



Fall 2017
Edition

ACARC

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Julian Bradberry
(WD4FTR)

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Jean-Paul Louis
(N1JPL)

Secretary

Norman Clemmons
(KI4YSY)

Treasurer

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(KG4IIL)

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

From The Editor

I've come to a crossroad of a sort. I breathed life back into this newsletter this past June as a service to the members of the ACARC. Most of you know I no longer live in Wilmington...in fact I now live 200 miles away in South Carolina. Most of the time I get input for the newsletter every month from one member only. Even less I get an email from a member expressing their thanks for the newsletter. I have to believe the members enjoy reading the newsletter. Wouldn't know because it's rare I get any feedback...an occasional email is about it and *that is appreciated*.

With that being said, I will make this a quarterly newsletter from now on. I'm not looking for any praise for doing this – not at all! **I need input. What do YOU want here???**



Upcoming Important Events

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Nov 21st | Monthly club meeting 7:00pm
CFCC North Campus |
| Dec 7th | Pearl Harbor Day – all day
USS North Carolina BB-55 |
| Dec 19th | VE Testing 10:00am
CFCC North Campus |
| Every Monday | 2 Meter Rag Chew, 9:00PM
147.18MHz, +0.600 offset, 88.5 tone
Norman (KI4YSY) is net control |

Visiting BB-55 Operators

by Linwood Todd (NT4F)



On September 20th the Battleship Crew climbed on board the USS North Carolina (BB-55) to host a guest operator, KE4ZUN who was in town and looking for the opportunity to operate on the famed warship.



Tuesday October 10th the Battleship Crew hosted another visiting Ham Operator – KC6VVT. I'd like to post an email this gentleman sent to the club after his visit:

Linwood, NT4F, Jack, WD4OIN and Norman, KI4YSY plus ACARC members:

Thank you for the superb guest operator experience and photo from my stint as a guest operator of NI4BK. While visiting in the Wilmington NC area, I had not brought any of my ham radio equipment in the gal friend's Mustang convertible, and was only using Internet wireless mobile

services such as APRS, Echolink and WinLink so that I would learn those adjunct systems that use wireless for "last mile" communications via amateur radio.

Had toured the USS North Carolina BB-55 in the previous week, and looked it up on the Internet after, found the ham radio page, and followed the simple sign up via email - great fun there.

I marvel at the club docent response, three veteran ham radio operators to make sure my own guest operator experience was greatly enjoyed by me, and even the logging was taken care of, too!

Had the club's fine modern HF radio (TenTec Eagle) to energize the on board radio central whip antenna topside 90 ft.

I marveled at how quiet that antenna is, noise-wise, and great signal-to-noise on 20M, not often found on a vertical whip antenna! It behaved much like a horizontal or slanted endfire antenna, with great DX coverage into Europe, and into the Central USA.

Disappointed that the many other various wire and whip HF antennas are not used topside to allow different antenna bands than just 20M, and got the idea that somehow the Signalmen docents are reserving these antennas for signal flag displays.

First, I can happily relate from years of experience with the Navy, that unless there is a pulley installed, no Signalman can possibly use shipboard wire antennas for such flag purpose, and those unused HF antennas are available for use in Radio by patching. Identifying the different antennas would be difficult unless the antenna jack markings make it clear on the ship's antenna diagram its location. But I can assure you, the antennas will radiate, and safely, with the current limitations to deck visitors on tour as I saw during my first visit.

So you know, years ago, as a Navy civilian, I had helped install supplementary radio equipment on board BB class ships, so it was a special treat to return and visit this classic WWII BB class ship. Admired the topside antenna systems very similar to the ones I had used and tested back in my days doing Navy installations on ships. Also longed for the days I was a rigger topside to work, repair and test such antennas for the Navy. As a ham operator today, that visit just added to the fun, and delighted as the visitors on their tour each stopped by and heard Radio Central active as the 'BB-55 Showboat' was on-the-air.

