

THE LISTENING POST

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 4044

Wilmington, NC 28406

<http://www.ac4rc.org>

147.18 Repeater

April 2010

I think the program on N3FJP Logging software went quite well and I appreciate all the nice comments people passed on to me after the program presentation. I have since found that a great number of our members have that software and some are using it. I would encourage everyone that has it to use it as it really reduces some of the work load in the shack – particularly if you are working for awards or are working a few contest operations. Those that don't have it should strongly consider it.

This past month has been quite busy with people attending the Charlotte Hamfest, the RARS Fest in Raleigh and best of all Battle Fest here in Wilmington. Ed, W3NZ, and his crew did a great job with out second year ham fest. Everyone that pitched in and participated get a big pat on the back. **A great bit THANKS to Ed.** We really got a lot of positive comments from those attending including the vendors. I am sure based on this success next year will be bigger and better.

The activity on our Monday night 2-Meter Net continues to grow. It is great to hear so many people checking in. Lots of YLs this last session. The guys better watch out or the gals are going to take over. I want to encourage everyone to try and connect on the net as much as possible as it will help communicate information. And please when you get your turn to talk tell all of us a bit about what you have been doing ham radio wise. Remember the ACARC is Ham Radio Spoken Here. We appreciate Don's, N4OFF, efforts to keep the net going well.

I hope everyone is planning to attend our meeting next week. David, KB4FXC, is going to give us a program on digital communications and I think everyone will find it interesting and probably a little challenging. But I bit the bullet and have gotten on PSK31 and I can tell you it is fun and a great way to communicate. I was on last evening on 80 meters trying to get a new computer I bought at the local ham fest going on PSK31. I called a couple of CQs and a station just south of Nashville, TN came back to me and said he was copying me about 90% which bothered me at the time because I was copying him very solid. Well it turns out because of an error in my set up my drive to the transmitter had me only running 1-watt and the guy in Nashville was copying 90%. That my friends is not bad at all. Also for those that have hearing problems it is a great approach to communications because ears are not required. Please come out and hear the program. You will be glad you did and David will appreciate your participation.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 20 at 7 PM at the Cape Fear Community College North Campus! And don't forget your Parking Pass

73, Charlie Vaughan K4UWH

ACARC Club Meeting Minutes
January 2010

The minutes for the March club meeting have been published on the club website and are available there for you to read. Follows is the link directly to them: <http://ac4rc.org/Club%20Meeting/meeting%20report2010.html>. If you have any questions regarding them please bring them to the meeting on March 16.

AC4RC Website Addition

Keep an eye on the club web site. Jack Jacobs, WD4OIN, keeps adding little things that should be useful to a good percentage of the club membership. It pays to check the site regularly. We owe Jack a bit Thanks for helping us get the web site straightened out and current.

REPORT OF VOLUNTEER EXAMINER TESTING

The April 10, 2010 test session was held at the Battle Fest and produced several candidates – some passed their tests and some did not. For those that did not it was a good learning experience to build on. There were six examiners present. The VE program continues to seek a few additional people willing to become volunteer examiners.

GENERAL FIELD DAY PLANNING

Field Day planning will be getting into full swing in the weeks to come. Everyone should have their calendar marked for June 26 and 27 as we are planning a fun event. We need help and operators to make it a success. The rules and objectives for Field Day, for the 2010 event are now posted on the ARRL website <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2010-packet.pdf>. I strongly recommend that you read through them so when we do begin to have discussions you are up-to-speed on what we are discussing. We know that the Salvation Army disaster relief team will cook for us Saturday noon and that was a real treat and help last year. It is worth the meal to come out and help us set up. Also right now we are planning for a Saturday night social meal for everyone that will attend. Families are invited ham or not. There will be plenty of opportunity to get a lot of people involved in this fun operating event this year. Start thinking now about where you will fit in and what you can do to contribute to the fun and club's success in this operating event.

2010 ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Each Monday Evening – 8 PM local – 146.18 Repeater - - ACARC Local Net

HAM FEAST – Typically Saturday Mornings 8AM K&W on Oleander (NK0S)

Friday Noon Lunch Bunch – As announced – Contact NC4ER for current week

April

3rd Raleigh Hamfest <http://rars.org/hamfest/>

10th Azalea Festival Weekend

10th Azalea Coast Hamfest at the Battleship USS NC (W3NZ)

20th Club Meeting - Program: Digital Communications Techniques (David KB4FXC)

24th & 25th Florida QSO Party 1600 Z to 0159Z and 1200Z to 2159Z

<http://www.floridagsoparty.org/rules.html>

May

1st & 2nd New England QSO Party 2000Z to 0500Z and 1300Z to 2400Z

<http://www.neqp.org/>

1st & 2nd 7th Call Area QSO Party 1300Z 5/1 to 0700Z 5/2

<http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=14055>

18th Club Meeting – Program: AC4RC Field Day Plan (Field Day Planning Team)

June

13 – 14th ARRL June VHF QSO Party

15th Club Meeting – Field Day Final Details and Training (Field Day Planning Team)

26 – 27th ACARC Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2010-packet.pdf>

CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As you can see we are making a lot of progress in getting the ACARC program going for 2010. We still need a number of key volunteers to fill in some of the key roles that need attention at this time and of course we will need more help as the year unfolds. Some of the things we need now are as follows:

Newsletter Editor

Anyone interested in presenting a club program

So if any of this looks like something that you would be interested in please come forward and let the officers know of your interests. Remember, the club will only be as good as we make it.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

We welcome anyone who would like to become a member of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club. We also try to maintain an e-mail mailing list for anyone that would like to keep track of our activities. Keep your e-mail address up-to-date.

CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting is April 20, 2010 at the Cape Fear Community College North Campus – 7 PM. The room is typically on the 3rd floor but ask security. ***BE SURE TO PRINT A PARKING PASS FOR YOUR CAR, FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS AND PLACE IT IN CLEAR VIEW ON YOUR DASHBOARD.*** Just As we did at the last meeting, we will have introductions and while we want to know your Name and Call Sign, please come prepared to mention something about your ham radio activities in the last month. The monthly meetings are becoming a place where “Ham Radio is Spoken”. So this is the place to let people know what you are doing and get your questions answered. No one gets a free pass so come prepared. **Looking forward to seeing all of you there.**

73,

Charlie K4UWH