

# ACARC

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

January 2016  
Newsletter



## ACARC

### President

Charlie Vaughan  
(K4UWH)

### Vice President

Harvey Hutchison  
(NKØS)

### Secretary

Norman Clemmons  
(K14YSY)

### Treasurer

Allen Pellnat  
(KX2H)

### Newsletter

acarcnews@gmail.com

Azalea Coast  
Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 4044  
Wilmington, NC 28406

[www.ac4rc.org](http://www.ac4rc.org)

## Happy New Year!



*Jack (WD4OIN) and Norman (K14YSY) operate the 40 meter station on board the USS North Carolina (BB-55) during Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2015 and are being filmed by a local television camera crew for the news.*



## Upcoming Important Events

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Battleship 101<br>USS North Carolina   |
| Jan 19 <sup>th</sup> | ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM<br>CFCC North Campus<br><b>Pay your 2016 Dues</b> |
| Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Frostfest<br>Richmond, VA  |

# Health and Wellness

By George Morse KM4DSI

I received word from Hutch (NKOS) that his XYL Linda (KD4TXY) had to be admitted to the Hospital the night before New Year's Eve. Hutch says Linda will only be there a few days to undergo several tests. A Get Well Card from the ACARC was mailed to her. We all hope that she doesn't have any serious problems and that she will be 100% well soon.

I did not receive any Birthday Dates for January. Please let me know the Month and Day of your birthday, so the Club can send you a Card. Guess what, my son and my sister were both born in January. Also, if you have anything that you would like me to put in this article for you, whether it is information or a topic you would like to see included let me know.

I am extremely pleased that most of you seem to be healthy and happy and also that I didn't have to send out any Sympathy Cards.

A Very Happy New Year to all ACARC Members and Their Families!

73,  
George  
km4dsi@arrl.net

---

## Huh???

*The town council of Woodland, North Carolina, recently rejected a proposal for a solar farm after suspicious locals expressed fears that the panels would "suck up all the energy from the sun."  
- From International Business Times 12/14/15*

Residents of Woodland, North Carolina, are not too keen on solar power in their town despite their state currently ranking fourth in the nation in terms of installed solar capacity. According to a report by the Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald, the Woodland Town Council recently rejected a proposal for a solar farm after suspicious locals expressed fears

that the panels would "suck up all the energy from the sun."

According to the newspaper, Jane Mann -- **a retired science teacher** from Northampton -- told the council that she was concerned that the solar panels would hinder photosynthesis, keeping plants -- which rely on the process -- from growing. She also argued over the adverse health impacts solar panels could have, reportedly stating that "no one could tell her that solar panels didn't cause cancer."

"I want to know what's going to happen," she said. "Until we can find if anything is going to damage this community, we shouldn't sign any paper."

The proposal being debated by the council was a rezoning application that would have allowed a solar farm to be built by the Strata Solar company. Woodland was reportedly a preferred choice for the solar farm as it has an electrical substation that the solar power generated by the panels could be directly hooked up to.

"The panels don't draw additional sunlight," Brent Niemann, a spokesman for Strata Solar, reportedly argued. "There are no toxic materials on site. This is a tried and true technology."

However, the council not only rejected the proposal, it also put a moratorium on future solar farms in the town.

Over the past few years, as the severity of climate change begins to sink in, countries across the globe, including the U.S., have sought to reduce the use of greenhouse-gas emitting fossil fuels. Given that the amount of solar energy intercepted by Earth is over 10,000 times our current global power consumption, solar power, which is non-polluting, provides a viable alternative.

According to a recent estimate, by the end of next year, the total installed solar photovoltaic capacity in the U.S. is likely to double from the current level to 41 gigawatts -- enough to power approximately 8.5 million average American homes.

# 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>.

---

## Local amateur Radio Clubs – A Historical View

By Allan Pellnat KX2H

In the last part of this series I said I would summarize some of the WARA (Wilmington amateur Radio Association) activities up to the World War II cessation of all amateur operation.

