

ACARC

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

July 2015
Newsletter

ACARC

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Newsletter

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Summer Is Here!

Ah...summer. Time for burgers, steaks, hot dogs and brats on the grill. Trips to the beach, pool or links. Good – or bad conditions on the radio. VHF comes alive but so do more frequent static crashes due to far off lightning. A good time to hone your skills, check your outdoor equipment, build and erect a new antenna...and many more possibilities come to mind. But first and foremost in our plans should be safety – and the idea you need to save yourself.

- Save yourself from lightning strikes when working outside in a storm
- Save yourself from falls from your antenna tower or roof by using the proper safety equipment
- Save yourself from electrocution – don't get zapped because you just need that one more contact even though lightning bolts are hitting all around your house

Go to www.arrrl.org/safety for some great safety tips. Even if you're a tough, grizzled radio veteran who "already knows everything" it never hurts to review...especially when it comes to staying alive to enjoy ham radio!

Upcoming Events

Jul 4th – Friends of the Battleship Fourth of July Fireworks

Jul 21st – ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM

Aug 18th – ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM

Sep 15th – ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM



Newsletter

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 Jeff (W4BIX) at: acarcnews@gmail.com.

ARRL Website Has New Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 Page

Now that there is Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 legislation in both chambers of the US Congress, the League has a combined web page to accommodate activities on behalf of the two bills. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is H.R. 1301 in the US House of Representatives and S. 1685 in the US Senate. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 page provides a clearing house for all information on these identical pieces of legislation.

US Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) introduced H.R. 1301 on March 4 with bipartisan support. US Sen Roger Wicker (R-MS) introduced S. 1685 on June 26, with Sen Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) as an original cosponsor.

The bill would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" or CC&Rs. PRB-1 now only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances, and the FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include such private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

H.R. 1301 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. S 1685 has been referred to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, which is

chaired by the Sen Wicker, the Senate bill's sponsor.

ARRL members are urged to contact their members of Congress in both the House and the Senate, asking them to sign on to the bill as cosponsors. Route letters to your member of Congress to ARRL, ATTN Amateur Radio Parity Act Grassroots Campaign, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Correspondence will be sorted at ARRL Headquarter and hand delivered to the appropriate US representatives and senators.

The House version of The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 has attracted support from 83 cosponsors, as of June 29.

"Founders and Patriots of the Republic" is Theme of Annual 13 Colonies Event

The annual Independence Day week "13 Colonies Special Event" gets under way June 30 at 1300 UTC and will continue until July 5 at 0400 UTC. The theme for the 2015 event is "Founders and Patriots of the Republic." The object is for operators to contact 1 × 1 call sign special event stations in each of the 13 British colonies that became the US in 1776. The contact count for last year's event was nearly 109,000.

Certificates and endorsements will be available for working the 13 colonies stations, with a sticker for contacting all 13 and an endorsement for contacting WM3PEN in Philadelphia, where independence was declared in 1776. Those working WM3PEN will have a Liberty Bell added to their 13 Colonies certificates.

The stations on the air this year will be

K2A in New York
K2B in Virginia
K2C in Rhode Island
K2D in Connecticut
K2E in Delaware

K2F in Maryland
K2G in Georgia
K2H in Massachusetts
K2I in New Jersey
K2J in North Carolina
K2K in New Hampshire
K2L in South Carolina
K2M in Pennsylvania

In addition to WM3PEN, UK special event station GB13COL will operate from Durham, England, with members of the Durham and District Amateur Radio Society participating.

ARRL 2015 HURRICANE SEASON WEBINAR

The ARRL will host a 2015 Hurricane Season webinar on Monday, July 20th, beginning at 8:00 PM EDT (July 21, 0000 UTC). The approximately 90 minute-long webinar will discuss the role of Amateur Radio during the 2015 Hurricane Season. Anyone interested in hurricane preparedness and response is encouraged to attend this webinar. Thanks to Mike Corey, KI1U, ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager, for providing this information! For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-2015-hurricane-season-webinar-set-for-july-20>

Around The Club



Upcoming Special Event Stations

July 15-17: Royal Rangers 2015 Camp-o-Rama, 1500Z-2200Z, K4R, Browns Summit, NC. SSB 21.250 14.250 7.150; CW 21.100; PSK-31 7.070. QSL. Steven R. Allen, 5691 Howell Dr, Dublin, VA 24084.

