

ACARC

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

August 2015
Newsletter



ACARC

President

Pete Long
(WB3FYR)

Vice President

Harvey Hutchison
(NKØS)

Secretary

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(KI4YSY)

Treasurer

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Newsletter

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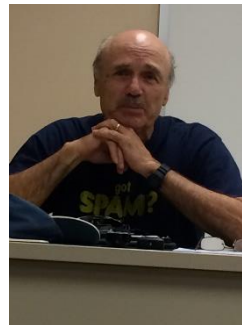
PO Box 4044

Wilmington, NC 28406

Hmm...

The last club meeting provided food for thought. Where do you want our club to go? What do you want our club to do? What activities doesn't the club do that you would like to see? A lot of suggestions were presented. Some which have been tried in the past, but didn't work out due to circumstances beyond the club's control.

So the question remains – what is on your mind? Of course, good suggestions need human interface to make it happen. Get involved - don't be a spectator. So think about our club and what you would like to see happen. Don't be shy...bring it up at the next meeting!



Upcoming Events

Aug 8th - Cape Fear Amateur Radio Swapfest

Aug 8th – Exam Session, CFCC North Campus

Aug 18th – ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM

Sep 5th-6th - ARRL Roanoke Div. Convention

Sep 15th – ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM

I would ask that anyone who has comments, praise, criticism, ideas for the newsletter or would like to write a guest article to please send an email to: acarcnews@gmail.com.

Bravo Zulu



Bravo Zulu is a naval signal, typically conveyed by flaghoist or voice radio, meaning "Well Done"

Harvey C Hutchison, NK0S:

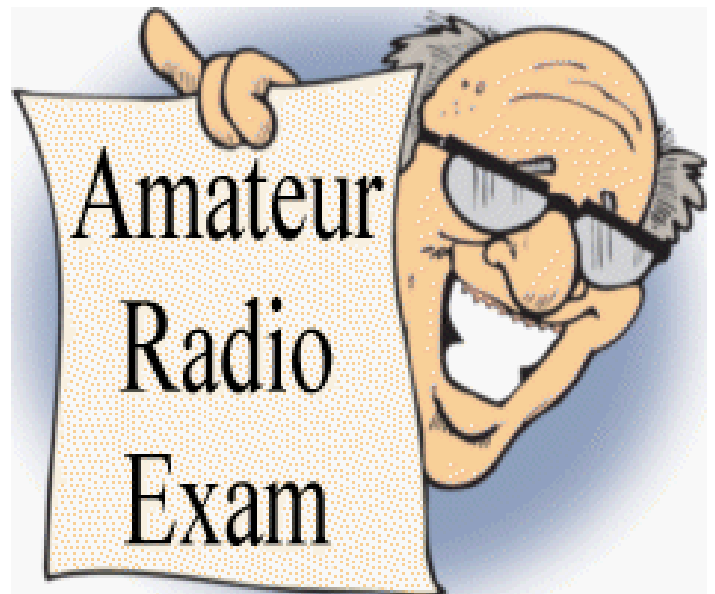
1. Awarded WAZ 15 Meter SSB #663
2. Carolina DX Association 2014 DX King Contest 1st Place Limited Class
3. CQ DX 2014 Marathon #1 Country – Peru Unlimited Class operating as OA4/NK0S



NT4F (on the right) receives the ARRL Elmer Award at the July 2015 ACARC club meeting



AJ4JJ (on the left) receives an ARRL 2015 Field Day pin as a token of appreciation during the July ACARC club meeting



August 8th
10:00am
Cape Fear Community College
North Campus

N2COP Attends ARRL Board of Director's Meeting

As the newest member of ARRL's board of directors, I thought ACARC club members might enjoy learning more about it. The board meets twice a year – the third weekend of January and July. The meetings take place at the Marriott hotel in Windsor near the Hartford airport. Not only is this easier for arriving and departing board members, but ARRL headquarters, which is about 15 miles south of Windsor, doesn't have a room to accommodate the roughly 50 people who attend.

The first meeting is Thursday night, and the format is for presentations and an open exchange of ideas. No agenda takes place that evening. Friday morning begins the formal two-day meeting, and Friday is the most formal meeting day in terms of dress as the annual board picture is taken on Friday at the January meeting. By tradition, the July Friday session is also a suit-and-tie meeting. The 15 Division Directors sit on three sides of a square. CEO Dave Sumner, Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelly, Chief Legal Counsel Chris Imlay, and other staff people and invited guests sit on one side of the square. Directly behind each of the 15 Directors sit the 15 Vice Directors, who have no voting privileges unless their Director is absent due to illness, business or if a Director steps away during a vote scheduled on the agenda. The duties of a Vice Director are to ensure their Director has the most current paperwork, much of which is produced outside the boardroom by Lisa Kustosik, KA1UFZ, who is Dave Sumner's assistant. She has a laptop and a large copier and collating machine by the entrance to the boardroom. Since new motions are continually introduced, revised or amended, in the middle of the square at which the directors and officers sit, there is a large trash barrel. During the meeting many Directors fantasize they are NBA three point shooters with long, arcing shots, but in reality few of the wads fall into the barrel. Poor Lisa cleans up the balls of paper after the meetings adjourn.

