

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
2023

OFFICERS

President—Mike Marsh, K4NLC (January-October)
Bruce Perkins, K4ONC (November-December)
Vice President--Bruce Perkins, K4ONC (January-October)
Wayne Beasley, KO4OJC (November-December)
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) ~~Oct 29, 2022~~ Jan 28, 2023 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-three PARS members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Mike Marsh, K4NLC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
- * Mike recognized Life Member Chris Mele, W4SLH, and our newest member, Dick Marsh, KO4OFP. Christine brought along a ham related item for our next monthly drawing.
- * No awards or upgrades were reported.
- * Mike delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.
- * Propagation Report: Quiet sun. Activity has been very low for the past few days, 7 sunspot regions with 84 sunspots. 90 day solar flux average is up to 152, a good sign as cycle 25 continues to improve. Prop good this a.m. Our QRP FT8 transmission was received 11690 miles distant near Perth, Australia.
- * DX. Look for most wanted #2 Bouvet, 3YOJ and #3 Crozet this coming week.
- * ARES/Pamlico Communications Net: Mike reported Wednesday night check-ins are up. All are welcome
- * Bruce, was unable to attend but Mike advised the Feb 4th meeting of the Pamlico Communications Team is on track. The focus will be on DMR, the growing NC4ES network, digital repeaters, and more. A hurricane preparation exercise is on tap. Info and sign-up on NCTerms.
- * Paul reported the N4PRS web site is doing well despite constant barrage of bot attempts to gain access, 120 attacks this morning, around 1000 weekly. There were 240 "real" visits in the last 30 days, 99% USA.
- * Lor, W3QA, reported no changes on the Arapahoe repeater. Bill, KR4LO commented there is an intermittent noise issue, mostly when it is very windy. Fix being planned.
- * Lithium dioxide batteries don't like being charged at freezing temps or below. Bill and Mike advised Bruce has placed heating mats under the batteries to keep them comfy. Bill reminded all that both Arapahoe and Kershaw repeaters are totally off the grid.
- * The WM3X C4FM WiresX node has been solid according Bill. The America-KC-Wide room (talk-group) is very popular. Still lots to learn about the node's capabilities.
- * No drawing this week... Bruce had the tickets. Mike noted that a number of members are getting to Brantleys early for breakfast and catching up. Come early if you can.
- * There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 am. PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO

(PARSgram 2023-01-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) FEB 25, 2023 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-nine PARS members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Mike Marsh, K4NLC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
- * Awards and Upgrades: Ben Barnett, KI4NSO, reported he had just earned his Extra. His upgrade was awarded on the 23rd. Bill Michne, WM3X, displayed his Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Centurion certificate. It required 100 CW QSOs with SKCC members. Bill offered that the SKCC, founded in 2006 and over 27,000 members strong, offers excellent help for those wanting to learn Morse. Tom Wiggins, W1GTB, said farewell to the group. He is returning to Red Bank, NJ in early March after 20 plus years and gaining his long desired ham license in Pamlico County. Mike thanked Tom for donating much of his equipment to the Oriental Repeater Group, the proceeds from sale of which will go to support the maintenance and replacement of Pamlico County repeaters.
- * Mike delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.
- * AI4WL's Propagation Report: The Sun has been active with recent HF blackouts affecting the US, Pacific, and Indonesia and Australia. There is a chance for M-class flares almost daily as well as X-class flares. The solar flux 90 day average continues to rise, now 166 vs 152 last month, a good sign as cycle 25 continues to improve. Prop good this a.m. Our QRP FT8 transmission was received 11420 miles distant by VK4JNA/5 in Australia--2605 miles per watt! DX. Look for Wake Island and Myanmar this coming week and next.
- * ARES/Pamlico Communications Net: Mike reported four Wednesday night practices. Eleven hams correctly moved to the new Arapahoe repeater to check in last week when the Oriental Repeater was non-op. All are welcome to check-in at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday.
- * Bruce, K4ONC, advised that the Pamlico Communications Team will next meet on Saturday, March 4th, 0900 at Oriental VFD Station 19. The focus will again be on DMR.
- * Paul reported the N4PRS web site is doing well despite ongoing attempts by outsiders to gain access to member-only pages. There were 131 users in the past 30 days.
- * Repeater update: Lor, W3QA, reported that--
 - The Kershaw (Oriental) repeater is showing its age. A couple of short outages have been caused by issues in the receiver power supply. The ORG believes current fixes are only temporary.
 - He noted that the Arapahoe repeater can be noisy, it's likely better grounding is needed.
 - A XLX digital reflector on a server with Debian Linux is being assembled. XLX is a piece of software originally created only for D-Star and DMR that runs on a Linux server that can be linked to and from other repeaters and hotspots via the internet much like a hub and spoke design. It now also handles Yaesu's YSF. In short, it's an assembly that allows cross-protocol communication. It's possible that it will be under test by this summer. More details to come.
- * Bruce thanked Bill Cresswell, K2ONN, for allowing a repeater on the nearby Arlington tower to share the Cresswell's internet service. The connectivity is in place and has been tested but not yet activated.
- * Bruce also announced that Wayne Beasley, KO4OJC, is a new member of the ORG. Wayne brings a strong technical background and a lot of enthusiasm to the group.
- * Another Fox Hunt is being planned, this one is scheduled for Saturday April 15th. Hunters will assemble at the Oriental VFD Station 19 at 9 a.m. A two leg event is being considered, two foxes, one chased after the other. More to come.
- * Buck, AA4SN, drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Charlie, KO4YWM, drew a belated Christmas gift (from Gerald, KN4CKL)--a soldering station--Wow; and Bill, K2ONN, ended up with a big ARRL Spectrum Defense coffee cup donated by Chris, W4SLH.
- * There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.

