

THE LISTENING POST

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

January 2013

Editor's Note – This is the first issue of the club newsletter from my desk. I have taken the assignment at the request of our president, Charlie Vaughn, to fill the shoes of our friend and editor of the newsletter, Bill Usher, AG4PA. We will miss Bill's commitment to getting these notes each month as well as his devotion to our club work on the *NORTH CAROLINA*. I am sure all of us join in sending our condolences to the Usher family.

As with any transition, there will be some changes with which you may agree and others with which you may not. Please let me have your suggestions for improvement as we go along.

Of necessity, this newsletter will be somewhat truncated, as we scramble to get an issue to press before the upcoming club meeting. I hope future issues will have the quantity and level of content you expect.

Jeff Wingfield, KI4JDE

PRIORITY MESSAGES - The next meeting of the club will be Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at Cape Fear Community College on the North Campus. Our ACARC web page has directions.

Club dues (\$20) are now payable to Treasurer Allan Pellnat, KX2H. Bring a check or cash to the meeting or mail a check to him at the club address. Put your call sign on the check.

Election of club officers was held at the December meeting. The incoming leadership team was re-elected from 2012: President, Charlie Vaughn, K4UWH; Vice President Don Hall, N4OFF; Treasurer, Allan Pellnat, KX2H; and Secretary, Norman Clemmons, K4YSY. Congratulations to all.

PRESIDENT'S RESONANT CIRCUIT - I am sure that we all continue to be saddened by the sudden passing of Bill Usher. He contributed so much to ACARC and ham radio in general. His contributions become perfectly clear when you begin to fill all the holes left by his passing. On that note I want to say that I am impressed with and thankful for the willingness of the ACARC members to step in and take on jobs that they have had no real experience in, to keep the ship sailing. I am sure Bill would appreciate that very much also.

Steve Wilder, AJ4JJ, has volunteered to take responsibility for the VE lead with good tutoring by Jack Jacobs, WD4OIN. This is very important to keep the VE activity going and I ask all VE's to support Steve. Jeff Wingfield, KI4JDE, has volunteered to edit the monthly newsletter and I have told Jeff he has full liberty with the approach. You can support Jeff by providing an article or item of interest from time-to-time. Allan Pellnat, KX4H, has volunteered to handle the QSL chores that are mainly driven by the Battleship activities.

We are working out the details on AC4RC and the Repeater operation. David McGough, KB4FXC, has volunteered to be the SERA trustee for the repeater. We are working out the details on the license with the FCC.

I am working on an arrangement between Don, N4OFF, and Julian, WD4FTR, so that we have monthly confirmations of a proctor at CFCC in time to make announcements in the newsletter regarding meeting location. Hopefully we will get this worked out soon.

I am not sure what is going on with propagation. The higher bands just don't seem to be working like we thought they would and quite frankly the sun numbers indicate they should be better than they are. Contrary to that I have been having great success on 40 meter CW and fair success on 80 meter CW. I also see a number of good spots on 40 meter SSB.

As Jeff mentions elsewhere in the newsletter, it is not too early to start planning for Field Day. The first things you can do are make a commitment and circle your calendars for June 22 and 23. There will be much more information forthcoming.

73, Charlie Vaughan, K4UWH

CLUB ACTIVITIES - Several activities for club members occur regularly. Every one is encouraged to participate.

- Club Net at 2100 EST on 147.18 each Monday
- Noon Lunch Bunch at a location announced via e-mail each week. Often includes a show and tell or discussion of topic of interest. Dutch treat.
- Alternative weekly ham-oriented lunch groups. Ask at club meeting about getting on the announcement list.
- Ham test sessions conducted by Volunteer Examiners at 1000 EST on the second Saturday of even months at Cape Fear Community College. Check the ACARC web site for February details.
- Field Day is our annual challenge to simulate emergency communications. It is also a competition between clubs in which we did very well in 2012. This June event is a great opportunity to learn, operate, and get better acquainted with each other. Planning is under way. Volunteer.

FROM THE RADIO ROOM - The ACARC will be participating in the North Carolina QSO Party from the battleship USS North Carolina on February 24, 2013 (1000 to 2000 EST). This is one of the major annual events that allow radio amateurs in the Wilmington area to enjoy the flavor of contesting while operating from an historic and unique setting. If you have not joined us before, plan on coming out this year.

We will be operating two stations and possibly a third. This year we will again be a bonus point station and should enjoy a lot of traffic.

On Sunday morning, the crew plans to meet for breakfast at the K & W Cafeteria on Oleander at 0830, then on to the ship by 0930. If you cannot make the breakfast, meet at the break room of the landside building (facing the ship, take the walkway on the left side of the building past the restrooms).

If you come to the ship later in the day and do not know how to find the radio rooms, contact us at 147.180 (NI4BK) and we will send someone to escort you to the operating area.

For answers to any questions, contact Jack Jacobs (WD4OIN) at wd4oin@arrl.net or call him at 910 791 1566.

SAY AGAIN - Other items of interest to club members might include:

- Weekly swap meet managed by the Wilmington VHF Association takes place on Thursday evenings at 2000 EST on 147.345. A great place to find what you need or unload what you do not.
- The Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club web site (ac4rc.org) has an abundance of information about the club, events, and links to other amateur radio activity.

73, KI4JDE