

THE LISTENING POST

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 4044

Wilmington, NC 28406

<http://www.ac4rc.org>

147.18 - - 88.5 tone

442.50 - - 88.5 tone

August 2010

Wonderful program on County Hunting at the July meeting presented by Jack WD4OIN and supported by Paul, KB4QCE, both of which are active in county hunting. The attendance was great too and everyone was reporting ham radio activity.

I think that Jack, Paul and the video all brought home another avenue where hams can generate some activity on the air and work toward accomplishing measurable objectives. I have mentioned contesting and the QSO parties many times and will in the future but working for some of these other activity awards is also a great way to keep the interest alive and have fun with ham radio.

Another point was again demonstrated and that is that Logging Programs like N3FJP that we use on Field Day and that was discussed at a club meeting this year is a valuable tool and club members should integrate computer logging into their routine operations – not just for contesting. Using programs such as N3FJP and other support programs that produce ADIF files and interface with ADIF files is very important to have a seamless digital pathway in the ham shack. So I again urge all of you to get your N3FJP software going and use it. If that is not the one you want pick your own.

So yes I am again urging all club members to get more active on the air. A good site to find operating activities is the WA7BHM site at <http://www.hornucopia.com>. Some of these are listed on our calendar but there are many more. Google County Hunters and get their net frequencies and join in. Or go to the ARRL or CQ websites and pick some other activities to work toward. The message is get active and begin to enjoy more of ham radio.

I have been looking at some of the articles on the solar activity and in spite of the fact that there are not a huge number of sunspots, the X-ray radiation numbers hitting the ionosphere (the radiation that makes the ionosphere work for reflecting radio waves) is increasing at a rate that is statistically significant. This means that there will be a steady increase in higher frequency propagation but it won't be dramatic. We are moving into the fall season though and the fall equinox and therefore high frequency conditions will be pretty good on quite a number of days in the coming months. Keep the receivers on and the transmitters hot.

We have a great program coming up for the August meeting. Bill Morine, N2COP is going to talk to us about his early experiences as SM for NC and some of the things going on at ARRL. Bill has been quite active in his early months traveling to a lot of Field Day sites and a number of ham fests. Bill is always interesting and this is a great

chance to hear first hand what is going on at the State and National level of the ham radio world. Make your plans to attend.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 17 at 7 PM at the Cape Fear Community College North Campus! And don't forget your Parking Pass

<http://ac4rc.org/parkingpass.doc>

73, Charlie Vaughan K4UWH

ACARC Club Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the July club meetings 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 July 20.

AC4RC Website

When was the last time you checked our website? You really should check by the site periodically as things do change there and new informative information gets added. When you see Jack, WD4OIN thank him for doing a great job keeping the site going.

Bayshore Weather Station

Hutch, NK0S has his weather station up and online. The URL is <http://www.weatherlink.com/user/nk0s>.

Solar Update

See my notes on this earlier. Keep those receivers on and transmitters hot as we are entering the fall season and propagation typically improves for the next few months.

2010 ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Each Monday Evening – 9 PM local – 146.18 Repeater - - ACARC Local Net

HAM FEAST – Typically Saturday Mornings 8AM College Diner, College Rd.

Friday Noon Lunch Bunch – As announced – Contact W3NZ for current week

August

7th 10-10 International Summer SSB Contest

7th North American CW QSO Party

- 7th CFARS Swapfest, Fayetteville, NC
- 14th Maryland-DC QSO Party
- 15th ARRL RTTY Rodeo Roundup
- 17th Club Meeting – Bill Morine, N2COP NC SM
- 21st North American SSB QSO Party
- 21st New Jersey QSO Party
- 28th Hawaii QSO Party
- 28th Kansas QSO Party
- 28th Ohio QSO Party

September

- 2nd 65th Anniversary of the End of WWII – USS MO
- 4th Colorado QSO Party
- 5th Tennessee QSO Party
- 4th & 5th Shelby Hamfest, Dallas, NC
- 11th Arkansas QSO Party
- 11th ARRL Sept. VHF QSO Party
- 18th South Carolina QSO Party
- 21st Club Meeting – Feed Lines and Antennas – Some Interesting Information
- 25th Texas QSO Party
- 25th CQ WW DX RTTY contest

CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Everyone needs to begin to think about officers for next year. Elections are in November and that will be here soon. I will be looking for a nominating committee in the near future and so people need to think about who they want for new officers. Some current officers have indicated they want to step down to have time for other activities. We also need a News Letter Editor.

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 August 17, 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