(PARSgram 2023-03-06)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) MAR 25, 2023 MEETING NOTES

- * Nineteen PARS members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Mike Marsh, K4NLC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
- * Awards and Upgrades: Dick Goodwin, K4JJW reported earning his 8 Band Worked All States award.
- * Mike delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.
- * AI4WL's Propagation Report: Sun activity is currently low with a slight chance for M-class flares. The good news is that the solar flux 90 day average continues to rise, now 171 vs 166 last month. We just experienced a severe G4 level storm caused by a glancing CME bringing auroras as low New Mexico across to the Virginia State Line. DX: Look for Sable Island, Norfolk Island, and Niue on the bands this coming week.
- * Danny at Lupton's in Stonewall is trashing most of his low band equipment, mobiles, base units, and old VHF business radio equipment. He has many HAM Icom units for parts. All free.
- * On National Vietnam Veterans Day, Mar 29th. American Legion Post 275 Radio Team, N3TAL, will operate a Special Event Station on 7.275(+/-) from 1300-2300 EDT. Send SESE for special QSL card.
- * ARES/Pamlico Communications Net: Mike reported four Wednesday night practices and 8 to 10 WinLink check-ins each week.
- * Bruce, K4ONC, advised that the Pamlico Communications Team will next meet next Saturday, April 1st, 0900 at Oriental VFD Station 19. The focus will again be on DMR. Bring your radio if you need help.
- * Paul reported the N4PRS web site is doing well despite ongoing attempts by outsiders to do harm. There were 163 users in the past 30 days.
- * Repeater update:
 - The Arapahoe repeater is functioning well. Go there if the N4ONC (Oriental) repeater fails. The Oriental repeater is showing its age but temporary fixes are in place. Lately, it has been stable.
 - A XLX digital reflector on a server with Debian Linux has been assembled at the Kershaw site thanks to Wayne, KO4OJC, Lor, W3QA, and server equipment scrounged by Trip, KI4KEB. XLX is a piece of software originally created only for D-Star and DMR that runs on a Linux server that can be linked to and from other repeaters and hotspots via the internet supporting cross mode (protocol) communication. They are now waiting for a transcoder. "A work in progress" according to Wayne.
- * Bill Michne, WM3X, is back on the Amelia Earhart story, at least the radio piece. He will reveal his findings at our June meeting.
- * The Fox Hunt scheduled for April 15th was rescheduled to May 27th, right after the May PARS meeting. In discussion, it was found that the April Hunt would be in direct conflict with the Oriental Boat Show and other weekends also have event conflicts. The members present also opted for a two hour single stage event. [See more elsewhere.]
- * Charlie, KO4YWM, drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate
- * There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.
(PARSgram 2023-03-27)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) April 29, 2023 MEETING NOTES

