



# The Listening Post



Affiliated  
Club

Voice of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club - AC4RC

May 1999

## Presidential Preamble by President Bill Morine, N2COP



**A MOTHER'S DAY** salute to all XYL's and YL's for their patience and understanding of our hobby, and a round of applause for those women who have gone the extra step to earn their licenses. 88's from all

us men who don't tell you enough how much we appreciate your support.

**FRIENDLY HELLOS.** This summer, when you hear a strange voice on a repeater saying he or she's monitoring, take a moment to say, "Hi. Welcome to Wilmington." I'm as guilty as the next operator in not greeting guests to our area, and that can cast a black eye image on Wilmington. We are a resort area where tourists flock for good times and good memories. For visiting ham operators, we want them to leave with pleasant recollections of the lower Cape Fear region being a ham friendly area.

This point became apparent to me during a recent trip I made to the Boston area. Many of us think of New Englanders as cold, silent people. To the contrary, almost every time I announced I was listening, a friendly ham would come back and invite me to join a ragchew in progress, or an upcoming net. Their warm reception was a pleasant change from the cold shoulder I've been getting in other parts of the country. Please make a difference and say "hi".

**LEGISLATION.** Ham radio is a hobby which

normally doesn't have grass roots issues of concern, but there are two out there where we could use some support. The first one is easy - state Senate Bill (SB) 390, "Elimination of Plate Fee for Amateur Radio Operators". Instead of the normal \$10. surcharge to the Dept. of Motor Vehicles for a North Carolina vehicle tag which displays your call sign, the fee would be eliminated. Because of the enormous public service that hams bring to the community, this measure is especially welcomed.

Please take a moment to let your state senators in Raleigh know how you feel about this. Sen. R.C. Soles of Chadbourn represents New Hanover, Brunswick, Bladen, and Columbus counties, and he sits on the Senate Finance Committee, which is hearing the bill. Tell him all the good ham radio does through SKYWARN, ARES, etc. I sent Sen. Soles an e-mail two weeks ago asking for his position on this bill, and he has yet to respond. Tell him we want to know where he stands and that we amateurs deserve a reply. His e-mail address is: **Rcsoles@ms.ncga.state.nc.us**. While you're on-line, drop a quick message to Sen. Patrick Ballantine of New Hanover County, thanking him for his support of Senate Bill 390 - **Patrickb@ms.ncga.state.nc.us**, and let him know we haven't heard from Sen. Soles.

The other piece of legislation is potentially very important to the ham radio community, and again we have an unresponsive legislator. At the federal level, The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1999 has been introduced as HR 783. This bill is very similar to one introduced last year in Congress, which died at the end of the 1998 session. HR 783

would preserve frequencies put aside for amateur radio use, and not turn them over to commercial interests, such as cellular and wireless phone services which are desperate for additional band space. If we want to keep ham radio alive, we need to get this bill passed.

Here's where I get hot under the collar. Last year, those ACARC members present at one of our monthly meetings signed a petition asking for our Congressional representative, Mike McIntyre, to sponsor the 1998 version of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. We have never heard from Rep. McIntyre, despite three telephone calls to his office, a follow-up snail mail letter and two e-mails to his office. What's with state Sen. Soles and Rep. McIntyre that they can't answer to their constituents, even if the answer is "no"? Fire off an e-mail today to Mike McIntyre's office and tell him that the over 1,000 hams in his district want an answer as to whether he supports HR 783, and whether he'll consider co-sponsoring the measure. His e-mail is: [congmcintyre@mail.house.gov](mailto:congmcintyre@mail.house.gov). If you have ham buddies in the Fayetteville area, have them call Congressman McIntyre's office too because he represents that area. At the May ACARC meeting we'll have petition forms for hams to sign for both the N.C. SB 390 License Plate Fee Elimination, and HR 783, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. If we passively stand-

by, more powerful commercial interests could steal frequencies from us until some of our desirable bands are gone.

**FIELD DAY.** Yes, Field Day is just weeks away (June 26th,27th). Once again, we expect to be at the gazebo adjacent to the Cape Fear River on the grounds of the North Carolina Battleship State Park. Last year we operated from noon Saturday to noon with some guest operators pounding brass throughout the night. We'll have details at our upcoming June meeting. Plan to join us for fun, food, fellowship and - oh, yes - hamming.

