generated 12 man-hours from 4 sessions in July with one to go. He noted check-ins have fallen off as have WinLink check-ins, not a good thing as we are a month into Hurricane season. Mike advises members to check their equipment and check-in to the net. No EMCOMM sessions are planned until PCC is again available.

* Regarding Field Day, Bill reported that the scores from 5 member home stations resulted in 3,417 a aggregate score for the club, considerably more than the scores achieved at Field Day site the past two years. [More details in the President's Soapbox.] The last day to submit logs is Tuesday, July 28th.

* John Keating, KB1KW, advised that Janice Hopkins, KJ4JPE, is in the hospital in Morehead City due to a medical condition. She is expected to be transferred to Crystal Plus for rehabilitation. Cards or notes would be welcomed. Janice's home address is listed on "QRZ" and the PARS members roster.

* Jim, AI4WL, advised that a new broadband survey is underway by the NC Department of Information Technology to gather information on locations without adequate internet access or speed with a goal to "achieve affordable broadband access for all". [FCC defines broadband as 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up. The NIT database shows over 84 percent of the County's population having access to that level of service yet the same database shows only 3 percent have access to fiber. This rosy picture of broadband access is obviously incorrect. Selection of counties to receive significant funding is coming soon. A realistic picture of our residents' needs is vital.] To access the online survey visit <https://ncbroadband.gov/survey>.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned/net closed at 0924.

(PARSgram 2020-07-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) AUG 29, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

* Twelve PARS members checked-in to the 9 am meeting net on the Oriental Repeater. It was controlled by President Bill Michne using the club call, N4PRS. Bill is seeing a decline in net participation the last two months.

* There were no reports of awards, upgrades or special QSO's.

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. There was no financial activity in August.

* Propagation Report by Jim, AI4WL: Solar activity remains very low. Solar Flux 90 day average 70, a slight but welcome increase. We are experiencing some geomagnetic activity due solar wind from coronal holes. Fair night conditions on 80, 40, & 20 meter bands, poor otherwise. VHF bands have been quiet. He noted that operating during the short periods of the "gray line" has continued to be productive on 20 and 40 meters.

* Mike, K4NLC, reported the Pamlico Emergency Net generated 11.53 man-hours from 4 sessions in August. He also noted check-ins have fallen off for the emergency net. No EMCOMM sessions are planned until PCC is again available. He's planning a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in 2-3 weeks, simplex based. In response to a question regarding Hurricane Laura AUXCOMM participation, LOR, W3QA, advised NC has a communications strike team formed and on-call to deploy. The TX and LA infrastructure is spotty but working with less damage than expected.

* Paul, K4MMB, reported 123 visitors to the N4PRS.org web site so far this month, with the average being 160/month. Most visitors saw 2 to 3 pages each. Hacking attempts continue but software is blocking entry. Paul again asked for notes/articles and photos of PARS/local ham activity. For the photos, medium resolution is good.

* The FCC is proposing charging fees for amateur licensing actions causing considerable concern. According to Bill, on the day after the announcement, QRZ reported 8,800 views on the information release and over 200 comments. See the ARRL home page for more information and how to formally comment on this proposal which, if implemented, will harm ham radio.

* Bruce, K4ONC, proposed having our meetings on "Zoom" with the audio portion via the Oriental Repeater. Bill offered to explore this and asked Steve, KO4EDA, an expert on Zoom, if he would help. Steve quickly agreed.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned/net closed at 0924.

(PARSgram 2020-08-31)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) SEP 26,2020 VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

* Fifteen PARS members attended the 9 am meeting chaired by President Bill Michne via Zoom. Steve Silveira, KO4EDA, was our technical host.

* There were no reports of awards or special QSO's. Bill reported that former member Ron Turner now living in Dunn, after inquiring about an Extra Exam here, successfully passed his exam remotely. Bill is going to research the process for application here. Bruce Arnold advised the NB club is doing on-site testing on the even months at the Rehms Fire Department. The Morehead club is still testing on the odd months

* Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. Dues from PARS exam class graduates, Steve and Bud, will be applied to 2021. Membership for the year in which the course is accomplished and exam passed is free.

* Propagation Report by Jim, AI4WL: Solar activity remains low. 1 new Sunspot region, small but active, caused a C1 flare affecting Pacific HF Sep 25th. Solar Flux 90 day average is 70. We are experiencing some geomagnetic activity due solar wind from coronal holes. Fair night conditions exist on 80, 40, & 20 meter bands, poor otherwise. VHF bands are closed. Bill noted that Tom, KI4NSP, is making European contacts on 20M SSB daily, but Bill's seeing few on CW. Jim and Lor, W3QA, both recommended digital modes. FT8 users are producing lots of signals and we're seeing more JS8, PSK.