- * Twenty-three PARS members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Mike Marsh, K4NLC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.
- * Awards and Upgrades: Dick Goodwin, K4JJW, reported receiving his certificate for the 8 Band Worked All States (WAS) award.
- * Mike delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.
- * AI4WL's Propagation Report: The Sun has been relatively quiet after last weekend's strong geomagnetic storms. The G4 level (KP index of 8 plus) storms degraded HF radio especially on the

lower HF frequencies and at the poles. Propagation is unsettled this a.m. Look for the Spratly Islands, Fiji, and Guinea Bissau this coming week. The DXpedition to the Western Kiribati T3OUN continues. Bruce, K4ONC, mentioned the propagation tool, hf.dxview.org recently. Another old standby is pskreporter.info/pskmap.html. There is no need to transmit, just plug in your grid (e.g.FM15) instead of a call sign and your band(s) of interest.

* ARES/Pamlico Communications Net: Mike reported four Wednesday night practices. Up to 17 have checked in, 6-8 on WinLink. He reminds all to use the Arapahoe repeater when the Oriental repeater is unavailable.

* Bruce, K4ONC, advised that the Pamlico Communications Team will next meet on Saturday, May 6th, 0900 at Oriental VFD Station 19. The focus will again be on DMR and the other digital modes.

* Lor reminded all of the EHPC hurricane preparation exercise this coming Thursday, May 4th. All hams can and are encouraged to participate. Being a member of ARES or AUXCOMM is NOT REQUIRED. Use of WinLink is encouraged but not required! [More elsewhere]

* Paul reported the N4PRS web site activity is "about average". There were 145 users in the past 30 days with 287 pages visited.

* Repeater update: Lor, W3QA, reported replacing a weak controller module in the aging but otherwise robust custom built Oriental repeater. Software is being updated. He advised waiting to buy any new VHF/UHF radio. The updated repeater will be able allow use of new digital protocols such as C4FM, DMR, D-star via an ordinary FM analog radio. Network linking will be possible. At first, the updated repeater will operate as it has in the past. New capabilities will be added slowly. Tutorials will be provided. The Oriental repeater should be back on the air in a week to 10 days.

* Fox Hunt: Fourteen have signed up so far for the Fox Hunt which will follow next month's PARS meeting. A single leg is planned with a staggered start. It begins around 1030 and ends 2 hours later. Lunch will follow. Prizes will include a dual band antenna and MFJ dual time clock. Contact Dick [address at calendar below] to participate.

* Wayne, KO4OJC, has had great success remotely operating his station using just a new app on his iPhone. It's also available for an iPad. At this time, it only works for 3 Icom radios IC705, 9700, and 7610. Get it from <https://roskosch.de> (iPhone app is sdr-control mobile and iPad is sdr-control)

* Bill, WM3X, shared his research into complying with the new FCC RF Exposure Rules. Most stations will likely be within the MPE (Maximum Permitted Exposure) limits but we should evaluate our station to comply with the FCC rule that is effective May 3, 2023. The ARRL provides a very simple tool at <http://arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator> to quickly comply. Proof of being within the MPE should provide liability protection in the unlikely case that it is needed. Fill in the blanks, let the tool calculate, save a copy. That's it.

* Mike drew attention to an important 30 day ARRL survey starting 1 May encouraging member participation as the league officers consider a dues increase. The survey will include some short questions about raising dues and modifying the way some membership benefits are bundled. Take it at www.arrl.org/take-dues-survey

* Lor, W3QA, drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Charlie, KO4YWM, won a "PARS Coaster" crafted by Rick, NN2S.

* There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

(PARSgram 2023-05-01)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) May 27, 2023 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-four PARS members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Mike Marsh, K4NLC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* Awards and Upgrades: The group welcomed Dan Longnecker, a ham-to-be from Alliance.

* Show and Tell: Bouvet confirmed! Dick Goodwin, K4JJW, showed off his confirmation QSL card. He made one of the few North American contacts with the much shortened DXpedition. Lor Kutchins,

W3QA, brought in his tiny Belica DX-Pro SDR all mode receiver. At his chair inside Brantleys and with its short whip attached he easily picked up WWV from Ft. Collins, CO.