Let's start by looking at the local Amateur Radio population beginning with the period before WW1:

The Wilmington High School Science Club from 1913 through 1916 had club station license 4BS located at 4th and Ann Sts. The known student operators of this station were Marion C. Avant 4BA and Byron B. Schoenwald 4BL. There were eight other adult licensed hams active in Wilmington at this time. From April 1917 to November 1919 all Amateur operation was silenced as it would be again during WW2 in the forties.

After WW1 all licenses were cancelled and had to be renewed for operators to put their stations back on the air with new call signs. By 1924 Wilmington's ham population consisted of 11 station licensees including 4DW at the then newly opened New Hanover High School at 13th and Market Sts. where a successor Radio Club continued.

William A. French Jr. now 4AB who had held call sign 4CM as early as 1915 was still active at that time coinciding with the birth of Wilmington's first AM broadcast station WRBT. Nearby military and commercial wireless telegraph stations were also

active at this time. They were: NLC The Frying Pan Shoals Lightship #94; WUT US Army at Fort Caswell; NDK Cape Fear Radio Compass. Also active at this time was Navy station NWN located at the Southwest Corner of Princess St. and Water St. in Maffitt's Marine Wireless Building at the corner of Princess and Front Sts. on the roof of a five story building. Interference between nearby military and commercial wireless telegraph stations and the new BC station and the 11 licensed hams in Wilmington undoubtedly became the issue leading to the establishment of the WRA (Wilmington Radio Association). WRA was established 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."

From 1924 on up through the mid-thirties the number of station licenses varied from a low of just 5 in 1929/30 after all licenses were again cancelled and renewed with new call signs that now included the "W" prefix. The number of licensed stations grew to a peak of 22 call signs in 1936 including a new one W4CUA, the Cape Fear ARA bearing a PO Box address and "station located on Princess Place Rd" just outside the then city limits. The Cape Fear ARA is first amateur radio club documented as not being under school sponsorship. The New Hanover High School station license 4DW was never reissued after 1929/30 but some sort of station still existed there because the 1928 Year Book frontispiece photograph of the building clearly shows two masts on the roof at the east end of the building with a 6 wire cage antenna strung between them.

The Princess Place Rd. station had been the location of AM broadcast station WRAM the last of three failed attempts at BC radio in Wilmington before the introduction of WMFD in 1935. WRAM's equipment was shipped lock stock and barrel to Durham to become WDUR which is still on the air today.

By 1946, although no one was allowed to be on the air since shortly after Pearl Harbor the ham population of Wilmington and presumably of the

Cape Fear ARA stood at 30 licenses. With the resumption of amateur operations after WW2 on December 2, 1947 the Cape Fear Radio Club was formed with several members who had been hams since the twenties. Charter members of the club include: James Russell, W4BQZ; Robert Hodges, W4LWS; J.E. Hicks, W4BXF; L.C. French, W4BJV, J.W. Hodges, W4EEL; A.H. Hilliard Jr., W4MDA; J.A. Varga, W4IBN; Guy Pigford, W4EC; R.B. Webb, W4NY; Frank Farrow, W4MDA; J.K. Sellars, W4HAK; Donald Parsley, W4FT; T.W. Blake, W4KUO; Robert Theander, W2UXQ; Earl Buck and W.A. Woods. (Note reportage error: Call sign W4MDA is attributed to two different names?). Officers were: James E. Russell W4BQX, President; Robert Webb W4NY, Vice President; A.H. Hilliard Jr. W4GMM, Secretary-Treasurer.

