1056-53-1127 **Andrew Bucki*** (ajbucki@lunet.edu), Department of Mathematics, Langston University, Langston, OK 73050. *Symmetric Almost r-Paracontact Connections.* Preliminary report.

If φ is a tensor field of type $(1,1)$, $\xi_1, \xi_2, \ldots, \xi_r$ are linearly independent vector fields, and $\eta^1, \eta^2, \ldots, \eta^r$ are 1-forms on a manifold M satisfying $\varphi^2 = Id - \eta^\alpha \otimes \xi_\alpha$ and $\varphi(\xi_\alpha) = 0$, then $(M, \varphi, \xi_\alpha, \eta^\alpha)$ is an almost r-paracontact manifold. A linear connection Γ on M is an almost r-paracontact connection if the structure tensor field φ, vector fields ξ_α, and 1-forms η^α are parallel with respect to Γ. In this paper, the necessary and sufficient conditions for existence of a symmetric almost r-paracontact connection are found. Examples of symmetric almost r-paracontact connections are presented. Some applications of almost r-paracontact connections are discussed. (Received September 21, 2009)