* Mike delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: Although yesterday's NOAA report was "low activity", the Sun produced two bursts that resulted in short HF blackouts for the sunlit parts of the US. So much for being "low". The 90 day trailing average Solar Flux index is 153 and scattered M-class flares will continue. The 6 meter band started to awake last week. A bit late this year, single and double hop Es contacts into the Midwest were reported. 6 meter propagation is quiet this a.m. Look for another opportunity to work the Marshall Islands V7 this coming week. HF conditions should be fair to good in the coming days.

* With the season soon to arrive, the National Hurricane Center is conducting its annual test today. WinLink messages are encouraged in addition to contacts on its two frequencies, 7.268 and 14.325 MHz.

* On behalf of Paul, Jim reported the N4PRS 30 day web site activity remains steady with 149 visitors making a total of 323 visits. Most visitors are from the US, followed by China, then the Russian Federation.... hummm. Check out the updated N4PRS QRZ Web Page. It's a photo story of our club and its doings.

* ARES/Pamlico Communications Net: Given the Wednesday night nets are practices for emergencies and normal net control operators may not be available in an emergency, those that have been "regulars" will soon be given the opportunity to call the net. The WinLink check-in practice will be expanded. Lor offered that his WinLink training course could be modified to fit our needs. More to come as details are worked.

* As for nets, Cody, KN4RFG, has offered to bring back a 10 Meter net. Like our previous net, this one will focus on easing our new hams into the world of HF. There seemed to be considerable interest.

* Bruce, K4ONC, advised that the Pamlico Communications Team will next meet in July on a date to be determined. [The scope of the PCT is being broadened to reflect the more technical and varied interests of the group-ed.]

* Repeater update: Lor reported that work on the Kershaw repeater is about done and the repeater should be back up shortly. Crackling noise on the Arlington repeater has become a continuing irritant and more recently, a "chugging" noise. It is believed some of the problem is in the antenna and grounding systems combined with co-site interference. Trouble shooting is in the offing.

* Fox Hunt: Due to this weekend's nor-easter, the Fox Hunt was postponed. It will now follow next month's PARS meeting. A single leg is planned with a staggered start. It begins around 1100 and ends 2 hours later. Lunch will follow. Prizes will include a dual band antenna, a MFJ dual time clock and Brantleys gift certificate. Contact Dick [address at calendar below] to participate.

* Tommy Banks' family has donated Tommy's equipment for the benefit of our Pamlico Radio Society. All of his station except his erected antennas was collected by Bill, KR4LO, and Bruce, K4ONC, last week. Appearing to be in excellent condition and complete, some pieces were quickly tested and made available at the meeting at auction. Included were 3 mobile VHF radios, two power supplies, and a number of books. From the auction conducted by Bill, the club added \$276 to its account. Look for some high value items to be made available at future meetings including an IC-756Pro3, Palstar limit Auto Tuner, AC-1500 amplifier and more.

* Cody, drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Tripp Beasley, KI4KEB, took home a "PARS Coaster" crafted by Rick, NN2S.

* There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

(PARSgram 2023-05-29)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) JUN 24, 2023 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-nine PARS members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting

chaired by President Mike Marsh, K4NLC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant. Mike reminded all that the twice postponed Fox Hunt will follow this abbreviated business meeting.

* Awards and Upgrades: Dick Goodwin, K4JJW, worked all Colonies during this year's "Colonies on the Air" and after describing the event, encouraged our members to consider doing it next year. Colony (state) QSL cards differ each year as does the certificate.

* Mike delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: After an active week, for Field Day the forecast is for moderate solar activity and a 40% chance for M-class flares. The sunspot number is up to 194. Best conditions will be at night on 20-80 meters and will be very good day and night on the 15 meter band. Expect 6 meters to be open at least part of the day. As for DXpeditions, look for Ducie Island ending today. Kwajalein is to be active through June 30.

* Repeater update: Lor W3QA reported that work on the Kershaw repeater should be finished shortly and then the group will look at the Arapahoe crackling noise and "chugging" issues.

* Noting that year end elections are not that far off, Mike announced he will not be standing for re-election. He encouraged our newer and younger members to consider being a club officer. He then offered the floor to Bill Michne, WM3X.