The backgrounds and caliber of expertise among the thirty Directors and Vice Directors are

impressive. Most are either engineers, accountants or attorneys, and many are accomplished operators. While discussion may become lively, you understand the passion to Amateur Radio each board member has, and that everyone is looking for a solution which enhances Ham Radio.

At the conclusion of Saturday's meeting, everyone makes final remarks. This tradition takes almost an hour and a half as close to forty people – Directors, Vice Directors and ARRL Officers – comment on proceedings. As the newest member, I received warm welcomes from almost everyone in the room. Saturday night concludes with an informal dinner held, by tradition, at the Maine Fish Market Restaurant at Warehouse Point, Connecticut. Most Directors depart Sunday.

I consider it an honor to be on ARRL's board of directors, and I deeply appreciate the support and confidence which Roanoke Division and North Carolina section ARRL members have shown me in representing their interests. If you have any questions or comments on any ARRL, please let me know.

73 de Bill , N2COP

Vice Director – Roanoke Division, ARRL



Radio Amateurs Join ISS Crew

Two radio amateurs were among the three new International Space Station (ISS) crew members, who arrived on station on July 23 (UTC). Kjell Lindgren, KO5MOS; Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX, and Kimiya Yui traveled into space aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft that has docked with the ISS. Expedition 44 Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, and Flight Engineers Scott Kelly and Mikhail Kornienko, RN3BF, were on hand to greet the trio. Lindgren, Kononenko, and Yui will stay on the ISS until late December. Kelly and Kornienko are a few months into a 1-year mission that ends next March. Padalka, who also has been aboard since March, returns to Earth in September.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 Introduced into the US Senate

On Thursday June 25, Senator Roger Wicker (MS), with Senator Richard Blumenthal (CT) as initial co-sponsor, introduced the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, into the United States Senate. The bill has been designated as S 1685, and is the companion bill to HR 1301, which was introduced into the US House of Representatives in March by Representatives Adam Kinzinger (IL) and Joe Courtney (CT) as the sponsor and initial co-sponsor. S 1685 is identical to HR 1301 and directs the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications. It has been referred to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee's subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, which is chaired by the bill's sponsor, Senator Wicker. "Introduction of the Senate bill is a huge step toward achieving fairness for amateurs affected by private land-use regulation," said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. "For them and for the future of Amateur Radio, I thank everyone who contributed to making this progress. Now let's finish the job!"

To help ARRL members' efforts to support the two companion bills, all information on HR 1301 and S 1685 has been consolidated in a single website at www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act On that page you will find:

- Text of the legislation
- A summary of what the bill would do
- Talking points to help explain the background and need for the bill
- How to contact your US Senators and US Congressperson
- A sample letter soliciting co-sponsorship of the bill to send to your elected representatives
- Where to send your signed letter for delivery
- A listing of current co-sponsors (which as of the date of this newsletter numbers 84 in the House)

All ARRL members are encouraged to contact both of their members of the US Senate as well as their member of the US House and ask for their support of this legislation. Ask them to become a co-sponsor by contacting either Mr. Kinzinger's office (HR 1301) or Mr. Wicker's office (S 1685).

Feel free to edit the sample letter, personalizing it to fit your specific story. Once printed And signed, you may scan your letter and send as a PDF or attachment to an email to: reginfo@arrl.org

If emailing your letter, please include the phrase "Grassroots Support letter" in the SUBJECT field to help in processing at ARRL. You may also send your letter via the US mail to:

ARRL, Grassroots Letter Campaign, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Please help get the word out to other ARRL members in your area as well as to ARRL affiliated clubs. Don't under estimate the importance or value of every letter sent to your elected officials. When ARRL officials walk into an office on Capitol Hill and hand over a stack of letters from the "folks back home", it helps get the story across. YOU make the difference. Get involved and active in supporting The Amateur Radio Parity Act!

ARISS Initiates Fundraising Effort, Offers "Challenge Coin" Keepsake

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program has kicked off a fundraising program, and it's offering an ARISS Challenge Coin as a token of appreciation to those who contribute at a certain level. ARISS relies on resource support from NASA, ARRL, AMSAT, and individual donors and volunteers to ensure day-to-day operation of its programs and to pay for spaceflight equipment certification. In light of budget cutbacks at NASA over the past 2 years, the funding needed to cover operational expenses down the road has become more uncertain, however, and ARISS leadership initiated the fundraising effort with the goal of securing greater financial stability.