August 29: 125th Anniversary of Casar, NC, 0900Z-2359Z, K4C, Lawndale, NC. W4JL David Ledford. PSK 14.070 7.070; 14.262 7.262. Certificate. David Ledford, 2333 Curt Ledford Rd, Lawndale, NC 28090.

September 10-21: The North Carolina Mountain State Fair, 1300Z-0100Z, N4F, Fletcher, NC. The Road Show Amateur Radio Club. 7.245; 40 20 15 10 meters. Certificate and QSL. Bill Van Nuys, N4OOC, 57 Echo Lake Dr, Fairview, NC 28730. Check club website throughout the event for current operating frequencies on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Send SASE for QSL, large SASE (\$0.98 postage) and \$5 for QSL and Certificate. www.theroadshowarc.com

September 12: 47th Annual National Hollerin' Contest, 1500Z-2200Z, N4C, Spivey's Corner, NC. Sampson County Amateur Radio Service. 14.264 7.264. Certificate. Cliff Ireland, KK4NC, 170 Pincroft Dr, Dunn, NC 28334. www.nationalhollerincontest.com

Upcoming Hamfests/Swapfests

July 11th: 30th Annual Firecracker Hamfest, Rowan Amateur Radio Society, Salisbury, NC, see <http://www.rowanars.org>

July 18th: Mid-Summer SWAPFEST, Cary Amateur Radio Club, Cary, NC, see <http://www.ql.net/n4nc>

July 25th: WCARS Hamfest 2015, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Waynesville, NC, see <http://wcars.org>

Word from ARRL North Carolina Section Manager: Karl F Bowman DVM, W4CHX

QUA* – Wow, it's hard to believe that ARRL Field Day 2015 is over! Did you know that Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada? It sure is popular in NC – according to the ARRL Field Day Station Locator on June 24th, there were at least 58 Field Day sites in North Carolina.

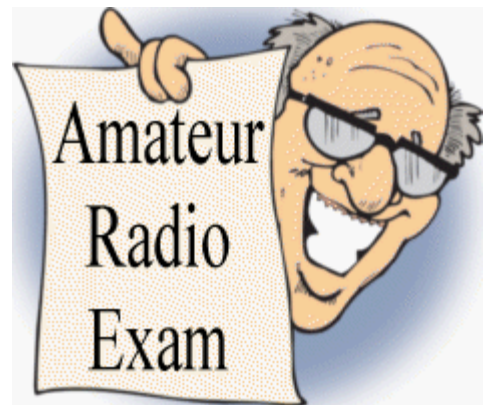
This year, I visited 12 clubs during the Field Day weekend. On Friday afternoon, the Field Day sites for the KnightLites – WQ4RP in Wake Forest, and PVR CNC – N4C in Creedmoor were visited. That evening, I drove to Suffolk, VA and stayed overnight with my son and his family. On Saturday, I visited the following clubs: The Albemarle Amateur Radio Society – K4WO in Elizabeth City; Pamlico Amateur Radio Club – K4BCH in Washington; Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club – W4AMC in Greenville; Wayne County Amateur Radio Association – W4HS in Goldsboro; Pamlico Amateur Radio Society (PARS) – N4PRS in Oriental; and, Onslow Amateur Radio Club Inc – NC4OC in Swansboro. On Sunday, I visited Hampstead Hams – NC4PC in Hampstead; NHC Emergency Prep Group – NC4NH in Wilmington; and, Brunswick Shores Amateur Radio Club in Southport. The NHC Emergency Prep Group was composed of members from the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club, Wilmington VHF Association Inc, and New Hanover County ARES. Although adverse weather was present during the weekend, it was fun to visit the sites, learn about the setup of radios and antennas, and talk with club members. The hospitality that was extended to me was appreciated greatly! By the way, I drove more than 1,000 miles during Field Day weekend!

