



The Listening Post

A Publication of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

Affiliated
Club

Electronic Edition

January 2000

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A New Year, New Century, and a New Millennium, and restructuring. What more could we ask for except a new free radio.

I and my family want to wish each and every one of you and your families, "all the best that life can bring", Good health and happiness.

Y2K has come and gone, with a great amount of fanfare and media hype. With the exception of a few minor reported glitches worldwide Y2K has proven to be much to do about nothing. I am happy to be past this hurdle and am looking forward to the next years; they should be filled with great excitement and technological achievement. I hope you will join me in educating ourselves in the new technology, so we may apply it to our public service and show the world that hams are truly on the cutting edge of technology.

I wish to express my thanks to Bill Morine N2COP for his years of dedicated service as president of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club. I know that I have some big shoes to fill but feel that I am up to the challenge. A sincere and deep thank you also go out to John Braswell AF4GA, who has consented to be vice president for another term, Martha Eason KD4PSU as Secretary, and Shirley Peay N4LFV as Treasurer. A President is only as good as the officers he serves with and I feel I have the best, together we will maintain the wonderful programs from the past and the new one's initiated by Past President Bill Morine. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the outstanding work performed by Jeff Jolly KE4LKB, in his dedication in putting out this fantastic newsletter. If it weren't for Jeff you wouldn't be reading this now. Kudos to Jack Jacobs for running our VE tasting all these years, it's a big job but Jack makes it seem easy. What can I say about Bill and Cathy Murrell AD4DN and KD4WOF, Bill's untiring efforts in ARES and maintaining all these repeaters is amazing, Cathy's dedication to ARES and planning our Christmas party, which by unanimous agreement was the best party ever was a feat in itself. There are so many other people I wish to thank all, which participated in the special events and all that have assisted at the VE sessions. Dwight K4YNY and Shirley N4LFV have there own special place, all the untiring hours they dedicate to the club with the monthly show and tell for new equipment, the use of the store for storage of club equipment, and various events, and the creation and maintainance of the club web site.

With the onset of the new Century, I have one very dedicated purpose and that is to recruit new licensees into amateur radio and increase club member participation in events and emergency services. If this wonderful hobby and service is to survive and grow, we need to add large numbers to our ranks. (See my editorial regarding my thoughts on this subject on another page)

Amateur radio has much competition in today's world, unlike when I first studied for my license in 1954. Amateur radio was the only game in town, now we have the Internet, cell phones, pagers etc.

We must sell the benefits of amateur radio to the public, especially the young people of today. Everyone must become active and introduce as many people as possible to the joys of communicating great distances with a small investment of time and money. Best of all the prospect of performing public service to neighbors and strangers in time of need.

If we all pull together we can secure the future of the hobby for future generations and ourselves.

N.C. QSO Party

Don't forget to participate in the N.C. QSO Party the end of February, It is a great weekend of fun and fellowship for all. In the years past we have won our class numerous times, and received very nice awards for the effort, let's keep up the tradition and win again this year.



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Dues are due

Yes it's that time of the year, dues are payable by March 1. A gentle reminder that you're \$ 20.00 investment into our club allows us to maintain the 147.18 repeater and supports the meetings and special events. Thanks to past President Bill Morine we are fiscally sound going into the New Year. Allowing us to purchase some sorely needed new equipment.

You're dues also for the first time give you 10 chances to win the FREE RADIO in the drawing to be held at the May meeting. (See the details in this newsletter as to how to obtain more free chances)

E-mail Addresses

For the past six months we have been compiling a list of all members e-mail addresses, this list has enabled us to get the word out quickly to members regarding special events, or just net reminders. E-mail is just another form of communication it complements the hobby not compete with it. I would ask that everyone please send your E-mail address with your dues payment so we can have a complete list of members. We have found that E-mail reminders have increased net participation for both the ragchew net and ARES approximately 25%.

Imagine what the participation would be if we were able to notify every one of upcoming events on a real time basis. The club now has an e-mail address it is ac4rc@arrl.net. Any mail sent to that address would be forwarded directly to me.

Coordinators needed

We need help!!!!

The club has two positions open and we are appealing to the membership for two individuals who would like to take on positions as coordinators.