**A.P.R.S.** - As hams, we need to stay at the forefront of our hobby so we can learn about the latest in technology. Jeff Jolly, KE4LKB, thought he didn't have enough to do as newsletter editor and publisher, so he volunteered to devote the May 18th ACARC meeting to APRS, Automatic Packet/Position Reporting System. This new form of geographical tracking is sweeping metropolitan areas through the U.S., and even Myrtle Beach is adding/modifying two digipeters to capture APRS. Come to the May meeting and find out what the APRS rage is all about.

**HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS** - The recent devastation from tornadoes in Oklahoma and Texas should remind us that hurricane season is around the corner. Now is the

time to get your equipment tuned up, especially batteries. There's little a ham can do in times of crisis unless his or her gear is up to speed. Check into the New Hanover County ARES Net on Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM at 146.67 to find out the latest of what's going on. A special TNX on the ole telegraph key to Bill, AD4DN, for adding weather reports and emergency weather notification to the 146.67 machine. With hurricane expert Dr. William Gray predicting an unusually active Atlantic hurricane season, let's get in shape now.

**SPECIAL YOUTH DEMONSTRATION** - Thanks to Bill Wetherill (N2WG), Frank Ebbinghouser (N2EMR) and, yes, me (N2COP), we have exposed ham radio to youth in the area through the New Hanover County schools and Boy Scouts. Through our community efforts, Learning Express, the educational toy store on Oleander Drive, will devote Saturday, July 10th, from 12 noon to 4:00 PM as Ham Radio Day. Kids and their parents can come by and work some HF, see some ham demonstrations and have fun. Let me know if you'd like to help. ([morine@wilmington.net](mailto:morine@wilmington.net) or my phone, 452-1770)

Special thanks to Tom Jacobs for his battery charger project which he demonstrated at the April meeting. For all of you who paid dues for 1999, thank you. We paid the club's general liability

insurance policy for the coming year, and all of our other bills are current. But if our 147.18 repeater had a problem, I'm not sure we'd have the money to fix it. Please - support ACARC and send in your dues if you haven't already.

The weather is finally warmer, lots of DX, life is 59. Could anything be better?

73, Bill

### 1999 Club Dues Now Overdue

The deadline for "uninterrupted" membership has past. You are encouraged to pay your 1999 club dues (\$20.00) promptly.

### VE News

The next VE Test Session will be 12 June at Morton Hall, UNCW. Test fees are now \$6.45.

The Question Pools will not change again until after any licence changes are approved and take affect. The rumor that some announcement about the changes might be made at the Dayton Hamvention have been downplayed by the FCC. Next best guess is sometime in the Fall.

The group meets at K&W at 8am for breakfast before the Test Session. Come join the group. This is an important Club function, and deserves your support. It is a benefit to all members and local hams and hams to be. We can not do it without you.

Jack, WD4OIN  
Jeff, KE4LKB

### Comments for the net...

Did you read the article about FCC monitoring in the recent CQ VHF magazine? Not only do they not use the Green Trucks with Loop Antennas anymore... They have installed the loops under the roof of the full sized unmarked sedans currently used. You won't know until it's too late.

As noted elsewhere, I have been working with APRS the last few weeks. Looks to be a good use for that unused TNC and '486 computer in the corner of the shack. Mix in DeLorem's Street Atlas USA and the fun really begins. Plug in a Davis or Peet Brs. Weather Station and give Ricky, KD4JRX and the ILM Weather a great deal of current WX info at the point of a mouse.

Come to the next meeting and I will show you what I have learned. Then join me and learn even more!

73 all,  
Jeff, KE4LKB

### From The ARRL Letter:

#### **DONALD L. STONER, W6TNS, SK**

The man who conceived of Project OSCAR, Don Stoner, W6TNS, of Clearwater, Florida died May 4. He was 67. Stoner reportedly had been in ill health for some time. He reportedly suffered a ruptured aneurysm.