* Bill Michne, WM3X, has dug deep into the radio puzzle on Amelia Earhart's last flight in 1937 and has built a working replica of the Western Electric transmitter on their Lockheed Electra. At the meeting Bill offered an exciting presentation: "The Role of Radio in the Disappearance of Amelia Earhart". He detailed Earhart's challenges, her inadequate preparation and poor decisions and his research on why they failed to establish radio communications or radiolocate the Coast Guard Cutter Itasca stationed near their Howland Island destination. The bottom line: she could transmit but not receive. His research supports the conclusion that she was not lost at sea but landed well south of her intended destination on tiny uninhabited Gardner Island. Her radio calls for help were heard for days after her fuel would have run out and physical evidence has been found there. Considerable conjecture remains on what may have happened to Amelia and her navigator Fred Noonan after their landing. There are some clues.

* Charlie Overcash, WA4GSI, drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Bill Cresswell, K2ONN, took home a "PARS Coaster" crafted by Rick, NN2S, and Logan Schnider, NC4OM, a PARS sticker.

* There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.

(PARSgram 2023-06-26)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) JUL 29, 2023 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Mike Marsh, K4NLC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* Awards and Upgrades: Dick, K4JJW, has already received his certificate and several QSL cards from this year's just ended 13 Colonies on the Air event. He passed them along for all to see.

* Mike delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: After a week of moderate activity, the forecast is the same for next week including the 40% chance for M-class flares. We've had a lot of those pesky solar flares, some causing short term R-1 level HF radio "blackouts"--periods of intense X-ray ionization of the ionosphere's denser D-layer--for those sunlit portions of the Earth. The signal attenuation during the blackouts is greatest on the lower HF frequencies which can be completely absorbed or "blacked out". Absent a blackout, the best conditions will be on the 17-15 meter bands, 40 and 20 will be marginal but better at night. Expect 6 meter operation to be hit or miss; there has been some recent Es into Europe. As for DX, look for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, 1A0C, with 5 stations until Aug 2 and Laos, XW0LP, on 20M FT8.

* At our last meeting, Dick, K4JJW, encouraged participation in this year's "Colonies on the Air"

event. He was successful. After polling those present, it appears at least 12 members made colony contacts, most completing a "clean sweep" of the 13 colony states and also contacts with the three bonus stations, some several times. At least three members did it using 10 watts or less, others used one or more of three modes, CW, Voice, Digital. The French station, TM13Col, with only one operator, seemed the most difficult to reach. There was lots of interest in doing it again next year.

* Repeater update: Bruce, K4ONC, advised that the refurbished Kershaw Oriental repeater is back on the air with a new controller and added capabilities. Some may have heard the new over-the-air announcements. An initial attempt last Tuesday to access the Arapahoe software to modify its capability failed so it was returned to operation. It continues to provide FM analog and local DMR service.

* Bill Olah was auctioneer for the equipment donated to the club by the estate of Tommy Banks, W4XMT, who passed last December. The bidding was active--actually intense over some items. The winners took home a variety of very desirable equipment at bargain prices. Thanks to Tommy and his kind family, the club raised \$1,110.00. There is more equipment from Tommy and others to be auctioned at the next and future meetings.

* Mike reaffirmed he will not stand for re-election in October. Bill Michne will again head the nominating committee.

* Brian Shepard, K4LTE, drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Paul Jodoin, K4MMB, took home a "PARS Coaster" crafted by Rick, NN2S, and Dick Goodwin, K4JJW, a PARS bumper sticker.

* There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.
(PARSgram 2023-07-31)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) AUG 26, 2023 MEETING NOTES

* Thirty-one members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Mike Marsh, K4NLC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* Awards and upgrades and other worthy news: Dick, K4JJW, passed around more QSL cards received from the 13 Colonies event (see more below). He also recognized NC4OM Logan's 20 WPM CW qualification for entry into an international bug users group. Buck, AA4SN, made his first satellite contact.

* Mike delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: After a week of moderate activity, the forecast is slower for next week. An impromptu pole of our HF operators confirms the best conditions here for DX have been on 17 and 20 meters, 40 has been good at night and 10 meters has been disappointing. Six meters has been quiet. As for DX, look for North Cook Islands E51D until 9/10/23 and Palau T8 until 9/4.

* Bruce, K4ONC presented Dick with an updated 13 Colonies on the Air certificate. After conferring with the event's organizer, Dick's outstanding effort was recognized and his certificate replaced with one to read that he had a CLEAN SWEEP of all colonies and the three special bonus stations on ALL MODES AND ALL BANDS. This is a very rare accomplishment. Congratulations Dick!

