



# Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

December 2015  
Newsletter



## ACARC

### President

Pete Long  
(WB3FYR)

### Vice President

Harvey Hutchison  
(NKØS)

### Secretary

Norman Clemmons  
(KI4YSY)

### Treasurer

Allen Pellnat  
(KX2H)

### Newsletter

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## Another Year Complete

Another year is just about done. 2016 is just around the corner and 2015 will be in the books. And what did you accomplish this past year? Some questions to ask yourself...

Did you do something to advance the hobby?

Did you help (Elmer) another ham?

Did you contact your Congressperson or Senator about supporting the Amateur Radio Parity Act?

Start thinking about what YOU can do to help make amateur radio grow and prosper...not only the hobby itself but your club as well. Become *involved* in the activities of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club, not just a passive bystander. Elmer a new ham or help another operator with a project they may be struggling with. Contact Washington, DC and insist they support the Amateur Radio Parity Act even if it won't affect you. As Nike is fond of saying...Just Do It!



## Upcoming Important Events

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Dec 7<sup>th</sup></b>  | Pearl Harbor Day<br>USS North Carolina                                       |
| <b>Dec 8<sup>th</sup></b>  | ACARC Christmas Party<br>6PM, Olive Garden<br>**No meeting in<br>December ** |
| <b>Jan 19<sup>th</sup></b> | ACARC Monthly<br>Meeting 7:00PM<br>CFCC North Campus                         |

# Health and Wellness

By George Morse KM4DSI

I am very pleased to announce that I have not received any health problem information in the past month for any club member.

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and I wish all of the club members and their families A Very Merry Christmas.

We do have some exciting events coming up in December:

## December Birthdays

03 – KX2H Allan  
21 – N2COP Bill

## A Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Hutch (NK0S) and Linda (KD4TXY). They were married Twenty-Four Years ago on December 21st

Please let me know if anyone, club member or member's family, is having a medical problem. Also, don't forget to send me your birthday month and day, so I can send you a special card that you can display in your shack.

Send me your info via Email  
George

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## Local amateur Radio Clubs – A Historical View

By Allan Pellnat KX2H

I speculated that the Wilmington Amateur Radio Association (WARA) reported in the April 13, 1923 Wilmington Star as starting at the High School and the New Hanover High School radio club (NHRC) described in the 1925 NHHS Yearbook are one and the same organization. That is to say beginning in 1923 when the New Hanover High School at Market and 13th Sts. replaced the old Wilmington High School station 4BS, WARA consisted of both

students and adults both operating under the callsign 4DW. This came about as follows:

NHHS's library maintains an archive of yearbooks dating back to 1925. On page 39 of the 1925 Wildcat appears the following:

"The New Hanover Radio Club has been in existence since the opening of the new High School. The Board of Education installed a magnificent receiving and sending set, and much merriment and instruction has been secured by members. This year's officers are Charles Whaley, Raymond Smith and Arthur Peebles."

These 1925 club officers Charles Whaley and Raymond Smith held personal station call signs 4RW and 4VW respectively. Arthur Peebles would later hold call sign W4CPT in the mid thirties.

The Wilmington Morning Star of April 13, 1923 reported the formation of WARA 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 would have been 31 years old, not a teacher and obviously not a student and has been employed as a telegrapher with the Atlantic Coast Line RR since 1918. He will become closely associated with Wilmington AM broadcasting and later FM and TV throughout the rest of his life. Although Mr. Dunlea was active in this and later amateur radio groups and could have held an amateur operator's license or Navy Certificate of Proficiency I have not been able to determine that he ever actually held an amateur station license and call sign. E.W. Smith was the Secretary and Business Manager for the Dispatch Publishing Co., Wilmington's daily evening newspaper. Mr. Smith doesn't apparently hold an amateur radio station license. However he was an early radio enthusiast whose name appears in newspaper articles relating to the startup of Wilmington's first AM broadcaster.

Although an organization calling itself the Wilmington Radio Association (WRA) is first identified in mid-1924 as the licensee of Wilmington's second AM broadcast commercial station WRBT, which replaced WBBN the very first AM station. WRA's actual existence didn't receive any overt publicity until an October 29, 1925 a Wilmington News article described a formal organizational meeting with the stated purpose of: "...to have more pleasure in radio listening, and with this end in view, ... to locate interferences, eliminate troubles and get up a spirit of cooperation among radio owners and users." None of the named officers appear to have ever been licensed amateurs. However the fact that this organizing meeting was held in the county courthouse with the permission of the county commissioners lends a sense of local governmental support behind this group.

The very next day a follow up article captioned "Wireless Association Formed Here" reported that the elected officers were: President, Raymond Hunt; Vice President, A.B. Blake; Secretary, H.H. Hunt. A restatement of the association's purpose reads: "...to promote cooperation between radio users as well as betterment of service."