---

## Getting New Hams on the Air: The Evolution of a Licensing Class

Located on an island in the San Francisco Bay, the city of Alameda and its population of over 75,000 has to be self-sufficient in case of an emergency. It needs topnotch citizen emergency response teams (CERTs). The city's first CERT teams, sponsored by the Alameda Fire Department, soon realized that having some licensed radio amateurs operating FRS radios was insufficient for its growing needs, mainly due to the poor performance of the radios, their short range, and disappointing NiMH battery life. The Alameda CERT Executive Committee (ACEC) knew they had to swell their amateur ranks and take advantage of the reliable HTs Amateur Radio operators could use. Step one was to offer a licensing path, initially with a series of six weekly training classes. While the course success rate was very high, it was obvious that merely having a ticket wasn't enough, so Alameda CERT's Get on the Air class was born. Going beyond the typical "Ham Cram" licensing session, GOTA classes focused on using VHF/UHF communications and included reviews of two-way radios; technical orientation for the radios; operating protocols and types of messaging for simplex and repeater

operations; and hands-on exercise. Not only did GOTA classes lead to the desired increase in the number of effective radio operators, those operators were better prepared. To maintain high standards, all newly licensed CERT operators are now required to participate in the GOTA class before they can be recognized as full-fledged radio communicators. They are also encouraged to participate in a weekly net, which most eagerly do.

Given the success rate of this approach, the ACEC decided to completely abandon the use of FRS equipment, a radical step made feasible thanks to Amateur Radio and a fresh outlook on training. Former Alameda CERT member David Haycock, KI6AWR (he has since relocated), developed the GOTA curriculum, which focuses on practical skills to get new licensees comfortable on the air. Topics in the syllabus include simplex and repeaters, programming radios, and simplex and repeater protocols. Haycock has shared his course outline with the ARRL (see [www.arrl.org/instruction-teach-and-train-new-hams](http://www.arrl.org/instruction-teach-and-train-new-hams)).

---

## Bravo Zulu



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

VE testing was conducted on December 12<sup>th</sup> with Steve Wilder (AJ4JJ) at the helm with the following results – four new Technicians and one new Extra. Congratulations!!

Harvey Hutchinson (NK0S) has been notified of his new status update with the CQ WPX Award:

Honor Roll for Mixed (with an 1800 sticker), SSB and Digital Modes (with an 850 sticker). Great job Hutch!

## AC4RC End of Year Stats

### DXCC

MIX 17  
CW 02  
PHONE 07  
DIGITAL 14  
80M 01  
40M 02  
20M 15  
15M 01  
10M 04  
CHALLENGE AWARD 23

### WAS

MIX 40  
CW 06  
PHONE 36  
DIGITAL 27  
80M 07  
40M 22  
20M 34  
15M 02  
10M 03

### WPX

MIX 129  
CW 007  
PHONE 089  
DIGITAL 067

CQ WW Contest Director Randy Thompson, K5ZD, said the committee received 5117 responses from contest operators around the world to Part 2 of the survey, which addressed possible rule changes. A vast majority of respondents answered “yes” to the question, “Do you support limiting the operating time of single operator entrants to less than 48 hours?” Currently single operators may operate for the entire 48-hour contest period.

“This question was designed to determine how broadly the interest in a time-limited category might be,” Thompson said in the survey report. “We were surprised at the high level of support for a time limit. It was even more surprising to see that the majority of support was coming from Europe. Even more interesting that it was serious competitors who wanted this change. While older ages were more in favor, the results were fairly consistent across all.”

According to the survey, 2775 respondents answered “yes,” and 1638 said “no,” while 694 offered no opinion.

A review of CQ World Wide entries for 2015 showed that approximately 90 percent of SSB operators stay in the chair for fewer than 30 hours, while some 90 percent of CW entrants operate fewer than 35 hours.

The survey results also suggested that a plurality — nearly one-half — of contesters responding would prefer to maintain the separate Single Operator and Single Operator Assisted categories, rather than combining them into one entry category.



---

## CQ World Wide Participants Favor Limiting Operating Time to Less Than 48 Hours

According to Part 2 of the 2015 CQ World Wide Contests survey results, contesters want to see a time-limited category for single operators. In September the CQ WW Contest Committee surveyed everyone who had submitted a log in the 2014 CQ WW SSB and CW events, and issued a public invitation on the cq-contest e-mail reflector.