In 1960, Stoner, then living in Alta Loma, California, was the idea man behind Project OSCAR. Stoner outlined his concepts for an Amateur Radio space program in the February 1961 issue of QST (see "Project OSCAR --Something of the Future"). In his prophetic article, Stoner envisioned a two-phase project, the first to launch an orbiting VHF beacon transmitter into space, the second to launch an "orbital repeater." OSCAR 1 was launched December 12, 1961.

More recently, Stoner had become a guru for amateurs battling restrictive covenants to install antennas.

A Flint, Michigan, native, Stoner developed an early interest in electronics, according to longtime friend Merle Parten, K6DC. Stoner's father, Lew, was W8IMS. Don Stoner went on to enjoy financial success in the commercial world. In the Citizens Band heyday, he was a manufacturer of CB transceivers. Later, he founded a company that developed systems to back up bank records and to telephone overdue accounts. He retired in 1989.

An ARRL member, Stoner also will be remembered as a CQ columnist--he served in several editorial capacities, including VHF editor, Novice editor, surplus columnist and semiconductor columnist--and as founder of the unsuccessful National Amateur Radio Association. Stoner also

wrote the "In Theory" column in CQ VHF magazine in 1996 and 1997.

Stoner's wife, Lucy, and two sons are among his survivors. Services were May 7 in Clearwater, Florida. A memorial service and interment were set for May 11 in Kirkland, Washington.

### **FCC DROPS AMATEUR ENFORCEMENT LINE IN FAVOR OF E-MAIL, US MAIL**

The FCC says it now wants Amateur Radio enforcement complaints via e-mail or US mail and has discontinued its Amateur Enforcement Line (202-418-1184).

The FCC this week requested that amateur-related complaints be sent via e-mail to or via the US Postal Service to Compliance & Information Bureau, ATTN Amateur Radio Complaints, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

The FCC instituted the telephone service last fall when it beefed up amateur enforcement under the direction of Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. However, the FCC never intended to maintain the telephone service permanently.

The FCC said this week that complaints already filed on the telephone service will be acted upon, and anyone who has left a message will receive a return call from Commission staff.

### **Propagation Forecast**

From Tad Cook, K7VVV  
Seattle, WA May 7, 1999  
To all radio amateurs

Solar flux was up this week, averaging 27 points higher than the week before. Sunspot number averages grew from 74 to 106.6. Predicted solar flux for this weekend is 145, 145 and 140 for Friday through Sunday, with planetary A indices of 15, 12 and 10 for the same days. Beyond the weekend, unless new sunspots come into view, solar flux will probably drift back to below 130 after May 10, then below 120 after the middle of the month. Look for return of geomagnetic storms around May 25 through 28.

Sunspot Numbers for April 29 through May 5 were 98, 80, 92, 136, 95, 100 and 145 with a mean of 106.6. 10.7 cm flux was 122.1, 123.5, 105.4, 135.7, 127.1, 138.7 and 140.9, with a mean of 127.6, and estimated planetary A indices were 19, 21, 19, 13, 9, 6 and 7, with a mean of 13.4.

The path projection for this week is from the center of the continental USA. We have now come full circle, back to where the path projections began in ARLP009. Next week the beginning point of the projections will be New York City, just as it was in ARLP010, followed by Atlanta. The times mentioned for each band are good bets for working the target locations. Although many stations will have propagation outside of these times,

during the times given the chances of working someone with strong signals in the target area is very good, assuming they are listening. The projections assume modest stations, with a dipoles on 80, 40 and 30, and a yagi on 20 meters and above.

To Western Europe, 80 meters 0130-0500 UTC, 40 meters 0030-0630 UTC, 30 meters 2200-0900 UTC, 20 meters open all hours, best signals around 0200 UTC, weakest 1100 UTC and 1530 UTC, 17 meters 1630-0030 UTC.

To Eastern Europe, 40 meters 0130-0330 UTC, 30 meters 2330-0530 UTC, 20 meters all hours, best signals 0230 UTC, weakest 1400-1600 UTC, 17 meters 0330-0500 UTC and 1200-2330 UTC, 15 meters 1700-2130 UTC.