* The Pamlico Communications Team will meet next Saturday, on the 2nd of September at Station 19. All are welcome to join this group that has wide ranging technical and operational interests. Bruce mentioned that the repeater group will be making changes to reduce announcement frequency and add a controller connection to the UHF repeater.

* Bill Michne, WM3X, was dragged into the world of SMD's, surface mount devices, when he broke a SMD connector while repairing a IC756 Pro 3. These extremely small electronic components mount on the surface of a printed circuit board as opposed to "through-hole" components which have pins that go into holes. He displayed his specialized soldering station that also uses a heat gun to "glue" the components to the board with fine solder or solder paste. He also brought along several practice kits as well as tiny SMDs. Bill feels he's making good progress learning how to work with these challenging

tiny components. He noted that SMDs have been around for over 50 years and to look at page 99 of this month's QST at a glance at the first SMDs.

* Parks on the Air or POTA is the "big deal" lately for Logan Schnider, NC4OM. Since he was licensed in May of 2022, Logan has come a long way. So has the POTA [<https://parksontheair.com>] program. It is an award program for those that operate portable from parks and public lands, the "activators", and for those that hunt them, the "hunters". It began in 2017 and is now already 350 thousand members strong with over 40 thousand parks activated world wide. Logan says "Every day can be Field Day". The program being new to many, Logan introduced us to the basics of POTA, some of the rules, the equipment he uses and several of the POTA logging programs. Logan noted that the NC POTA organization is attempting to activate all 100 "parks" in NC in September. [Sept 9-10. Info at <https://ncpota.org>]

* Bill Olah again was auctioneer, this month for early test equipment donated to the Oriental Repeater Group by Tom Wiggins, W1GTB, who has moved back to NJ to be closer to family.

* Lor Kutchins, W3QA, advised that a Tuesday Florida landfall is expected for a strong storm [now TS Idalia -ed]. It is expected to cross Florida, head north and bring us, at the least, heavy rains next week. Please check-in to Wednesday's net for the latest.

* Paul Jodoin, K4MMB, drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate and Mike Hurm, K4HPs, a PARS bumper sticker.

* There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 am.
(PARSgram 2023-08-28)

SEPTEMBER PARS BREAKFAST MEETING A BUST

Several intrepid PARS members made it to Brantley's about the time the power went out. Tropical Storm Ophelia had gone past just to our west a couple of hours earlier heading north, the winds had calmed and the rain slackened. The meeting would go on as planned. Well, surprise! The backside of the storm took out Mr. Duke's service to Oriental just after 7 am. Those few who made it to Brantley's ended up enjoying a candle-light but only warmish breakfast. Just before 8 am Brantley's management decided to close the doors. They had received Duke's estimate that the power should be back by 6 PM, dinner time. Not good. (It did come back on around noon.) The September meeting will not be rescheduled.

(PARSgram 2023-09-25)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) OCT 28, 2023 MEETING NOTES

* Twenty-five members, visitors and guests attended the 9 am Saturday breakfast meeting chaired by President Mike Marsh, K4NLC, at Brantley's Village Restaurant.

* Awards and upgrades and other worthy news--Show and Tell Time: Dick, K4JJW, showed the group a QSL card for a contact he had made in 1978 with a ham in Pakistan. He had just made another contact with the same ham--that's 45 years later! Bill Olah, KR4LO, passed around his fried unun courtesy of 500W of RTTY. Charlie O, WA4GSI, passed around a cigarette pack size Vector Impedance Analyzer. Bill Michne, WM3X, showed us a new style PL-258 connector that screws on to RG-8 coax. And Bill Schrader, K2TNO, displayed his custom made QSL cards complete with QR code!

* Mike delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: After days of moderate activity, the forecast is for lower solar activity this weekend. NOAA has just put out a new monthly Cycle 25 forecast. The peak is expected between Jan and Oct 2024 with Sunspot numbers up to 173. For comparison, today's SSN is 66. As for DXpeditions, look for Botswana A25RU through Nov 13, Micronesia V6SX until Oct 31, Tuvalu T2C until Oct 30, and Chatham Isl ZL7IO until Nov 3.

* ARES/PCN. There were four nets this month according to Mike.

* Paul, K4MMB reported no issues with the Web site. It is still averaging around 160 looks per month.