* Mike, K4NLC, reported the Pamlico Emergency Net generated 11.02 man-hours from 4 sessions in Sept, lots of in-outs. A Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is planned for Wed, Sep 21, simplex based. Bill, KR4LO, offered his strong station ILO the EOC for this exercise. The goal is to identify who can talk to who via simplex in worst case situation. A connectivity diagram could result. Steve offered a GIS tool that could map participating stations. Separately, Jim was advised that the the Stacy 440 repeater is connected to the Linked Repeater Network (LRN). The LRN is used daily at 1900 for a NTS net and for the monthly Hospital Net, 2nd Tuesday's at noon.

* Paul, K4MMB, reported only 49 visitors to the N4PRS.org web site in the last 30 days while the average is about 160/month. Most visitors looked at the repeater page and the "What's Happening" page and the PARSgram. Given the challenges of weekly emailing of the PARSgram, Bill opened a discussion of not emailing it but only posting the PARSgram to the web site. For a variety of reasons, including information management, security, distribution control and readership (push vs. pull) it seems best to continue as is in the near term.

* PARS election is in October. Bill, recognizing that our officers have been in office for years asks for others to help. A discussion of virtual balloting by very few participating members ensued. Mike suggested that the current officers continue at least until the members can meet in person. Bill will elicit their willingness to again serve while hoping others will step forward.

* Steve, KO4EDA, demonstrated some of the capabilities of the Zoom meeting application by using a tour of his desktop. He identified many of the key user features and controls. Follow-on discussion indicated significant member support for this new tool be it for meetings, informal classes or for real time "how-to" help.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1018.

(PARSgram 2020-10-12)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) OCT 31, 2020 MEETING NOTES

* Thirteen PARS members attended the 9 am meeting chaired by President Bill Michne via Zoom. Steve Silveira, KO4EDA, was our technical host.

* Regarding reports of awards or special QSO's, Dick, K4JJW, reported clean sweeps in the 13 Colonies Contest. Bill reported his new antenna is doing fine, thank you. Testing it out on 30M, he worked a station in Mali on his first try. Eddie, K4NGR, has won the Straight Key Century Club's (SKCC) Centurion Award after making 100 contacts with other SKCC members--we assume, using a straight key.

* Bill reported Wally is working on the 2021 dues notices. The club is solvent.

* Propagation Report by Jim, AI4WL: Solar activity is improving. 2 departing Sunspot regions soon to be replaced by 2 new ones. Slight chance of M-class flares. Solar Flux 90 day average is 72, a significant increase. Fair nighttime conditions exist on 80, 40, 20 & 15 meter bands, poor otherwise. 6 Meter contacts have been mostly meteor scatter; 2M via weather enhanced tropo ducting.

* Mike, K4NLC, reported the Pamlico Emergency Net generated 17.57 man-hours from 4 sessions in Oct. The Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Wed, Oct 21, went well with good participation. Participants and the EC were able to identify the stations they could reliably connect with directly using 2M FM simplex in a worst case situation. Pamlico AUXCOMM will get a boost with establishment of a DMR repeater at the Florence-Whortonsville VFD. Lor, W3QA, explained the differences between ARES and AUXCOMM stressing the need for both.

* Paul, K4MMB, reported 70 visitors to the N4PRS.org web site in the last 30 days. They they looked at 231 pages. The repeater page remains the most visited.

* As for the annual election of officers, Bill had canvased the current officers and found them all willing to stand for reelection. There being no other nominations received prior to the meeting or from the floor, Dick, K4JJW moved and the members present voted to reelect the current officers by acclamation. Bill is hoping for the next year to bring more club projects, Fox Hunts, and find mentors for new ham members. Lor revealed he is involved in a Pico Balloon project and that led to a exchange about STEM and the challenges of getting young students interested in ham radio.

* Roanoke Division Vice Director, Bill Morine, N2COP, is establishing a forum for ARRL affiliated club presidents. Bill Michne plans to participate on behalf of PARS.

* Recognizing some freezing of video during the Zoom meeting by some participants, not only was the issue of uneven internet service and limited bandwidth discussed, but also the recent elevated cyber activity affecting speed/denial of service, server intrusions, probes, and more.