To Southern Africa, 80 meters 0130-0430 UTC, 40 meters 0030-0430 UTC, 30 meters 2330-0530 UTC, 20 meters 2100-0200 UTC and 0430-0730 UTC, 17 meters 1800-0100 UTC, 15 meters 1730-2330 UTC.

To the Caribbean, 80 meters 0030-1030 UTC, 40 meters 2230-1200 UTC, 30 meters 2000-1500 UTC, 20 meters 1000-0700 UTC, 17 meters 1400-0330 UTC.

*Continued on Page 5...*

## Nets, Meetings and Hamfests:

(Please Note: Some may be subject to change.)

Every Monday	<b>ACARC Net, 9pm - 147.180</b>
Every Wednesday*	ARES Net, 8pm - 146.670 (*Except meeting nights)
Every Day	NC ARRL Tarheel Emergency Net, 7:30 - 3.923 MHz
As Needed	Skywarn Net - 146.820
May 14-16	Dayton Hamvention
18	<b>ACARC Meeting</b> - AHEC, Room C, 7:30pm - Topic: APRS
June 12	<b>ACARC VE Testing Session</b> , UNCW 10am, Morton Hall
15	<b>ACARC Dinner Meeting</b> - McAllister's Deli, 7:00pm
26-27	Field Day
July 20	<b>ACARC Meeting</b> - TBA

## 1998 Special Events:

Field Day	26-27 June, Battleship U.S.S. North Carolina Park
U.S.S. North Carolina Museum of Ships Event	17-18 July, Battleship U.S.S. North Carolina
International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend	21-22 August, Oak Island Lighthouse area??

## Propagation continued...

To South America, 80 meters 0100-1000 UTC, 40 meters 0030-1030 UTC, 30 meters 2300-1130 UTC, 20 meters all hours, best signals 0200- 0930 UTC, weakest 1630-1730 UTC, 17 meters 1100-0630 UTC, 15 meters 1200-0530 UTC, 12 meters 1600-2230 UTC, 10 meters possibly 1500-2300 UTC.	UTC, 12 meters around 2130 UTC, 10 meters possibly 1800-2200 UTC.	0830 UTC, 15 meters 0000-0700 UTC, 12 meters 2100-2300 UTC, 10 meters possibly 2130-2300 UTC.
To Hawaii, 80 meters 0430-1230 UTC, 40 meters 0330-1330 UTC, 30 meters 0200-1500 UTC, 20 meters all hours, best signals 0500-1130 UTC, weakest 2030 UTC, 17 meters 1200-0900 UTC, best signals 0500- 0730 UTC, 15 meters 1500-0730	To the South Pacific, 80 meters 0500-1230 UTC, 40 meters 0430-1230 UTC, 30 meters 0330-1430 UTC, 20 meters 0200-1430 UTC, 17 meter 1730-1400 UTC, 15 meters 1700-0800 UTC and 1230-1400 UTC, 12 meters 1730-0600 UTC, 10 meters 1730-0030 UTC.	To Japan, 80 meters 1000-1100 UTC, 40 meters 0900-1230 UTC, 30 meters 0800-1400 UTC, 20 meters 0500-1630 UTC, 17 meters 1200-1600 UTC and 1830-0830 UTC, 15 meters 1830-0530 UTC.
	To Australia, 80 meters 0700-1200 UTC, 40 meters 0630-1300 UTC, 30 meters 0530-1330 UTC, 20 meters 0400-1430 UTC, 17 meters 0200-	To Central Asia, 20 meters 1200-1500 UTC and 2200-0300 UTC, 17 meters 1200-0600 UTC, 15 meters 1500-2030 UTC.



# AC4RC

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## Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club May 1999 Newsletter



Affiliated  
Club

### Officers and Committee Chairs for 1999

President: Bill Morine / N2COP

Vice-President: John Braswell / AF4GA

Secretary: Martha Eason / KD4PSU

Treasurer: Shirley Peay / N4LFV

Net Control Coordinator: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Jolly / KE4LKB

VE Testing: Jack Jacobs / WD4OIN; Jeff Jolly / KE4LKB

Social Events Planning: Cathy Murrell / KD4WOF

Public Affairs: Frank Ebbinghouser / N2EMR

Special Events: Vacant



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