An artist's rendering of the obverse and reverse sides of the ARISS Challenge Coin.

"To assure the future of the program, we are looking to individuals and corporate sponsors to provide the resources we will need to sustain operations and to acquire needed equipment upgrades," said ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

Plans are under way to develop a new, higher-power Amateur Radio station for the ISS Columbus module. The current radio is a lower-power unit that sometimes results in weak signals during ISS-to-Earth educational contacts. A new radio system will improve communication capability for students scheduled to participate in ARISS educational contacts and related activities. The new system also would allow greater interoperability between the Columbus module and the Russian Service Module. ARISS said that integration of the equipment into the ISS infrastructure and the necessary testing and certification require hours of engineering resources that it cannot afford.

"Each ARISS contact offers the opportunity to inspire young people through ARISS's unique

window into space exploration activities, opening the horizon of possibilities of a career in a STEM field," said ARRL Education Services Manager, Debra Johnson, K1DMJ. "Each contact also introduces students and their communities to Amateur Radio. The program needs your help to secure these opportunities for the future."

Individuals may donate to ARISS online via the AMSAT website (select the "ARISS Donate" button). AMSAT is contributing the necessary personnel resources to handle gifts to ARISS. Individuals contributing \$100 or more will receive the new ARISS Challenge Coin. Corporate donors should contact Frank Bauer. -- Thanks to AMSAT News Service, ARISS, and Debra Johnson, K1DMJ



For Sale

(Please Contact the Seller Directly)

From Harvey Hutchison (NK0S):

1. Cushcraft 13B2 2 Meter Broadband Boomer SSB/CW/FM Yagi (144-148 MHz) 13 Elements 15.8 dBd Fwd Gain; 26 dB Front to back Ratio; 8.9' Turing Radius; 6.7 lbs w/instruction manual: \$125.00
2. Commercial 440 MHz 4 Element Quad Antenna – Boom Length 22" w/mounting point behind Reflector Element: \$40.00

AC4RC LOTW Stats

DXCC

· Submitted	648
· Confirmed	229
· Mixed	015
· CW	002
· Phone	013
· 80M	001
· 40M	002
· 20M	014
· 15M	001
· 10M	003
· Challenge	021

WAS

· Mixed	039
· CW	006
· Phone	035
· Dig	024
· PSK31	021
· RTTY	009

WPX

· Mixed	124
· CW	007
· Phone	088
· Digital	061

Exam Study Tips

Here are 10 tips for hacking the amateur radio licensing exams. Now when I say 'hacking', I don't mean cheating, but I am referring to strategies for passing the test while also learning the necessary material.

The exams are not that difficult. Having the mindset that you can't pass them will become a self-fulfilling prophecy. It will take dedicated study time to pass the General and especially the Extra exam. The 35 General exam questions are derived from a pool of 456 questions and the 50 Extra exam questions come from an incredibly large 700 question pool. You can't pass without putting in the necessary study time.

Study intensely for a few weeks and then take the test. Get it over with quickly. If you drag it out, you'll forget things or get burned out.

Upgrade quickly. If you've recently passed your technician exam, upgrade to general quickly, and then study for and upgrade to Extra quickly. There's much overlap in test material. If you wait, you'll have to relearn a lot of the content.

You will never learn all of the exam material. If your goal is to know all the content or get 100% on the test, you will be studying for a very, very long time. If you're like me, my brain just isn't that big. The license you receive is the same whether you barely pass with 75% or ace it at 100%. Your primary goal is passing the exam, your secondary goal is learning the content. After all, what good is the knowledge if you're not licensed to use it. And it's more fun learning about impedance by building your first HF antenna after you pass the test than it is by studying for the test.

Simplify the important formulas so you can remember them. I used the easier-to-remember VCR and PVC. VCR is Ohm's law: Voltage = Current X Resistance. PVC is the power law equation: Power = Voltage X Current. Of course you must know how to change sides of the equation (e.g., Current = Voltage/Resistance, etc.). These strategies can help you remember much of the test content.

Don't try to memorize all the math formulas. I passed all 3 tests without having any previous amateur radio or electronics experience by memorizing I think 5 formulas (see below). In fact, you can just skip all the math questions entirely and do just fine. Statistically, you will have 3 math questions on the General exam and only 3 or 4 on the Extra exam. You can maximize your results by focusing on memorizing other content and answers, not complex formulas that you're unlikely to see on the exam.

Take LOTS of practice exams. In fact, you can pass the tests and learn a lot by never studying material, but only by taking enough practice exams. I recommend hamstudy.org.

Study the correct answers and ignore the incorrect answers/distractors. For the Extra exam, it's very difficult to remember 700 correct answers, but it's impossible to also remember all 2100 incorrect answers.

(for the full article, go to <https://blog.hamstudy.org/2015/01/hacking-the-general-and-extra-exams-from-n7smi/>)