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 0955.
(PARSgram 2020-11-02)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) ~~SEP 26, 2020~~ NOV 28, 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

- * Seventeen PARS members attended the 9 am meeting chaired by President Bill Michne via Zoom. Steve Silveira, KO4EDA, was our technical host.
- * Dick, K4JJW, received his DXCC Honor Roll Sticker reflecting confirming 331 entities to his credit.
- * Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. He reminded all that the club gets to keep two dollars from each ARRL renewal made through the club. The 2021 call for dues letters were sent out this week to those active in 2020.
- * Propagation Report by Jim, AI4WL: Solar activity improving with 4 Sunspot regions facing Earth, one of them being the largest in years. M-class flares are possible daily. Bill mentioned a study forecasting Cycle 25 will be the best in years contrasting with most specialists' view of another quiet one.
- * Mike, K4NLC, reported the Pamlico Emergency Net generated 10.45 man-hours from 4 sessions in Nov with WinLink check-ins dwindling. IC classes (100,200,700 & 800) have been updated, purging of NC AUXCOMM database continues. Even though certification is encouraged, local ARES participation is still needed, especially to report local conditions during emergencies.
- * The donated IC 746Pro will be placed at the PCC Emergency Evacuation Center in the security office. With renovation of the building, the existing VHF feedline will need to be replaced/re-routed. Antennas for HF were discussed.
- * Paul, K4MMB, reported attempts to access the PARS web site by some with suspect intent continue. The software used does a good job of blocking unauthorized access. There were 108 visitors during the month looking at 179 pages. He called for folks to send photos and information about ham related activities for the popular "what's happening" page.
- * In following discussion, Steve advised that with the corporate Zoom account he uses for our meetings, all foreign access is blocked and all attendees have to come through the "waiting room".
- * Bruce, K4ONC, reminded all that COVID-19 cases are increasing in the County and reported that a couple of PARS members have caught the virus, one having to spend a week in the hospital. Be wary about your surroundings and follow the 3 W's. Bill urged washing hands with HOT water rather than cold. It's much more effective.
- * The results of Field Day 2020 are in the Dec issue of QST. PARS' aggregated score of 5 members individual scores was our highest in years.
- * Generating considerable enthusiasm, Lor, W3QA, in a "show & tell", talked about his balloon tracking project "Operation Eastern Express". The project's "super pressure balloon" will carry a small solar powered 20 mw. transmitter transmitting GPS locations via WSPR as it circles the world at an altitude of around 47 thousand feet. It is hoped that the design will support a number of orbits.
- * There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1018. The next meeting will be on Saturday, December 26th, via Zoom.
(PARSgram 2020-11-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) DEC 26,2020 VIRTUAL MEETING NOTES

- * Nine PARS members attended the 9 am day after Christmas meeting chaired by President Bill Michne via Zoom. Steve Silveira, KO4EDA, was our technical host.
- * No rewards or upgrades. Bill reported his AL1500 is back to legal limit and 40 CW has been hot. Jim, AI4WL, went the other way and is back doing 2 watt QRP with FT8, also with success as propagation improves.
- * Bill presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. Wally reports 33 renewals received for 2021

--the dues letters went out in late November. He again reminded all that the club gets to keep two dollars from each ARRL renewal made through the club. ARRL has tackled the FCC-- now regarded as "anti-ham"--on numerous issues lately. An example, the new requirement for a FRN to apply for a first license, a catch-22. The number has been assigned in the past as part of the license grant. Bruce Arnold, KS8L, advised a FRN is now being obtained during the New Bern Club's VE test session check-in.

* Propagation Report by Jim, AI4WL: Solar activity continuing to improve with C-class flares possible almost daily and many fewer spotless days as we end the year.

* Mike, K4NLC, reported the Pamlico Emergency Net will generate around 13.5 man-hours from 5 sessions in Dec. The downward trend in participation continues. He noted the recent article in Dec QST supporting AUXCOMM participation. Paul, K4MMB, has listed ARES/AUXCOMM recommended courses and other resources on the PARS web site.

* Paul reported attempts to access the PARS web site by some with mal-intent continue. All known attempts have been recorded and blocked. There were 128 visitors during the month looking at 209 pages. The repeater list page continues to be the most popular.

* With Covid forced virtual meetings come opportunities. Bruce, K4ONC, and Bill identified a number of interesting presentation possibilities including Riley Hollingsworth, Bob Heil, Marv Hoffman, Bill Morine and others who would bring interest to our meetings. Bruce offered to try to get Bob Heil as one of the first. Steve Silveira, recognizing PARS' in-house expertise, suggested simple show & tells. This opened the door to an ad-hoc session started by Mike showing a Key Drive, Paul his Arduino project controlling a zillion Christmas lights, then things went downhill with Bruce playing his Christmas flute video and Steve demonstrating something with his \$100 or was it \$1 [plastic-ed.] trombone. Sanity was restored by a display of not so modern calculators (slide rules) by Bruce Arnold.

* Look for a new Zoom PARS meeting link and ID to cover the first six months of 2020

* There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1004. The next meeting will be on Saturday, January 30, via Zoom.

(PARSgram 2020-12-28)