Net control coordinator, is responsible for training and scheduling hams to become net control operators. This position will require about one hour a month of your time. It is an important position to assure the smooth functioning of the net control operations and the training of operators RE part 97 FCC rules. The reason we hold nets besides having fun,
Is to provide a trained pool of operators in the event we are called on in an emergency.

Special Event Coordinator,

Is responsible for making sure that the special event stations are manned with operators, and the equipment required is compiled and delivered to the site. You will work closely with the amateur who will manage the event, and be in charge of the contest log and QSL'ing.

This is a fun position and if the club decides to have a rare dx- pedition you will be the first on the list to attend.

I'm sure that in a club with almost 90 members there are two individuals who can devote one or two hours a month to making this club a fun place to participate,

And help enhance the radio art.



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Free Radio Contest

I know you all are saying yeah right!
Who is he-kidding nothing is free.
But it's true Azalea Coast will give away a free radio, at the July 2000 meeting, without monetary cost to you.
I'm sure you want to know how you can get in on the action; well here are the rules.
Oh by the way this is a NEW radio in the box with warranty.

The Contest is open to all active members of the Azalea Coast Amateur radio club.
You must be current individual dues paid member and licensed radio amateur at the time of assignment of points.

Each time you check into the ragchew net on Monday nights at 9 PM on the 147.18 repeater, you will be assigned 3 points

Checking into the ARES net
Wednesday night at 8PM you will be assigned 3 points

Each regular club meeting
That you attend you will be assigned 5 points, bringing a potential member to a meeting will give you 5 additional points.

Each special event the club sponsors in which you participate. You will be assigned 5 points

Paying Club dues on or before March 1, 2000, you will be assigned 10 points.
The number of family members registered will apportion family membership points.

New members will be assigned points starting the day the dues are paid.

Running the Monday night ragchew net as net control you will be assigned 5 points

Club officers will be responsible for maintaining the list of assigned points.

At the July 2000 meeting all points will be placed in a closed container and a non-member will hold a random drawing.

The radio to be given away will be announced at a future date.

The starting date will be January 18, 2000
The ending date will be July 13, 2000

We have never done this before and hope that by offering this incentive to the membership it will increase participation in club events.
If this event proves successful we will have more of them in the future.
GOOD LUCK to every one.



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New Position Created

Ed Redington W4EBR

Has consented to serve as our new membership development committee chair. Ed will research methods to increase membership, increase participation of current members, and attempt to locate sites in which we can hold amateur radio classes.

You may recall that Ed was our contact with the Coast Guard that provided us with the Oak Island Lighthouse site for the International Lighthouse special event weekend. We all wish him well in this endeavor.

Appeal from SEDAN

Buck Rogers K4ABT the Digital Editor for CQ Magazine and author of the popular monthly column "Packet Users Notebook",

Is also the founder and technical advisor for (SEDAN) Southeastern Emergency Digital Association. He is making an appeal for any used or broken TNCees, to be used for repair parts. The SEDAN uses many TNC2 clones (MFJ, PacComm, etc) as nodes on this emergency communications network.

If you have a defective TNC of this type, they will pay UPS shipping inside the USA. If you will consider donating it to this dedicated purpose.

SEDAN is a humanitarian association of over 200 independent system node operators, bound together for one purpose: to help save lives and protect property.

If you wish to donate a tnc contact buck via e-mail at k4ABT@sedan.org, or

Buck Rogers K4ABT
115 Luenburg Drive
Evington, VA 24550

Submitted by Rick Card, KD4JKX

Editorial Corner

Well here we are at a new Century, and a new Millennium. My best wishes go out to all for a wonderful and prosperous life filled with joy and success. The past hundred years have been filled with technological advances from the automobile to fast food, great advances have been made in medicine, allowing us to live longer and healthier. Discoveries have been made in electronics from the days of the spark gap to the transistor to integrated circuits. I am fully confident that the next century will hold untold marvels that we cannot, at this time, imagine. I fully expect that in the future we will wear a wrist computer that will incorporate all forms of communications and data storage in a portable fashion that will allow us instant communications and data recovery anywhere, at any time.

Where does this leave Ham Radio? We could be facing a very critical assault on our hobby and frequencies. The commercial interests eye us greedily with one thought in mind to push us out and secure our frequencies for themselves. The government is only interested in money. Eventually, if offered enough I foresee the auctioning of our frequencies one by one. You may say I don't think so, he must be kidding, please believe me this is a serious situation. If the frequencies are underutilized and subject to all types of malicious interference, and if we do not support our prime directive. Part 97 of the FCC rules. *To provide a trained pool of operators to be utilized in the event of emergencies*, We will lose them.

