

ACARC

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

April-May 2016
Edition



ACARC

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Newsletter

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Now Bimonthly Issues

The ACARC newsletter will (for now) run bimonthly – one issue every other month. The reason is two-fold – I have been extremely busy with both family and health issues and there has been an extremely limited amount of input for writing this newsletter.

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER! An occasional article sent to me for publication would be nice. It doesn't need to be elaborate. Anything is better than zero. More importantly if you feel you are not the next Pulitzer Prize winner in writing – just send me ideas of what YOU would like to see in the newsletter. It's that simple folks! Send your articles or ideas to:

acarcnews@gmail.com



Upcoming Important Events

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| May 17 th | ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM |
| May 20 th – 22 nd | Dayton Hamvention |
| June 5 th | Museum Ships Weekend – BB-55 Activation |
| June 21 st | ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM |
| June 25 th Weekend | Annual ARRL Field Day |

USS North Carolina BB-55 Visiting Hams

On April 3rd we hosted a couple of visiting ham operators - Eric (K4CEB) and his 12 year old son, Nathan (N4CEB) from Concord, NC. The dynamic father/son team visited Radio 2 and Radio Central and were extremely interested in the history of the battleship as well as the functionality to this day of the 75 year old radios.



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NC QSO Party Results

The North Carolina QSO Party was exciting this year, with new challenges and new participants. If this was your first year, thank you for giving us a try. If you are a NCQP veteran, we're glad to have you back! The things that stand out are the addition of W1VOA bonus (Voice of America) and "The Carolinas Weekend." Oh, and there was the addition of High Power. That came just in time for use on the lower bands, because from what we observed and was reported by others, 10 and 15 meters were not in such good shape. Not much we can do about that, but it didn't stop anyone from going to a lower band and cranking up the power. Based on what we observed this year, the High Power categories are here to stay.

As everyone knows, mobiles and expeditions are the heartbeat of any state QSO party. Ours is no

exception. I'm happy to see nine mobiles and four expeditions submitted logs. That's an increase in mobiles from last year [yeah!] and a decrease in expeditions [booo!] I'm sure the synergy with South Carolina on Saturday helped us in the mobile department, but really don't know why the expeditions were down. Bolstering the expedition effort was the committee's own Charles Swindell, WA4DCM, who went to Hyde to set up shop. Although Charles's score isn't counted, that didn't keep him from putting in the effort. Be sure to read the account of this expedition in the soapbox.

Then there's the W1VOA story. After much effort coordinating and cutting through the red tape, we got the go ahead for a "special" station to set up at the VOA site 'C' in Greenville, NC. The team was formed, and Jack Ritter, WOUCE (SK) stepped up to take the lead. Anyone who knew Jack knows he was very history-oriented and was very excited being involved in the rich legacy of the Voice of America. As everyone knows, no sooner than the plans were in concrete, Jack unexpectedly passed away 5 days before go time. This was a blow to all of us involved, let alone the Raleigh ham community. Long story short, Marty, W4MY, stepped in and got W1VOA QRV with the help of others too numerous to mention. We knew Jack would want us to go on, and we did. Rest in peace, good friend.

Total QSO's this year was 35,555. This is about par with last year. There were 53 participants who opted for High Power. Most of these did this intentionally, some didn't. We had to reclassify quite a number of logs that indicated "High Power" but were submitted in a different class unknowingly. So, as you look at the results, if you don't see your call in the single mode category you operated, check High Power Mixed. This is our first year with more than 150 watts allowed, so there are going to be some growing pains. The logs committee decided to reclassify rather than disqualify, as the high power participants did nothing wrong. (other than pull down the wrong tab on the website during log submission). It is our hope that we've handled that in a fair manner. "The Carolina Weekend". What can be said about that? All good news from SC as they report a

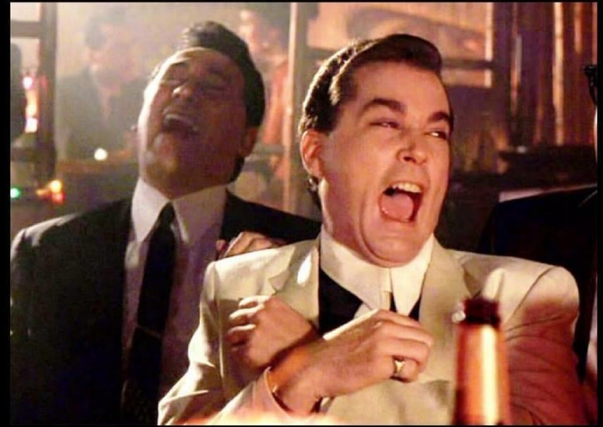
significant increase in their activity level from years past. Credit goes to the SC committee for the idea, which we were more than happy to support. If you sent a log into both, be on the lookout for the winner of the BBQ dinner drawing! Mmmmmm!

What more can we say about our bonus stations that already hasn't been said? But we're going to recognize them again for the selfless work they do in providing interesting competition to the participants. This work is selfless as they, themselves, are removed from competition and make QSO's for the sheer love of it. Bruce, N1LN, and Laurie, N1YXU, contribute manpower and facilities of this top contest grade station to provide Q's to everyone. Few submitted logs are sans W4DW. **The crew at the Battleship North Carolina keep coming back every year. I met these guys in 2013 and there isn't a better bunch to keep the fire lit in the ship's radio room. Thanks guys!** The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club was the host club for this year's activation of W1VOA, the Voice of America. That's the reason why you didn't see them in the standings. They were there, along with a crack team of operators, signing W1VOA. There is one name that needs to be singled out in the VOA effort that frankly was the lynch pin of the whole operation being QRV. That's Doug Ferris, K4ROK. Without Doug, this bonus station wouldn't have been on the air for NCQP. What else can be said? Thanks Doug!

<http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/index.php?id=results>



**So I bought a new transceiver
and she asked...**



**"Are you going to sell any of
your old ones?"**

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Happy Birthday!



Karen (WA4CR) – April 30th

Charlie (K4UWH) – May 30th

