

THE LISTENING POST

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

P. O. Box 4044

Wilmington, NC 28406

<http://www.ac4rc.org>

147.18 Repeater

May 2010

We had a good turn out for the April meeting and David did a great job instructing us on digital communications with a focus on PSK-31. I am not sure the bug has bitten though because I have not run across anyone else in Wilmington on the bands working PSK-31. There have been some very good and very bad conditions on 10 meters for PSK-31. This past night there was about 4 Khz of activity and almost a solid waterfall. I was copying stations from deep South America up to Alaska and a lot of the US. After I got my micros untangled from the PSK contest over the weekend I worked a few.

Also there was talk at the club about getting a Ten-en Chapter going in Wilmington. The long pole in the tent was enough people with 10-10 numbers to get their member ship and form a chapter. Well I got to work and in a week I got my ten 10-10 numbers and not a one from the Wilmington area. So what you have to do is get on the air and do it.

The Field Day 2010 Planning Team had their first meeting May 4 and began to get some things lined out and are in the process of verifying some needed details. As all of you have seen the next FD planning meeting is in Ogden Park at the FD site and the planning team is going to be looking at our logistics plan and see if what is on paper works in the park. Also note anyone in the club is invited –it is an opportunity to learn something about ham radio and portable operations – Sunday May 23 at 2 PM. There will be more information coming on FD. The next two meetings will focus on the largest event in ham radio. The May meeting will be devoted to talking about our plans and logistics. The June meeting will talk about rules and regulations, operating techniques and things of that nature. We are interested in getting some youth participation involved in FD, providing a learning experience and some operating on the GOTA station. So if you know any young people that might enjoy getting involved please send them our way so we can get that element organized. We are also looking to get some VHF activity going on 6 and 2 meters locally. There are quite a number of 6 and 2 meter capable hams in the area – many of which are not members of ACAC but it would be nice to get some local activity going and we welcome it.

This news letter is about to kill me. I am committed to get one out because I think it is important. Unfortunately I am not doing all that good a job with the newsletter because as your President I have a good many other things to take care of plus I have a few personal things to do from time to time just like the rest of you. I really would like to

find someone that is highly committed to putting out a club newsletter that would take the project and run with it. I will be glad to help but it needs more care and feeding than I can provide it. If anyone is that person PLEASE COME FORWARD!

I am sad to report that we lost a couple of hams that had been supportive of the ACARC, Joe Malik and Ralph Mork.

I hope that everyone is planning to attend the May 18, 2010 Club Meeting. We really need your input and understanding of our FD plans and we need your participation.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May18 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 April 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 May 18.

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.

GENERAL FIELD DAY PLANNING

Field Day planning is in full swing and will intensify 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 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. It is the largest single annual event based on the number of people participating around the US and Canada. Don't be left out!

SEE WHAT ARRL SAYS ABOUT FIELD DAY

See June QST

The June issue of *QST* -- our annual Field Day issue -- is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting -- including a look at one of the ARRL Homebrew Challenge winners and an abundance of articles relating to Field Day, Amateur Radio's number one operating event -- the upcoming issue of *QST* has something for just about everyone.

If April showers bring mayflowers, and *Mayflowers* bring pilgrims, what does June bring? Why, ARRL Field Day of course! The June issue of *QST* is chock-full of articles all about Field Day. Gary Gordon, K6KV, tells readers how to put three transceivers on one antenna using a decoupling network in conjunction with bandpass filters in his article "HF Yagi Triplexer Especially for ARRL Field Day." Find out how Geoff Haines, N1GY, found a way to quickly install a portable mast for your Field Day antenna in "A Vehicle-Mounted Mast for Field Operating." ARRL Field Day means many different things to different hams, but no matter what, the day is your day to promote Amateur Radio. Warren L. Rothberg, W4WR, explains just how to do this in "Will the *Real* Field Day Please Stand Up?" And as much fun as hams have on Field Day, safety is always important. ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, explains how you can be safe and still have loads of fun in "A Safe Field Day is a Fun Field Day." Jim Riley, KB9CYL, a long-time Field Day chairman shows how you, too, can have a successful Field Day in his article, "On 15 Years as a Field Day Chairman."



SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "[Beyond the fixed stars and variable suns and telescopic planets, astronomical waifs and strays](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: Sunspot activity made a strong return this week. Last Friday, April 30, sunspot group 1064 appeared and then faded after the third day. On Sunday, groups 1065, 1066 and 1067 appeared, and the next day group 1063 made reappearance, along with new group 1068. Group 1069 arose on May 4 and group 1070

on May 5. Group 1069 grew quickly and the sunspot number rose from 61 to 70, and then 77 on Wednesday. Wednesday's sunspot number is the highest it has been for Solar Cycle 24; in fact, it has not been to this level in nearly four years. The last time it was this high was back on May 28, 2006 when it was 78. Sunspot group 1069 has grown so much that it is 17 times the size of each of the other five sunspot groups. This level of activity should continue for the next few days. Along with increased sunspots, we saw rising geomagnetic activity. The peak days were Sunday and Monday, when the planetary A index was 39 and 27, and the K index went as high as 6 over several three hour periods. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, May 7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by James Joyce's [Ulysses](#) (Chapter 17) *Courtesy of ARRL Letter of May 6, 2010*

2010 ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Each Monday Evening – 9 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 W3NZ for current week

May

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

June

**5th & 6th Museum Ships Weekend at the Battleship USS North Carolina – WD4OIN
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.

REFERENCE INFORMATION OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

Severe Weather References

Jeff Orrock (Warning Coordinator) jeff.orrock@noaa.gov

NWS Raleigh <http://weather.gov/raleigh>

Spotter Guide <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/basicspot.pdf>

Briefing Pages <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/rah/briefing>

<http://www.noaawatch.gov/briefing.php>

Receiving Alerts & <http://inws.wrh.noaa.gov>

Monitoring Weather

(For cell phones) <http://mystateusa.com/> (by county)

<http://mobile.weather.gov/>

Twitter http://twitter.com/liembot_rah

RSS Feeds <http://www.weather.gov/rss/> (for email & browsers)

River Alerts <http://nc.water.usgs.gov/alertl> (email and text alerts)

Rainfall Reporting <http://www.cocorahs.org>

Radar Past Rainfall <http://water.weather.gov/>

Watch & Warning

Thunderstorm Outlooks <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/>

Severe Watches <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/watch/>

Severe Reports <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climolonline>

Radar Imagery <http://radar.srh.noaa.gov/> (NEW!!!)

<http://radar.weather.gov/WeatherSafety>

Lightning Monitoring <http://struckbylightning.org/>

Lightning Safety <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>

Flood Safety <http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/>

CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting is May 18, 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