He encouraged members to send photos or items of interest.

* The Pamlico Communications Team will meet next Saturday, on the 4th of November at Station 19. All are welcome to join this group that has wide ranging technical and operational interests.

* Bruce K4ONC recognized our own Lor Kutchins, W3QA, who has just been certified as a AUXcomm COMML (Communications Leader). There are only 30 COMML's in North Carolina and we now have two in Pamlico County.

* From the Oriental Repeater Group, Bruce reported some not so good news. Due to TS Ophelia last month, the hardline feeding the UHF repeater broke away from the Kershaw tower for about half of its length. The clips that anchor it to the tower need to be replaced very soon. The tower owner has been concerned about the old original rubber clips for some time. Having no license or lease it's only goodwill that allows the ORG to use the tower. Unless repairs are made quickly, the fear is that repeaters, antennas and all associated equipment may have to be removed. For the work that needs to be done immediately and to avoid a later climb to repair and re-purpose an existing cable for microwave/internet connectivity with the Arapahoe repeater, the cost could be as high as \$3000, most of it to pay the climber. Around \$675 does remain from an earlier grant from PARS and recent equipment sales. After considerable discussion, Bill Olah KR4LO moved that PARS grant \$2,000 to the Oriental Repeater Group for materials and labor related to re-attachment of the hardline, repair or replacement of the microwave cable and associated costs for both. Paul Jodine K4MMB, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

* Cody Vanhook, KN4RFG, reported that seven checked in to the new weekly 10 Meter last Monday, a good showing for the net only announced that day. It will continue as interest dictates.

* Past President Bill Michne, WM3X, as a nominating committee of one, confirmed that Mike Marsh would not seek re-election as President and on behalf of the club, thanked Mike for his two years of dedicated service as President. The slate as presented included:

Bruce Perkins, K4ONC, President,
Wayne Beasley, KO4OJC, Vice President,
Jim Hartmeyer, AI4WL, Secretary and
Gail (Wally) Wallace, KK4ASP, Treasurer

After determining there were no nominations from the floor, the slate was elected by acclamation.

* The NEXT PARS MEETING will be on Saturday, NOVEMBER 18th, a week earlier than normal. Brantley's will be closed on our regular meeting day for the Thanksgiving holiday.

* Hank, KN1ZRZ drew the winning number for a Brantleys Gift Certificate; Eddie, K4NGR won a PARS "license plate"; Buck, AA4SN, a PARS coaster, and Tripp, KI4KEB, a PARS bumper sticker.

* There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 am with an equipment auction to follow. Bill Olah again was auctioneer. Some high value equipment will be listed on-line.

(PARSgram 2023-10-30)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) NOV 18, 2023 MEETING NOTES

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

* Bruce introduced Eric Kindle, Oriental Fire Chief and a full-time Paramedic, who told us what to do if confronted with a person experiencing a heart attack: perform CPR, call 911 and, if available, use an automated external defibrillator (AED) to restore heart rhythm to normal. AED's are now in many public places including most Oriental restaurants. Time is critical, seconds vital. Eric talked us through the process and showed us how to do hands-only CPR and how to connect the victim to an AED device, then, following the voice prompts, deliver the electric shock to stabilize the heartbeat. The members gave Eric their full attention to his most instructive--possibly life saving--presentation.

* Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: Without detailing the numbers and reports of low solar activity, Jim

advised this is the time to chase Dx as we near the top of Cycle 25. The forecast might be for low solar activity but Dx is out there and workable--"look out the window". Current DXpeditions: Trindade & Martim Vaz PR0T to 11/19, Christmas Isl VK9XY to 11/27, Laos XW4DX to 11/27, Chatham Isl ZL7A to 11/22 plus Timor-Leste 4W8X to 12/5 and Wallis-Futuna Isl 20-30 Nov.

* ARES/PCN. Mike Marsh, K4NLC, advised he's stepping away from being the "full-time" controller starting in January in favor of rotating net controllers. Emergencies are not planned and the net should be activated by the first one on frequency. A cadre of net control operators will be needed for successful extended operation.

* Paul, K4MMB reported that more and more visitors to the N4PRS Web pages appear to be "bonafide". For the past month, 176 visits.

* The Pamlico Communications Team meets on the first Saturday monthly at Station 19 . The next meeting will be on the 2nd of December at Station 19. Lor will lead a seminar on Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) All are welcome.

