

# THE LISTENING POST

## Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4044  
Wilmington, NC 28406

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

147.180 (+.600 88.5)  
442.500 (+5 88.5)

April, 2012

### EYECATCHER!!!

This issue of the Newsletter is a day late due to editing and publishing difficulties. Please accept our apologies.

The next Club meeting will be Tuesday 17, 2012 at Cape Fear Community College North Campus. See the web site for directions. Also, it is time to pay Club dues for 2012. \$20.00 please, either mailed to the P.O. Box or brought to the meeting. Make sure your call sign is on your check. Our Club Treasurer requests prompt payment of dues so that the Club can meet its obligations. We are well through the first quarter of the year. Very shortly the reflector list and membership will be culled, and only paid up Club members will continue to receive Club e-mails. Others will be left QRT. Don't let this happen to you! Get your dues in!

### CLUB OFFICERS for 2012:

President Charlie Vaughn K4WUH; Vice-President Don Hall N4OFF; Treasurer Allan Pellnat KX2H; Secretary Norman Clemmons K4YSY

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Charlie K4UWH is away on assignment. His comments and observations will return next issue.

### REGULAR CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monday 9:00PM local net on the Club's .18 repeater.

Friday Noon Lunch Bunch, location changes weekly, announced on Club web site and via Club reflector. There are in fact three lunch Friday groups in the local amateur community. You can pay your money and take your chances.

Third Tuesday of every month, Club meeting at CFCC North. See web site for directions and parking pass.

Second Saturday of even months, Volunteer Examiner Test session at CFCC North, 10:00AM. See web site for directions and what to bring with you.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES and EVENTS

### April

#### 17 Club Meeting

20/21 Holyland DX

20/22 Southeastern VHF Convention, Charlotte NC

21/22 Mich QSO; Ontario QSO

28/29 Fla QSO; Nebraska QSO

### May

#### 15 Club Meeting

DAYTON!!! 18-20

Do not forget that Dayton is fast approaching. If you are interested in attending, just let your desires be known at the meeting next week. I am sure that you will find some space somewhere in a group that will be attending.

Also, Museum Ships Weekend is fast approaching on June 2 & 3. This is always a fun event for the Club members. We have done very well in this event for the past several years and have introduced many new hams to the fun of HF amateur communications and the joy of being on the receiving end of a pileup from folks anxious to contact a WWII Battleship. This year, since we may although we hope not be without CW capability from Radio Two, we are looking at trying digital modes. Stay tuned.

Finally, Field Day, June 23 and 24 is the biggest Amateur Event nationwide. Last year, New Hanover County Hams put on a very good show and plan on doing the same again this year. Keep your calendars open for that weekend.

## PRIOR ACTIVITIES

The April Volunteer Examiner Test Session administered six Amateur Radio exams, resulting in two

new Technicians and two upgrades to Extra Class. A tip of the headphones to Brad WD4FTR, who upgraded from Advanced. Seven Ves were present.

Half a dozen of our friends from the Wayne County ARC visited the Battleship North Carolina this past weekend as Guest Operators under the joint BB 55/ACARC Program.

The Generators for the three CW Transmitters in Radio Two were shipped out to a repair facility earlier this month. We hope to have at least one of the generators returned in time for Museum Ships Weekend this year, but we can only wait and see. Our friends from Wayne County are as anxious as we are to fire up these WWII Morse Code transmitters and return The Showboat to the Amateur Radio bandwaves.

For the present, however, as regards CW radio transmissions from Radio Two, BB 55 remains under enforced radio silence.

The Club's .18 repeater continues to perform well within its own limitations. The 442.500 repeater remains down. The radios for the 442 unit have been removed for evaluation and setting of the 88.5 tone. There is a tremendous amount of RFI at the repeater site since recent major renovations at the facility as any of you who have heard it can attest. We are hoping and planning that installation of the tone on the 442. will alleviate the problem as it seems to have done with the .18. We owe a significant debt of gratitude to David KB4FXC for his most generous expenditure of time and effort on our behalf.

#### ODDS AND END NOTES

#### SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB TREASURER KX2H

**“THERE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN WILMINGTON SINCE 1914. PLEASE REMIT YOUR ANNUAL \$20.00 DUES TO ACARC, PO BOX 4044, WILMINGTON, NC 28406.”**

#### ACARC FAMILY TREE

Our Club of today has history almost as long as ham radio itself and several hams who made local history in their own way.

The U.S. Commerce Dept. issued several supplements to that first 1913 list of ham station licenses, that I mentioned in last months article, later in that year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> supplement listed station 4BL belonging to Byron Schoenwald at 116 Nun St. running 30 watts. The 3<sup>rd</sup> supplement gave us two more stations: 4BA, Marion C. Avant at 806 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. at 200 Watts; and 4BS, Wilmington High School at 4<sup>th</sup> ans Ann Sts. At 220 watts.

Station 4BS belonging to the Wilmington High School Scientific Club in 1913 was the third licensed school club station in the USA and the first in NC and the 4<sup>th</sup> call district. Marion Avant, 4BA, was a student at WHS in 1913. The 1914 stations list and an article in the Wilmington Dispatch newspaper of 3/17/1914 adds two more WHS students as members of the club: 4AF, Arthur M. Humphrey and 4CM, William C. French III.

Station 4BS would have been silenced by WWI shortly after that newspaper article but the Scientific Club endured. In 1923 the old WHS was converted to an elementary school when New Hanover High School was opened along with licensed ham station 4DW and a Radio Club.

The Wilmington Star of April 13, 1923 reported the formation of a Wilmington Amateur Radio Association at the High School with the following officers: President, Richard A. Dunlea; Vice president, Gordon S. Smith 4BX; Secretary, Ewart W. Smith; Treasurer, Carlisle W. Blomme.