These officers were all prominent citizens of Wilmington. Raymond Hunt is Vice President and General Manager of the Tidewater Power and Light Co. operator among other things of the city's streetcars and the light rail line to the Wrightsville Beach resorts. A.B. Blake is the owner of an electrical contracting business and the original licensee of Wilmington's very first commercial broadcast station WBBN in 1924. Although the October 1925 article identifies the Secretary as H.H. Hunt, I believe this is actually H. Lacy Hunt Sr. the father of one of the student operators of the New Hanover High School Radio Club amateur station 4DW. Mr. Hunt operated a wholesale grocery business on Water St. a block away from the Maffitt Marine Wireless Building.

This meeting appears to have been an effort to put some official weight behind the question of interference to fledgling broadcasters from various

sources which undoubtedly included amateur operators. Although it is first identified by name in mid-1924 and announced this election of officers in 1925 the Wilmington Radio Association was not formally incorporated until four years after that. As reported the next day, 23 October 1925: "Wireless Association Formed Here With Raymond Hunt as Head" – President Raymond Hunt, Vice President A.B. Blake, Secretary H.H. Hunt. "The purpose of the club is to promote cooperation between radio users as well as betterment of service."

To put this all in perspective consider the following: The licensing of amateur wireless stations by the U.S. Commerce Department was introduced by the Radio Act of 1912. Then as now, passage of an act by congress did not necessarily mean that funds were appropriated to enforce the new regulations. As for the "Interference" issue; amateurs were supposedly restricted by the 1912 act to operation on "200 Meters and Down"<sup>6</sup>, i.e. the shorter wavelengths at higher frequencies than those used by the broadcasters. These wavelengths were then considered commercially useless. C.B. DeSoto in his 1936 book on early amateur operations states that at the dawn of AM broadcasting, nearly a decade after the 1912 imposition of amateur licensing: "The 200 meter restriction, the power restriction, even the licensing requirement, existed to a considerable extent in name only". DeSoto goes on to say that: "...a considerable outlay was necessary for broadcast listening in those days<sup>7</sup>...when people experienced interference they sought redress. Politicians – local, state and national – found pressure being brought to bear...by the prominent folk of their communities". I infer that this was at least one motive for the 1924 formation of the Wilmington Radio Association.

Five years later the Wilmington Morning Star for June 27, 1929 reported: "The Wilmington Radio Association was incorporated with a capitalization of \$50,000 of which \$5,000 worth of stock is already placed with the incorporators, J.C. Williams, S.F. Garrison, H.E. Stevens and Harris Newman. The balance of stock is to be sold to Wilmington citizens at a price of \$10.00 per share. Plans are to absorb the existing 50 watt WRBT station, move it and upgrade it to 500 watts." The

1929 Secretary-Manager of the Wilmington Radio Association is the same Richard A. Dunlea who was president of the Wilmington Amateur Radio Association in 1923.

The next day appeared an article headlined "Radio Company Mails Letters to Thousands" with a sub heading of "Giant Civic Enterprise to Put Local Station on Par Gets Under Way". The letter is a solicitation for subscription to the stock in the Wilmington Radio Association at \$10.00 a share with an order blank attached. It goes on to say that "...while some of the business houses of the city are willing to take fair size amounts of the stock, it is going to be necessary for every owner of a radio set...to take one or more shares...". "The committee in charge of the meeting is composed of R.H. Everett of the Hanover Iron Works; H.H. Ford of the United States Court; W.E. Scull Jr., of the Seaboard Airline Railway and J.O. Rogers, of the U.S. Post Office."

So our earliest amateur operators faced bandwidth competition with the beginnings of commercial AM broadcasters and accusations of interference with the rights of broadcast listeners expectations for easy pleasant reception. State of the art 1925 AM broadcast receivers were designed to maximize sensitivity and audio output whether to headphones or a speaker. Selectivity and AVC were sacrificed making them susceptible to any and all interference from other nearby broadcast stations and electrically noisy streetcar overhead trolley lines and brush/commutator type motors. Any of these interferences could be perceived by listeners as hearing amateur wireless telegraphic Morse code. Amateurs were blamed for everything. This problem would be repeated in the late forties and early fifties by TVI most commonly caused by the 21 MHz IF sections in those old black and white sets being subjected to harmonics from all the then available amateur bands.

In the next part of this series I'll spell out the growth of amateur radio club activity up to the World War II cessation of all amateur operation.

## January 2016 ACARC Monthly Meeting Program

The program "International Operating (Being the Chased, not the Chaser)" will be present by Harvey "Hutch" Hutchison, NKØS at the monthly meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

***Additional Note: Elections for 2016 we held at the November meeting and Charlie Vaughan, K4UWH was elected President for 2016. So Charlie will be at the helm again starting with the January meeting. Congratulations Charlie!***

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## Barnes & Noble Mini-Maker Fair

Several members of the ACARC represented both our club and amateur radio operators in general at the first annual Mini-Maker Fair held at the Barnes & Noble in the Mayfaire shopping area on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The club had a one hour window for a presentation about our hobby and several tables were provided for our display. Members participating were Hutch (NKØS), Steve (AJ4JJ), George (KM4DSI) and Jean-Paul (AC9GH).