Earlier this month (6/8), I drove to Salisbury to attend the monthly meeting of the Rowan Amateur Radio Society. The turnout was excellent; and, the opportunity to present information about the NC Section was appreciated greatly. Thanks to the

Members of the Rowan Amateur Radio Society for their friendship!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or want to provide input on our Section. I can be reached via email at w4chx@arrl.org or via cell phone. As always, thank you for sending your emails and club newsletters – they keep me informed about your activities and programs! And, to all of the clubs that sent Field Day photos – thanks! I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming hamfest or club meeting. Finally, thanks for everything you are doing for amateur radio and your community! 73, Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL North Carolina Section Manager, (919) 669-6068 (cell)

*QUA is an international Q signal (prosign) meaning, "Have you news of ____?" In the absence of a question mark, QUA means, "I have news of ____."



The next ACARC VE Exam session will be held Saturday, August 8th, 10:00AM at the north campus of the Cape Fear Community College on Blue Clay Road.

**UPGRADE!
UPGRADE!
UPGRADE!**

Pattern of Contact Padding Prompts Disqualifications, CQ Review of All Past Contest Logs

The CQ World Wide Contest Committee said this week that it plans to review all past contest logs, after its investigation revealed a pattern of routine QSO padding on the part of one top-scoring CQ World Wide Contest operator. This follows in the wake of the disqualifications of some two dozen 2014 CQ WW SSB contest operators in April, and another 30 contestants in the 2014 CQ WW CW event. Among the latter group of DQs was the TO7A entry of Dmitry V. Stashuk, UT5UGR, of Kiev, Ukraine, for unclaimed use of assistance. TO7A had claimed the top Single-Operator, High Power score.

“During the public discussion around this disqualification, a section of the log on 160 meters was pointed out as being suspicious,” the committee said. “Further checking revealed a run of 47 QSOs that were added to the log when TO7A could not be detected on the air by RBN [Reverse Beacon Network] or SDR recordings. In total, as many as 123 QSOs representing 22 additional multipliers were padded into the log.” The CQ WW Contest Committee said the “particular pattern” of the suspicious contacts made it clear that they were added deliberately after the contest to fill in rest or break periods.

“Radiosport competition is built on a simple foundation — the expectation that all contacts are made over the air and correctly logged,” the committee said. “Since operations are performed from the privacy of our stations and without supervision, we all trust that everyone is playing by the same rules.”

The contest committee subsequently decided to dig more deeply into past contest logs submitted by UT5UGR, many of them competitive entries, including one for a record continental score, and it uncovered evidence of log padding going back to 2008, when UT5UGR placed third in the world in

the Single-Operator, High Power category from V31WA in the CQ WW CW.

As a result, CQ has disqualified UT5UGR’s entries in which they detected log padding and removed them from the official score database. In addition, any entry into a CQ-sponsored contest until July 2020 in which UT5UGR is the operator or listed as a participant will be reclassified as a check log.

UT5UGR’s entries as TO7A into the 2009 and 2010 in the CQ WW SSB, and his 2011 and 2014 CQ WW 160 Meter Contest SSB entries under his own call sign have been disqualified. In addition to his 2008 V31WA CQ WW SSB entry from 2008, CQ also disallowed UT5UGR’s TO7A 2014 CQ WW SSB and CW entries, as well as his TO7A entries in the CQ WW CW events in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

“This violation of the trust that underlies radiosport competition cannot be ignored,” CQ said. The CQ WW Contest Committee has announced that new log checking processes are being developed to improve the detection of log padding. “We intend to test these methods against all submitted logs from 2011-2014. If other entries are found to have added unverifiable QSOs, we will address them on a case by case basis,” CQ said.

“The CQ World Wide Contest Committee is committed to protecting the integrity of the competition as best as we can,” the CQ post said, adding that it hoped the contesting community would do the same.

