

THE LISTENING POST

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

April 2013

Editor's Note – Time gallops along and two major club events are rapidly approaching. First up is Museum Ships weekend, scheduled on June 1 and 2. This is one of the premier opportunities for ACARC to show off "our ship" and our commitment to amateur operation. Even if Jack (WD4OIN) and his team are unable to have all the vintage equipment fully operational and new antennas in place, we will still have the opportunity to get signals out to from our radio rooms aboard, using our club equipment. Put this date on your calendar and plan to participate.

Field Day, the annual ARRL national event, is coming up at the end of June and will require a full court press by all members who can volunteer. This is a great occasion on which to test your operating skills and stamina.

For those of you with plenty of time on your hands and needing a challenge, there are fourteen special events scheduled between this newsletter and the end of April, according to QST. Get on the air.

Jeff Wingfield, KI4JDE

PRIORITY MESSAGES - The next meeting of the club will be Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at Cape Fear Community College on the North Campus. Our ACARC web page has directions.

Steve Wilder (AJ4JJ) announces a VE Test Session on April 13, 2013 at Mc Keithan Building, Cape Fear Community Collage North Campus. Testing will start at 10:00 AM. Steve requests that all ACARC members who are designated Volunteer Examiners join him. If you can, meet the team at K&W Cafeteria for breakfast at 0800 before the exam session.

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.

Allan (KX2H) has put out a call for help from club members. Saturday May 11, 2013 is National Train Day. We, the ACARC, have been invited to participate at the Railroad Museum for a few hours by providing a Morse Code demonstration. He would dearly appreciate at least one additional operator so we can actually demonstrate the exchange of messages between a pair of QRP rigs. He needs to firm up our participation by April 12. Respond to Allan via the reflector, direct e-mail to kx2h@att.net or [910 799 1694](tel:9107991694).

Museum Ships Weekend is scheduled for June 1 and 2, with operations from NORTH CAROLINA a traditional and important activity of ACARC. Put the dates on your calendar.

FROM THE RADIO ROOM - As mentioned in The Listening Post last month, the ACARC has received a new QSL card for NI4BK. The card is not a traditional QSL card design. Nevertheless, its design is distinctive and a very effective bit of promotion of the club and the battleship. Alan Pellnat (KX2H) is the QSL manager for NI4BK.

For a look at the card, go to the link: [N3FHW » Cool QSL from Battleship North Carolina NI4BK | N3FHW](#)

Jack Jacobs (WD4OIN) reports that the battleship crew has been busy trying to get a new antenna for the TBK-7 transmitter. "We hope to get the transmitter in working condition very shortly but we have never had an antenna for the transmitter. We are hoping to be able to get up an antenna with a horizontal section to it. Presently all of our antennas are verticals."

Two of the transmitters have been down for repairs due to problems with motors and generators. The motors and generators have been rebuilt and placed in the motor-generator room but a high work load on the ship's electrician has delayed their connection.

It is hoped that the transmitters will be operative for Museum Ships weekend

on June 1 and 2 but it doesn't look good at this time. We still have a month and a half to go so we haven't given up.

Jack WD4OIN

APRIL MEETING PROGRAM - It will be a surprise for all attending.

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. The event is less than two months from now. Planning is under way. Volunteer.

WILMINGTON ROOTS OF ARRL - In our present day pursuits of DXing, contesting, digital modes and other ham radio activity. we sometimes forget about that second letter "R" in ARRL that stands for the word RELAY. As members of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club are also fortunate to have fellow club member Bill Morine (N2COP) as North Carolina Section Manager (SM) within Roanoke Division of the ARRL organization.

That term Section Manager has some history associated with it. The ARRL Divisions and Sections owe their existence to the word RELAY. After the government-imposed radio silence during World War I, amateur operations resumed late in 1919. In addition to chasing DX and rag chewing many amateurs in that era participated in relaying third party messages. For land line and radiotelegraph companies this had the appearance of government sponsored competition to their profitable enterprises. However since no exchange of monies or gifts was involved and only a limited degree of

privacy of their communications could be guaranteed, people could send and receive personal messages via their neighborhood ham operator almost anywhere in the world. (Third party message agreements with many other countries may or may not have existed in 1919.)

Where today's ARRL structure below the executive level is just two levels consisting of the fifteen Divisions and their respective Sections, in 1919 the ARRL structure was organized along the lines of regional message relay networks. An article in the September 1919 QST used the Central Division as an example.

Today the Central Division comprises three sections, one for each of the states, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. The 1919 Central Division was divided into two Sections. The East included seven states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. The West was comprised of six states: Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia. These two Sections each had a section manager whose title was Assistant Division Manager. They in turn had a District Superintendent (DS) and Assistant DS for each state. The city of Chicago, by itself had a DS and ADS.

Under each DS and ADS were numerous city managers and assistant managers responsible for maintaining relay net operations and discipline within their localities. The December 1919 issue of QST showed the North Carolina Section as part of the East Gulf Division but none of the organizational positions had names assigned to them yet. In November 1921 North Carolina became part of the reorganized Roanoke Division but there was still no name assigned to the North Carolina SM position. W.T. Gravely, 3BZ, of Virginia was the Roanoke Division Manager.

The December 1921 QST cited for the Roanoke Division a K. K. Kramer of Elizabeth City as District Superintendent for Eastern North Carolina (Neither name nor call sign can be found in call books of the period) and Taylor M. Simpson, 4EN, as District Superintendent for Western North Carolina. Mentioned as active in the state are Taylor M. Simpson of Winston – Salem (4EN); William Overman of Elizabeth City (4EY); Charles Roethlinger of Wilmington (4BE); and Albert W. Parker of New Bern (4BA).

The October 1923 QST offers a complete listing of all appointed stations in

the NTS (National Traffic System) of the day. The Roanoke Division shows W.T. Gravely, 3BZ as Division Manager for the 4th call district. It lists Gordon S. Smith (4BX) as District Superintendent and Donald McR. Parsley (4FT) as City Manager, both of Wilmington. Official Relay Stations for North Carolina (ORS) were 4FT and 4BX for Wilmington, 4EA for New Bern, 4NT for Wilson, and 4MF for Raleigh.

In 1922 while still a high school student and also working part time for Radio-Electric Company, Gordon Smith (4BX) along with Guy Pigford (4EF) and Donald Parsley (4FT) succeeded in establishing the first regular amateur traffic circuit between the United States mainland and the island of Puerto Rico. This event was reported in the Wilmington Star News and in QST and in the Records and Achievements section of "200 Meters and Down".

Today Section Traffic Manager Reports appear as a small print item on the page preceding the Silent Keys listing in QST. NC is still regularly reported.

Allan Pellnat (KX2H)

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