* Wally has mailed member renewal forms for 2023. Bruce advised PARS will no longer collect and submit ARRL dues given the complications with the change in ARRL billing and the limited return for the effort. PARS still supports membership in the ARRL and benefits from being a ARRL affiliated club. There is no change in PARS dues.

* From the Oriental Repeater Group (ORG)--

Lor Kutchins W3QA, reported the bad component(s) in the Kershaw controller board are en-route and will be replaced ASAP. Once the Oriental VHF is operational, the Arapahoe FM service will be turned down and the repeater activated on the NC4ES EHPC DMR Network. (From the Arlington Place location, NC4ES network coverage will then include not only Pamlico but also Carteret and portions of Craven county. With improvements to Columbia, Farmville, Kinston, and Roanoke Rapids repeaters now complete, the network will cover most of Eastern North Carolina. It will also provide connectivity with other DMR and FM networks.) All amateurs are welcome to use the NC4ES network.

Connectivity with AllStarLink [see AllStarLink.org] is planned for the Oriental VHF FM repeater.

The urgently needed Kershaw hardline re-attachment and clip replacement [discussed at the October meeting] will cost more than expected. A change in tower climbing company is necessary. Other less essential tower work will be delayed.

* The higher Kershaw hardline re-attachment cost impacting the ORG led to a general discussion related to both ORG and club funding. [They are separate organizations and funds are separate.] Several high value amplifiers have been donated to the club. Before offering them for sale, one or more need repair. Bruce asked Bill Olah and Bill Michne to assess them and recommend actions needed.

* The NEXT PARS MEETING will be on Saturday, December 30th, with our annual holiday gift exchange following a short business meeting.

* Phyllis Schrader had the winning number for a PARS coaster, Dennis Chase won the Brantley's gift certificate, and Steve KO4EDA, a 2024 ARRL Calendar.

* There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

(PARSgram 2023-11-20)

PAMLICO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (PARS) DEC 30, 2023 MEETING NOTES

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

* Bruce delivered the Treasurer's report on behalf of Wally. The club is solvent. She reports that all the remaining funds granted to the Oriental Repeater Group were expensed. Bruce added that the money was used to pay for the Kershaw cable reattachment.

* AI4WL's Propagation Report: Activity has remained fairly steady since the November meeting, low activity on average but offering good propagation particularly on the 17 and 15 meter bands. Those bands, as well as 10 meters during the day and 20 at night, have delivered the best DX during the

month and likely will continue to do so. Current DX opportunities: Rodriques Island 3B9AT, East Kiribati T32TT, and St. Helena XV9.

* ARES/PCN. Bruce, with a big round of applause, thanked Mike Marsh, K4NLC, for being the net's "full-time" controller for the past 5 years. He reminded the group that starting in January, net controllers will rotate. Bruce will take January, Jim AI4WL February, Wayne KO4OJC March and Charlie WA4GSI, April.

* The Pamlico Communications Team meets monthly on the first Saturday at Station 19. The next meeting will be on the 6th of January. All are welcome.

* Bruce reported that the Kershaw N4ONC VHF repeater controller repair should be finished soon. When done, the Arapahoe NC4ES repeater will operate only in the DMR mode and connected full time to the EHPC area wide network. It can be quickly reconfigured if the Oriental N4ONC repeater becomes unavailable.

* Bill Michne, WM3X, advised that his C4FM node is back on the air. He had turned it down while on travel.

* Bill Schrader, K2TNO, related he recently saw his Dad's call while using WSJT-FT8. He contacted the current holder. The holder sent Bill a QSL card sent to him but intended for his Dad. Then Bill, for a quick show and tell, displayed and described his tiny RadioDitty RF760 pocket receiver.

* Dick, K4JJW, had a similar experience: he had a QSO with W3AYT. W3AYT was Dick's old call. He had to give that call up when he moved to a different call area. It was the rule in the old days. He said was strange "talking to himself."

* As a "warm-up" for the gift exchange, tickets were drawn for the monthly door prize. Visitor and ham to be, Jeff Cunniff took home the Brantley's gift certificate.

* There being no further business, Bruce then orchestrated the eagerly awaited gift exchange. Lots of oohs and aah's-- many very well thought out gifts. Thank you all!

* The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

(PARSgram 2024-01-01)