

THE LISTENING POST

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 4044

Wilmington, NC 28406

<http://www.ac4rc.org>

147.18 Repeater

June 2010

The attendance at the May meeting brings cause for me to get on my soapbox. After having great meeting attendance and participation, the May meeting was a real disappointment to me. We had a total of 8 members present – about 15% of our current membership. Typical club participation at meetings is around 35% and we didn't even make half of that. Further more the subject matter was our upcoming Field Day preparations. Field Day is the largest single annual ham radio event based on the number of US licensed hams participating. We only got about 15% shows. Put yourself in my position as President.

Secondly, there seems to be a very negative connotation around these parts in anything that even smells of something like a contest. This is a very unjust categorization of the best training tool we have in ham radio – contest or near contest operations are by far the most effective way to build communications skills. The better the communications skills you have the more valuable you are as a ham radio operator in emergencies and typically the more fun you have on the radio. Field Day is FUN in capital letters.

- Eating is FUN and we have eats at Field Day
- Socializing is FUN and we have plenty of time to socialize at Field Day
- Making a plan and seeing it come together and be successful is not only FUN but it is also rewarding – this is Field Day
- Working together with fellow club members on a big radio project is FUN
- Learning more about ham radio and how to do things is FUN – this is Field Day
- Operating radios during Field Day is FUN
- Interfacing with youth and the public including elected official and our served agencies is FUN

You see there is plenty of FUN associated with Field Day – more than most any other activity during the year. So you need to find your niches where you fit in and enjoy the FUN of Field Day.

Now dealing with the poor meeting attendance, put yourself in the place of the Officers that you elected to operate the club. You elected them to lead and they are leaders. They all have jobs to do and in general they are working hard to get them done. I passed up generally a whole day of consulting work to get ready for the last club meeting and put together the information for a program on our clubs Field Day effort – in case you don't know it consultants don't get paid unless they do work. But expecting a good turn-out of members I wanted to have a good informative program for everyone

so everyone could learn and get up to speed on our efforts. And all we had was 8 members and all but 2 of them were on the Field Day Committee and already knew what I had to say. How would you feel if you were in my position?

And remember your Officers work to get programs and activities together for the club members doing our best to make them interesting and informative. What would be your incentive if you were in our Officers shoes to go out and get a good program for the club when maybe only 8 members are going to show?

This kind of performance is not only unfair to the Officers but also to all the members of the club. One of the greatest benefits of the club is getting together and sharing. But if no one shows up there is little to share. Plus by not showing up, you cause the effort to make the club interesting dwindle. Every club member that is not a leader is a follower and to be a good follower you need to support your fellow club members and the Officers you elected to lead.

So my bottom line message is that you need to get involved – find your niche and get involved as there are a lot of things you can do to support the club. Meeting attendance is one aspect of club activity that everyone can support most of the time. Think about the message you send when you do not attend and do not participate.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 15 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 **April 2010**

The minutes for the May club meeting are to be 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 June 15.

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. **A more detailed Field Day Schedule is currently posted there and will not be repeated in the newsletter – go to the website to obtain it!**

GENERAL FIELD DAY PLANNING

Field Day plans are well developed and a lot of the work has been done to prepare to implement them. Go to the club website for the latest schedule of events and a number of important instructions – none of which are repeated here. Also the June 15 Club Meeting will go over a lot of important information related to our Field Day operation. Hopefully a good group of our members will be there and will be willing to become part of the plan and help implement it.

Bayshore Weather Station

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

Museum Ships Weekend

I have an unofficial report that even with limited club participation the Museum Ships Weekend activity was a big success with around 500 QSOs total and it looks like contacts with 15 or 16 of the stations required to get an award. So congratulations to the few that braved the extreme heat and kept the rig going. I also understand there was a lot of public interest on the ship Saturday and Sunday.

Solar Update

The sun continues to be a bit unpredictable and this sunspot cycle is not progressing real well. Be that as it may there have been quite a number of good days with some good propagation. We are also seeing some Sporadic 'E' openings that are affecting 10 and 6 meters – June is the time of year. The daytime heating and night time cooling is producing some ducting that is particularly interesting on 2-meters and above – late evening through early morning is the time to look for this. So in spite of the crazy sun there is some interesting activity on the bands.

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

June

13th Exam Session at Cape Fear Community College North Campus – See the ACARC website for the details.

13 – 14th ARRL June VHF QSO Party (Watch 6 meters closely this weekend)

<http://www.arrl.org/Events/view/19437>

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

26 – 27th ACARC Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/2010%20Rules.pdf>

July

20th Club Meeting – Program to be announced.

CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As mentioned up front we need a dedicated Club Newsletter Editor in the worst way. We have learned again that the newsletter can be published. We just need someone to step forward and make it happen – other than the President.

Also any ideas for a July program? Anyone have a subject they would like to share with the club? If so please contact me so we can get it on the schedule.

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 June 15, 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