Identification of antennas by former trained Bell system technicians that can put a tone on the actual antenna wire at the feedpoint termination, and a nearby ground point or hull contact, and then find it with a tone detector on the coax patch connector below, similar with twisted pair TelCo identification. Years ago, I have had to do this to get unused HF antennas from the ship's radio central patched for the

Admiral's use in SuppRad communications. Also, I had used a Time Domain Reflectometer (TDR) and Swept Frequency VSWR at the radio connector patch to verify connections and useful frequency band limits.

I doubt getting aloft to do this easy to arrange antenna inspection, however.

Regretfully, my visit in NC was cut short by a death in my family, but hope to return again as a touring amateur radio operator to again visit this great museum ship, and had a great time!

73, es Fine Business to all

Pat KC6VVT

FYI - my post from my Facebook ham radio page before I left NC

Pat Ryan

October 11 at 9:53am ·

Thank you to the following members of the Azalea Coast ARC (AC4RC) who hosted my guest radio operation on the USS North Carolina BB-55 yesterday: Jack WD4OIN, Linwood NT4F, and Norman KI4YSY. Happy to get NI4BK on the air and over 25 contacts, mostly DX, in their logbook. 73 you great veterans, and thanks for the photo. (See Patrick Ryan post)

R. Patrick Ryan

ARS: KC6VVT, ASEC/IL, OES/IL, Grid: EN51Jf,

email: kc6vvt@gmail.com

Facebook for ham related:

<http://www.facebook.com/KC6VVT/info>

Bravo Zulu crew!

Bravo What???

You've seen Bravo Zulu in some newsletters in reference to the battleship crew. What the heck is that you ask?



The combination of the Bravo and Zulu nautical signal flags, e.g., Bravo Zulu, also referred to as "BZ," is a naval signal, typically conveyed by flaghoist or voice radio, meaning "Well Done" with regard to actions, operations or performance. In addition to U.S. naval forces, it has also been used as part of vernacular slang within NATO and other Allied naval forces. It can be combined with the "negative" signal, spoken or written as NEGAT, to say "NEGAT Bravo Zulu" to convey "not well done" for a given action.

And there you have it!

Two New Bands In Play 630M and 2200M

From the ARRL: The FCC has announced that the Office of Management and Budget has approved, for 3 years, the information-collection requirement of the Commission's March 29 Report and Order (R&O) that spelled out Amateur Radio service rules for the two new bands — **630 meters and 2200 meters**. Notice of the action appears in today's edition of the Federal Register. Before using either band, stations must notify the Utilities Technology Council (UTC), formerly the Utilities Telecom Council, that they plan to do so, and if UTC does not respond within 30 days, they may commence operation.

Last March 27, the FCC adopted the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) implementation Report and Order (ET Docket 15-99), amending its Amateur Radio rules to — in the FCC's words — "provide for frequency-sharing requirements in the 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200-meter) and 472-479 kHz (630-meter) bands."

Section 97.313(g)(2) of those rules requires that, prior to starting operation in either band, radio amateurs must notify UTC that they intend operate by submitting their call signs, intended band(s) of operation, and the coordinates of their antenna's fixed location. The new rules do not permit any mobile operation.

“Amateur stations will be permitted to commence operations after a 30-day period, unless UTC notifies the station that its fixed location is located within 1 kilometer of Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems operating on the same or overlapping frequencies,” the FCC said. PLC systems are unlicensed. “This notification process will ensure that amateur stations seeking to operate [on 630 or 2200 meters] are located beyond a minimum separation distance from PLC transmission lines, which will help ensure the compatibility and coexistence of amateur and PLC operations, and promote shared use of the bands.”

The FCC announced that it is making effective immediately the Part 97 rule amendments, § 97.3, 97.15(c), 97.301(b) through (d), 97.303(g), 97.305(c), and 97.313(k) and (l), which do not require OMB approval

Go to this web address for the application:

<https://utc.org/plc-database/>

I filled out my application late September and received my approval letter October 13th.

Upcoming Project

The latest project I’m just starting is a 12VDC junction box using Anderson Powerpole connectors. Add Powerpole connectors to any shack accessory that requires 12VDC and connect them to one central power box. Pictures & project info in the next issue.

Already done this? Send me your pictures & info! I’ll include it on the project page.

