

ACARC  
ACARC Mailing List  
THE LISTENING POST JULY 2011

AZALEA COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
PO BOX 4044  
WILMINGTON, NC 28406

EYECATCHER!!! Don't forget the Club meeting this coming Tuesday evening--7:00PM CFCC North Campus. Also, If you have not yet paid your dues for 2011, please do so at the meeting or send \$20.00 to the Club PO BOX. Put your call sign on the check.

#### CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2011

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

#### REGULAR CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monday 9:00PM-ACARC weekly Local Net on the club's 147.180 repeater (offset +.600; tone 88.5).

Friday noon Lunch Bunch-location changes weekly-location announced on club reflector.

Saturday morning breakfast at at 8:00AM at K&W Cafeteria on Oleander drive.

Third Tuesday of every month- club meeting at 7:00PM at CFCC North Campus-see web page for directions and parking pass.

Second Saturday of even months-VE Test Session at CFCC North Campus-see web page for details and requirements.

#### REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

##### 2011 New Hanover County Field Day

I would like to report that after some fits and starts regarding Field Day, at the last minute, myself working with David McGough - President of the Wilmington VHF Association and Stephen Russ - New Hanover County Emergency Coordinator, a 2A classification effort was organized and supported by various members of all three groups. It seemed rather appropriate since Field Day is a form of an emergency exercise for the ham population and the NHC call of NC4NH was used. This may have been a first for the county. In excess of 30 ham radio operators either participated directly in the event or came by as visitors. If you listened on the various repeaters after FD there were plenty of very positive comments heard.

We setup at Ogden Park much like ACARC has in the past. All-in-all it makes a good location and we continue to learn about good features such as 80' light poles that were used to advantage thanks to NI4SR's rifle-shot air cannon. Of course with the hasty planning and the coordination of a whole new group of individuals everything did not go perfectly - but then that is what emergency practice is all about, learning your needs for improvement and working on them in the future. The general

consensus was that we should try this again next year and get the planning started earlier.

Breakdown for contacts by mode and band were as follows:

SSB 80M 27; 40M 115; 20M 96; 15M 36; 6M 33

CW 80M 24; 40M 91; 20M 122; 15M 58

A total of 295CW and 287SSB for a grand total of 532. The GOTA station had 7 contacts we are sure of in the logs but some others got messed up because of incorrect logging procedures so the exact total is unclear at this writing. Logging particularly with multiple stations and on SSB needs some work. As I mentioned earlier, everyone that participated really had a lot of fun. It was great that New Hanover County was able to put forth a good effort in the most popular US ham radio event of the year - each year. It would be nice to see many more local hams get involved in the planning and operations next year.

#### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The ACARC April meeting will take place this coming Tuesday evening (7/19/11) at 7:00PM at CFCC North. We are most often to be found on the third floor of the McKeithen Center, which is the building directly to the front as you enter the campus. Check with the security guard at the main entrance. Don't forget to check the club web page for specific directions and parking pass.

We should expect some discussion of last month's Field Day activity in its revised format. As Charlie mentioned, I did hear several favorable discussions on local repeaters in the days following the event. I also spoke with several folks who had attended and all comments were also favorable.

#### Prior activities

A series of severe electrical storms moved through the area just after Field Day and wreaked havoc at NHRMC, knocking out a generator. We also lost the 147.180 and 442.500 Club repeaters. It took a while to line up the appropriate personnel and secure access to the site. Fortunately, our hopes were realized as we discovered that the power supply had merely shut down during an electrical surge (the "crowbar effect") and only required a reset. We were also able at long last to link the two repeaters and they appear to be working well.

#### Upcoming Events

##### Beach2Battleship

The sign-up has begun. The B2B is scheduled for Saturday, October 29. This year we are starting early enough to inform all operators of the date so they can schedule it in their busy book. Bill (N2COP) is gathering information from the B2B committee, and I am starting to gather names of operators. The Incident Action Plan is being formed.

If this information can be disseminated as fast and as soon as possible, then the operators can pick the time, event and location that they enjoy working at. Have then send me an email at [bob28405@bellsouth.net](mailto:bob28405@bellsouth.net)

with their call, phone number, email address and the information above.  
There will also be an announcement coming out from Ham Radio Public Service asking for operators.

I hope that we get 35-40 operators so that nobody has to stay longer than planned, and that all event locations are covered."

More later. 73

Bob Kiehlmeier  
WA3IRG COML

As we enter the height of the "summer doldrums" from mid July to mid August, there is not a lot of scheduled amateur activity. Look for the North American QSO Party CW on SAT/SUN August 6th & 7th. The SSB version of the event is scheduled for SAT/SUN August 20th & 21st. Look for activity to pick up as we enter the Fall.

#### ODDS & END NOTES

Doldrums for Amateur radio activity do not, however, carry over to the weather. We have already had one named Tropical Storm in the Gulf of Mexico. As we approach the peak of hurricane season here in the Carolinas, it is always prudent to make at least preliminary preparations for landfall. Whether you decide to evacuate or "ride it out", preparation at leisure with regard to communications gear and other property beats the stress of trying to prepare in the face of impending emergency weather conditions.

The July issue of QST has an interesting article on Homeowners Associations and antenna restrictions, as well as a rebuttal to previously reported predictions of a severe decrease in sunspot activity: "Don't Believe the Pessimistic Forecasts!"

See you at the meeting.

All for now, more next month,

73 Bill AG4PA