

ACARC

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

May 2015
Newsletter

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ACARC

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Vacant

Vice President

Harvey Hutchison
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Acting President

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(KI4YSY)

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Newsletter

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Word From The Top

It is with regret that tonight I accepted the resignation of our President, Charlie, K4UWH. Charlie has served the ACARC in an outstanding manner and I want to take this opportunity to thank Charlie for his devotion to the ACARC, his service as President and as a long time member. THANK YOU, Charlie! The ACARC will continue to benefit from Charlie's experience and participation as a vital member of our organization.

To that end at the next meeting of the ACARC there will be a special election to elect a new president to service for the remainder of 2015.

Therefore I am asking all members to make a special effort to attend the May meeting.

Hutch, NKØS
Acting President, ACARC

This is from an email Hutch, NKØS sent to the membership via the email reflector the evening of April 21, 2015.

Upcoming Events

May 19th – ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM
** Special Election **

June 5th to 7th – Museum Ships Weekend
Club Event - USS North Carolina (BB-55)

June 16th – ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM
Topic: TBA

June 27th & 28th – Field Day Weekend

AC4RC LOTW Stats (as of 5/1/2015)

DXCC	MIX	015
	CW	001
	PHONE	004
	DIG	013
WAS	BASIC	039
	PHONE	035
	DIG	024
	PSK31	020
	RTTY	008
	5BND	061
	TRIPLE PLAY	063



Newsletter

The first issue of the newly resurrected club newsletter was posted to the ACARC website for club members a couple weeks ago. It was a brief 2 page issue just to work the kinks out and to grab everyone's attention that the newsletter will be coming out again.

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.

Azalea Fest Update

The final numbers are in. Considering this was an inaugural event for the club, we did fantastic!

QSOs:	649				
DXCC:	MIX: 037	PHO: 024	CW: 003	DIG: 022	
WAS:	MIX: 046	PHO: 043	CW: 018	DIG: 028	
WAZ:	MIX: 021	PHO: 016	CW: 004	DIG: 013	
WPX:	MIX: 245	PHO: 190	CW: 032	DIG: 102	

Battleship Update

The BB-55 crew hosted several visiting ham operators in April who were thrilled to be able to operate from the Battleship North Carolina.

Radio update: we are still waiting for the ship's electrician to connect the refurbished motor-generators in order to get power to the ship's radios. Until then our operation is limited to using a modern transceiver attached to the ship's antennas.

Next major event for the Battleship is Museum Ships Weekend which is scheduled for the first weekend in June. All club members are encouraged to come on board and assist with operations that weekend!

Bravo Zulu

Jeff Bixby (W4BIX) recently participated in the ARRL Rookie Roundup contest as a rookie station and placed 17th in the USA, 6th in the W4 call area and #1 in North Carolina!

Around The Club



Linwood Todd (NT4F) troubleshooting one of the antenna lines on board the USS North Carolina (BB-55)

Sample of Special Events for May

May 2 nd – 3 rd	Indiana QSO Party
May 2 nd – 3 rd	Delaware QSO Party
May 2 nd – 3 rd	New England QSO Party
May 8 th	Transcontinental Rail Road Golden Spike Commemorative
May 9 th	Inaugural Special Event Celebrating 150th Anniversary of Last Shot Fired of the Civil War
May 9 th	USS Midway Museum Ship Armed Forces Day Special Event



Field Day Weekend
June 27th & 28th
Be there – Aloha!

House Committee Asks FCC for Documents Related to Proposed Enforcement Bureau Closures

The US House Committee on Energy and Commerce has given the Federal Communications Commission a May 7 deadline to produce documents related to FCC Enforcement Bureau proposals to close two-thirds of its field offices and eliminate nearly one-half of its staff of field agents. In an April 23 letter, Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) told FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler that his panel wants the Commission to provide all documents relating to the proposed closures.

“[Y]our proposal to shutter 16 of the Commission’s 24 field offices raises significant challenges and concerns,” Upton said. “The Commission has represented to Congress and the American people that it will ‘preserve the integrity of public safety communications infrastructure by taking action on 99 percent of complaints of interference to public safety communications within 1 day,’ yet your proposal to reduce the geographic footprint of the Commission appears to ignore the impact this might have on the Commission’s public interest goal.” Upton said the Commission has offered little information to support its proposals. “Indeed, our concerns have only been heightened by the Commission’s failure to provide all the information requested by the Committee,” he wrote.