Gordon Smith and Carlisle Blomme were both NHHS students in 1923. However, R.A. Dunlea and Ewart W. Smith are both adults but not teachers at NHHS. R.A. Dunlea was a former USCG Radioman employed as a telegrapher by Western Union. Ewart W. Smith was employed by the Wilmington Dispatch newspaper. Neither held an amateur station callsign.

A frontespiece photograph of NHHS in 1927 in the 1927 Wildcat yearbook faintly shows a pair of masts supporting a six wire cage antenna on the roof at the east end of the building. WARA continued as a joint effort between NHHS students and the growing local adult ham radio community up through the 1930s.

By 1934 there were 20 licensed amateur operators in Wilmington when an item appeared in the Star News bearing the headline: Radio Amateurs Lease Former Headquarters of WRAM. The article advised that the former broadcast station building on Princess St. had been leased by the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Association which would operate from that location as amateur station W4CUA. The WRAM broadcast station was packed up lock, stock and barrel and shipped to Durham where it became WDUR, still on the air today. There were 17 licensed hams in 1934; CFARA had 21 members. Officers of CFARA Raymond I. Smith W4VW, originally 4VW in 1926, as President; W. I. French W4JV, originally 4CM in 1914, as Vice President; and S.C. Sweeney W4BRK as Secretary.

All amateur radio operation was again silenced during the WWII years and many members of CFARA served in the Armed Forces. When amateur operations were allowed to resume after the war, an organizational meeting was held on December 2, 1947. The resurrected CFARA had members dating back to the early 1920s and one member, Bob Hodges W4LWS, whom I interviewed before he became a silent key.

Beginning in 1913, there has been a succession of amateur radio clubs starting in the old WHS with members who used their ham radio hobby as a springboard to lifetime careers, most notably Richard Austin Dunlea. He went by his middle name Austin. He arrived in Wilmington after WWI and became a part of the amateur radio community and established AM broadcasting here in the 1920s followed by WFMD AM in 1935 and FM and TV in the 1950s.

Gordon S. Smith 4BX went from operating 4DW at NHHS to move on to Charlotte, becoming Chief Engineer of station WBT.

W. I. French, and his brother Luke 4su, operated a radio repair business in Wilmington up through the WWII period.

Ernest S. Bullock 4BD was a founder of the Bullock Hospital here in Wilmington.

Robert Rankin 4BB, our first licensed ham, became Commodore of the Carolina Yacht Club and operated a wholesale grocery business.

Guy Pigford 4EF became a dentist and served as such as a Major in WWII.

Donald Parsley 4FT, together with Gordon S. Smith 4BX, established the first regular amateur traffic route between the US mainland and Puerto Rico in 1922.

Sam Sweeney W4BRK, who was employed by the US Commerce Dept. as a Radio Inspector, had a very interesting experience with a famous radio personality in 1934. that will be another history article in a future ACARC Newsletter.

Here is a list of those hams who attended that 1947 reincarnation of CFARA. See if any of them are familiar.

Hogg

James Russell W4BQZ President

Robert Hodges W4LWS Last survivor of this group. SK 2007.

J.E. Hicks W4BX

J.W. Hodges W4EEL Brother of Bob Hodges

A.H. Hilliard Jr. W4GMM Sec/Treas

J.A. Varga W4IBN

Guy Pigford W4EC

R.B. Webb W4NY Vice President

Frank Farrow W4MDA

J.K. Sellars W4HAK

Donald Parsley W4FT

T.W. Blake W4KUO

Robert Theander W4UXQ

Earl Buck

W.A. Woods

Several of these calls are still active today. Only one belongs to anyone with same last name as the 1947 licensee. W4GMM is A.H. Hilliard III of Memphis, TN.

Allan KX2H

FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA SECTION MANAGER

We've been given a once in a lifetime opportunity. After 16 years of discussion with the federal government, Arrl finally got the green light to see if antenna relief is possible in neighborhoods with covenants, codes and restrictions. Until next Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, ARRL is coordinating answers asked by the FCC in its recent public notice in which it asks for copies of language of antenna restrictions plus stories of hams who have been thwarted in attempts to erect antennas.

If you or a ham you know has been affected by Covenants, Codes and Restrictions Please take a few minutes NOW to complete the survey information at <http://www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information>.

Please note: This request does not apply to those hams who live in areas where only municipal ordinances apply. There has to be an antenna restriction in the deed of the property or 0r in the homeowners association.

When the FCC turns its findings over to Congress in August, one of its recommendations could be for a special federal preemption to permit Amateur Radio antennas, just as broadcast satellite dishes are permitted in antenna restricted areas.

The more hams who respond, the greater the chances for antenna relief.

Many Thanks, Bill Morine N2COP

Finally, it is with sadness that we report the passing of Sam Franklin KB4IL. Sam was a Past President of the ACARC, and in fact, was the driving force behind the creation of the Volunteer Examiner Program here in Wilmington. He was active in Club activities until a few years ago, but did continue to follow the Club and the membership. He did attend last year's Club Christmas Party with his wife Polly. To those of us who knew him, Sam was the most down to earth guy you could hope to meet and greatly enjoyed a good conversation with a few laughs. He always had a word of encouragement to offer when things were difficult. If you've been around the Wilmington area long enough, you will remember the Daily Nut Net at 7:30 AM. Sam was a founding member, providing his wry observations on the state of affairs and the vicissitudes of modern life. He will be greatly missed.

Sam's obituary, printed in the Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the Wilmington Star News, presents his impressive history of lifelong accomplishments, as well as his funeral arrangements. It is a fitting tribute to Sam.

All for now, more later.      73 Bill AG4PA