Did you know that 40 meters might be realigned? To better serve the needs of HF broadcasters, do you know that 75 meters could also be realigned? In many parts of the world these bands are HF broadcasting



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bands and here in North America the commercial interests want these bands desperately. This action could happen as close as the year 2003.

Amateur Radio has suffered great losses in numbers here in the United States. When I was first licensed in the year 1954 there were over 1 million hams, now there about 676,000. The numbers are deceiving in 1954 there was approximately 1 radio amateur to every 300 people, now there is approximately 1 radio amateur to every 450 people. This is due to the population rising and the number of licensed amateurs declining.

What can we do to save amateur radio for future generations and ourselves?

First and foremost we must become active, we must participate in emergency services, isn't that what were here to do? When the FCC sees that we are always there to meet emergency needs they may be prone to leave us alone. If the shelters go unmanned and the service that we historically provided is filled by other systems, eventually we will become unnecessary and the emergency service providers will no longer ask, to send the hams.

Second we must stop the infighting and our own special interests. Amateur radio is such a broad hobby; there is room for every one's individual preferences. We cannot survive selfishness and destructive behavior, When the public and the FCC hear about jamming, foul language, and discourteous behavior even though a few may be responsible, we all become guilty. If you know anyone who is not adhering to our code of conduct report him or her.

Third we must increase our numbers dramatically, We can only hope that restructuring will be forthcoming in the immediate future, so we know our playing field. I believe many individuals are waiting to upgrade or take the first tests until such time as restructuring has been effected. The amateur community must make it less contentious to obtain an entry-level license. People today have other communication options, the Internet, cell phones, family radio service, pagers etc. Why should they have to study when they can communicate worldwide for a few dollars a month. The older hams (myself included) did not have these options so it was worthwhile to study hard to pass the test so we could communicate worldwide. We must sell the public on the benefits of becoming a radio amateur, and the benefits are worth the cost of studying and passing an examination.

Fourth we must learn new technology, we are not all engineers and designers, I for one am content to let the brilliant minds invent the technology, but I certainly can learn how to use what is invented. When we remain tied to antique methods we also become obsolete, sure we can use it and have fun but it is fast becoming unusable for emergency services. A fast moving world requires fast moving communications. One place amateur's shine is the ability to be self sufficient and overcome adversity in time of crisis. It's not enough to be able to power our Ht's with batteries we must be able to deal with spread spectrum, ATV, packet, GPS, digital, trunked systems, and whatever else comes along on an emergency basis.

I do not believe all is lost, we must as a group pull together to make the hobby accessible to whoever wants to learn and communicate. We all must become ambassadors of Amateur Radio. Put on our best face and image and show the world that ham's are on the cutting edge of technology. We must as a group get rid of the bad apples and tell them that misbehavior is not acceptable. We must show the world that we are deserving of the frequencies we enjoy, and that we utilize them for the greater good and safety of the public.

I challenge every radio amateur to learn one new skill, to volunteer for Ares, Skywarn, Races or Mars, to sponsor and Elmer one person in the next year and get active in your local club. If you wish the hobby to



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survive give serious consideration to the challenge. With a few simple steps we can be assured that our hobby will survive and be passed on to future generations.

Frank Ebbinghouser N2EMR
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Wilmington NC 28412
910 791 0661

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Officers and Committee Chairs for 2000

President: Frank Ebbinghouser, N2EMR	Vice President John Braswell, AF4GA
Secretary: Martha Eason , KD4PSU	Treasurer: Shirley Peay N4LFV
VE Testing: Jack Jacobs , WD4OIN/Jeff Jolly , KE4LKB	Newsletter Editor: Jeff Jolly KE4LKB
Public Affairs: Bill Morine, N2COP	Social Events: Cathy Murrell KD4WOF
Net Control Coordinator: Vacant	Special Events: Vacant

Visit our Website: www.ac4rc.org

NETS

ACARC Ragchew- Mondays 9:PM 147.18
New Hanover County Ares- Wednesdays 8:PM 146.67
NC ARRL Tarheel Emergency Net-Every Day 7:30 PM 3.923
Skywarn as needed 146.82

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First Class Mail