The field office and personnel layoff proposals were outlined in a March 10 internal memorandum from Enforcement Bureau Chief Travis LeBlanc and FCC Managing Director Jon Wilkins to EB field staff. The memo, obtained by ARRL and others, cited the need to take “a fresh look” at the Bureau’s 20-year-old operating model in light of technology changes and tighter budgets.

During March hearings of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology — chaired by Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR) — on the FCC’s FY 2015 budget request, Committee members sought more information from Wilkins and Wheeler on the basis of the proposals to close field offices. Upton said that his Committee has, to date, received just the two-page March 10 memorandum and a 35-page PowerPoint presentation that purports to outline the consultants’ report.

ARRL leadership met with Enforcement Bureau staff and with Capitol Hill lawmakers in March to express its own concerns with the proposals in light of seemingly lax enforcement of the Amateur Service rules. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, also addressed the FCC’s field office closure proposals in his “It Seems to Us” editorial in the May 2015 issue of QST. “Given everything that’s on [the Enforcement Bureau’s] plate — of which Amateur Radio is just a small part — reducing the number of field agents from 63 to 33 and the number of field offices from 24 to 8 hardly sounds like progress,” Sumner wrote.

In his April 23 letter, Upton told Wheeler that his panel wants the Commission to provide all documents, “including all drafts, memos, e-mails, analyses, PowerPoint slides, interim reports, and the final report,” produced by outside consultants and related to the proposed field office closures. The committee also wants all documents “including all internal communications and internal analyses” related to the Enforcement Bureau’s and Office of Managing Director’s joint recommendation to the full Commission to close the field offices.

-ARRL News Item 4/24/2015

Contesting, The Old Fashioned Way by Joe Falcone, N8TI

Back in 1992, when I first obtained my Ham license, (at the ripe old age of 42), I used to spend hours on the radio searching out “rare” DX stations. I loved the various contests because there were so many DX stations on the air. Back then I had a transceiver plus an electronic keyer. A few years later, I added a two-meter station so I could join the local packet DX cluster. Adding the DX cluster made it easier to see if the DX stations were being heard by others in my area of the County.

After a while, I added a computer logging and Internet packet cluster and a computer-controlled radio with a quad on the tower. I could see the stations on my DX cluster window in my logging program, and with the click of a mouse, my radio would switch to that frequency and tell me where to aim my antenna. A press of a function key on the computer keyboard would send my call. Another function key sent the exchange. A push of another function key then logged the contact.

Well, I started to spend less and less time on the radio. It just became boring. It was not “radio operating” anymore, it was “computer operating.”

This past weekend was the ARRL International DX CW Contest. My station is now located in a walk-in closet in the bedroom. I have one radio hooked up and use an app on my iPhone for logging. Nowadays, I only use my Navy Flameproof straight key. My antenna is a home brew multi-band dipole.

I sat down in front of the radio on Saturday afternoon of this two-day contest and just started going up and down the bands. I actually used the straight key for the exchange. My antenna picked up and allowed me to contact stations from all over, including Japan, which is never easy from Michigan where I am located.

I just had a blast. I spent a few hours on Saturday and another hour or so Sunday just picking out the stations and making the normal contest contact. It was nice to confirm that the antenna and 150

watts from the radio could reach out to the DX stations.

I have always liked fooling with computers, but I have always loved playing with the radio. I think that sometimes computers just get in the way of the joy of spinning the dial and picking out the stations by ear and actually tapping the key to make the contact. Of course, this was a contest, so keying out the exchange “5NN MI” was not exactly rag chewing, but it was a lot more fun than simply looking at a computer screen and pressing a couple of keys on a computer keyboard. Computers are great and have their place in our hobby. I believe, however, that some we let them get in the way of pure radio fun.

Operating Tips

Long ago, F.C.C. rules required mobile hams to not only say their call sign, but to say where they were operating, giving both the city and the call sign area. You may hear some hams saying, "...mobile 6" or "...mobile 3" after their call sign. This means that they are operating "mobile, in call sign area 6" or "mobile, in call sign area 3."

This is no longer required but it is sometimes good to know. When leaving their home state, some hams will keep track of what call sign area they are in, and say, "...mobile 7," or "...mobile 1," or whatever. Bottom line – it's not necessary but it's not wrong to do it.

