

# THE LISTENING POST

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4044

Wilmington, NC 28406

December 2011

[www.ac4rc.org](http://www.ac4rc.org)

147.180 (+.600KHz 88.5)

442.500 (+5MHz 88.5)

## From the President

I want to wish the members and their families a very merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

The Club had plenty of high points during the year and of course some low points that give us areas to improve on. I must say the highlight has been the work we have done at the Battleship USS North Carolina. That work has done a nice job for ham radio in the community. I am also particularly grateful for those club members who were able to support the county wide emergency exercise ARRL Field Day and I hope that even more can find a way to participate in 2012.

The Beach 2 Battleship Triathlon has had strong ham radio support and is getting national recognition for the usefulness of ham radio and special techniques such as APRS, a meaningful application of the technology. Of course, there are several other smaller events in the area where ham radio has provided a service. These are all important parts of the ham radio mission. I would like to encourage those not participating to become more involved including some emergency communications training and certification. We are in an area that could need all the support we could muster and it pays to be knowledgeable with the credentials to support your operations.

In addition to the above, I would like to see us focus on work to get Technicians upgraded to General and higher so they can enjoy the HF experience and any of the

other facets of the hobby open to them. Meeting attendance where ham speak is shared with all our experiences and information also seem vitally important to a good ham radio experience.

Once again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I certainly appreciate your support.

Charlie Vaughn K4UWH

### CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2011

President Charlie Vaughn K4UWH; Vice-President Don Hall N4OFF; Treasurer Allan Pellnat KX2H; Secretary Norman Clemmons KI4YSY.

At the November club meeting, the entire slate of Officers for 2011 was reelected for 2012.

### REGULAR CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monday 9:00PM ACARC local net on the club .18 repeater. The repeaters are not currently linked.

Friday noon Lunch Bunch location changes weekly, location announced on club web page.

Third Tuesday of every month club meeting at CFCC North Campus. See club web page for directions and parking pass.

Second Saturday of even months VE Test Session at CFCC North Campus. See club web page for directions, details and requirements.

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The Holiday Season is upon us. In spite of the everyday harsh realities of the world as we find it, we yet pause at this time of year to hope for peace on earth and wish for good will toward men, to enjoy the warmth of friends and family, and to renew that hope which springs eternal within the human breast for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The next Club meeting will be on January 17, 2012.

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## PRIOR ACTIVITIES

The Radio Guys were aboard BB 55 on December 4<sup>th</sup> attempting to contact the USS Wisconsin (BB 64) in Norfolk, VA. An earlier attempt met with no success as Wisconsin is well within the “skip zone” on 20 meters. However, on this occasion we did manage a QSO with the Wisconsin on 40M SSB at 1800Z and again at 1957Z. While band conditions were not great, we did manage to contact Michigan, Maine, Florida and, for DX, Ontario Canada and Belgium.

Nine Club members were on board for the Club’s commemoration of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. CW attempts resulted in only two contacts as a result of continuing generator and other problems with the TDE Morse Code transmitter. We enjoyed some success on SSB feeding the club’s Yaesu FT-840 into the Ship’s original antenna feed line to a vertical antenna on the aft stack. The logs for December 7<sup>th</sup> have not yet been data mined, but the results will be available for the January club meeting.

The club has received a certificate from the USS New Jersey Amateur Radio Society confirming that the North Carolina made successful contact with twenty-two other Museum Ships during Museum Ships Weekend last June.

Also, a Press Release issued by the Battleship concerning Hidden Battleship tours for November 12<sup>th</sup> was carried by the Associated Press and appeared in 8 newspapers and on 5 television stations throughout North and South Carolina as well as on You Tube and other internet venues. The publicity resulted in nine hundred visitors to the Ship on that day. The following was part of the Press release.

“...members of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club will be on hand to explain their work on the Ship’s transmitters.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December

24&25 S/S Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

31 & 1/1/2012 S/S New Year’s Eve & New Year’s Day; ARRL Straight Key Night

### January

14&15 S/S NA QSO Party CW

## 17th Club Meeting

### MESSAGE FROM the NORTH CAROLINA SECTION MANAGER

Seasons Greetings. I just learned from the ARRL that I will serve a second term as North Carolina Section Manager through 2014. The past two years have gone quickly, and I've tried very hard to serve the 4,000 ARRL members in the Tar Heel state and all 19,000 licensed North Carolina Ham operators I take special pride in coming from Wilmington. It's been 40 years since there has been a Section Manager east of Raleigh, and 50 years since the last SM from Wilmington. All of North Carolina is an extraordinary state of special beauty and quality of life, but the NC coast is close to my heart, and I pay extra special attention to matters in my hometown and backyard. As we head into the new year, I hope you will give thanks for our hobby and for the fellowship we share with the approximately 1,500 hams in our area. Yes, we have our disagreements, some warranted but many not,. Reach out to fellow hams this coming year and let us all try to live up to the code of friendship and camaraderie we should share. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and the best of the season to your families. May propagation conditions in all aspects of your life be favorable in 2012.

73,  
Bill Morine, N2COP

The November issue of ARRL Spectrum Defense Matters reviews the most recent developments in Federal Communications Commission's long running soap opera with regard to Broadband over Power Lines and the ARRL's attempts to force the Commission to adhere to its own rules, follow its own procedures, give proper consideration to science based evidence and argument, follow the findings, conclusions, and instructions of Court decisions, and otherwise apply lessons learned from documented practical experience since the issuance of PRB-1 in 1985, not to mention the application of common sense and logic to the issues under dispute. The history and issues are too intricate for discussion at length here, but the interested follower of the issue might well benefit from securing a copy of the document.

From our house to yours, best wishes also for a very Merry Christmas indeed and a most Happy and Felicitous New Year. If you are travelling, please be safe on the roads.

With apologies to Dr. Clement Clarke Moore...

And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight, 73s to all and to all a good night!

Bill AG4PA

