

THE LISTENING POST OCTOBER 2011

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

EYECATCHER!!! Don't forget the Club meeting this coming Tuesday evening--10/18/11—7:00PM
CFCC North Campus.

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 repeaters. The .18 machine is currently
down, but 442.500 is alive and well (offset +5.00MHz—88.5 tone).

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

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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Club meeting as above on the 18th.

The “Radio Guys” will be back on board BB-55. The Tuesday morning projects this year include
reinstalling the motor generator in the TDE Transmitter and “tweaking” the TBM-4 transmitter in an
attempt to eliminate or at least moderate the raspy tone on the CW signal.

Looking ahead a bit, we will have another crack at contacting the Wisconsin in Norfolk, Va. On the 3rd
and 4th of December. Of the 6 other Battleships with amateur radio affiliation, Wisconsin is the only
one we have been unable to contact from the North Carolina. (See below). Iowa appears to be heading
out of the “Mothball Fleet” to Los Angeles, and should become part of today's “Battleship Row” soon.
We hope to add Iowa to our list of contacts.

“The Showboat” will be on the amateur bandwaves on Tuesday evening December 6th and Wednesday
morning December 7th in commemoration of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

If there is enough interest among the membership, we may operate from the Ship on Veteran's Day
November 11th. There will be a significant amateur radio presence on that date, including
military/museum components.

Next Saturday is the Beach to Battleship Iron Distance Triathlon here in Wilmington. This activity is
recognized as a World Class Event and has been a great success over the past several years, both in

terms of raising money for the local Family YMCA and generating logistical support from the local amateur radio community. This event attracts 1,750 entrants from around the world to swim, bike and run the course. By now, you should have been well advised of the various volunteer opportunities and we encourage as many amateur radio operators as possible to participate. Your participation as a communications volunteer will not only support a worthy activity benefitting the Wilmington community, but also provide you with a first class opportunity to hone your communications skills. You can get more information on volunteering and get in on the fun at the Club meeting on Tuesday.

Prior activities

At the October 8th VE Test Session, we administered 7 exams to 4 candidates. We passed 3 new Techs. One candidate whom we had passed for tech at a prior session missed passing the General exam by one question—twice—to our mutual frustration. We encouraged him to persevere and come back loaded for bear at the next session, and more than one VE admitted to multiple attempts before passing one or more exams. 7 VEs were present. The new license grants came through from the FCC within a week. In late September, we made an attempt to contact the USS Wisconsin (BB-64) from Radio Central on board the North Carolina. Wisconsin was celebrating the anniversary of her third decommissioning (after WWII, Korea and the First Gulf War). Given the proximity of Wisconsin in Norfolk, VA to Wilmington, NC—approximately 250 air miles+/-, we are usually in each others skip zone. Unfortunately, we did not have access to the Ship's 40M antenna. We could hear the Wisconsin pretty well calling us on both 20M & 40M, but She could not hear us clearly enough to confirm a QSO. The ops on Board BB-64 steadily reported a background noise level of S-7. Band conditions were not good, but we did manage 20 contacts in 9 States and 1 Canadian Province in about 3 hours, and interestingly enough, the following day, I was able to confirm a signal report of 55 at home from BB-64 off the end of a wire antenna oriented almost exactly North-South—go figure.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

S 29 Saturday 10/29/11 is this year's Beach to Battleship (B2B) Iron Distance Triathlon
F/S/S 21/22/23 Multiple Flotilla Participants 72nd Anniversary of founding of US Coast Guard Auxiliary
S/S 22/23 USS Cobia Commemorating 52 US Subs lost in WWII Certificate
S/S 29/30 CQ WW DX Contest SSB

NOVEMBER

TH/F/S/S 3/4/5/6 Multiple Participants Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald Certificate
11/4—11/13 Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society Heroes Homecoming—Honoring Vietnam Veterans
11 Veterans Day Multiple Participants
S/S 12/13 Multiple Participants Birthday of US Marine Corps (11/10/1775) Certificates
S/S 12/13 Loss of the Five Sullivan Brothers Certificate
T 15 Club Meeting
ODDS & END NOTES

The bands are popping. Solar activity has been up and 10M, 12, & 15 have been especially productive on SSB. It looks like we are finally pulling out of the “Summer Doldrums” and can look forward to increasing activity. Get on the air!

In the interim, don't forget that we still have 7 weeks left in hurricane season. Keep your batteries charged and your gear ready.

Finally, a NASA x-ray satellite launched in 1990 known as ROSAT is expected to reenter the Earth's atmosphere between 10/22 and 10/24. Specifically where or specifically when is not known yet.

However, approximately 1.7 tons of the satellite is expected to survive re-entry and fragments reach the Earth's surface. Check it out at the following address--

[http\(COLON\)\(FORWARD_SLASH\)
\(FORWARD_SLASH\)spaceweather\(DOT\)com\(FORWARD_SLASH\)flybys](http://(FORWARD_SLASH)spaceweather.(DOT)com(FORWARD_SLASH)flybys)

Nothing looks imminent at present, but in the concluding words of one of the best 1950's science fiction movies---"Watch the Skies".

See you at the meeting.

All for now, more next month,

73 Bill AG4PA