

ACARC

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

July 2017
Edition

ACARC

President

Julian Bradberry
(WD4FTR)

Vice President

Jean-Paul Louis
(N1JPL)

Secretary

Norman Clemmons
(KI4YSY)

Treasurer

Anita Jacobs
(KG4IIL)

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

www.ac4rc.org



From The Club

The next meeting of the ACARC is 7:00 PM, Tuesday, July 18th in the McKeithan Center, (usually) room 339, **North Campus Cape Fear Community College**, 4500 Blue Clay Road. Talk-in on 147.180 +offset with a tone of 88.5 hz.

Remember: Invite a new ham operator to the meeting. If they join the club they can either get free club membership for a year or a new Baofeng HT!!!



Did someone say a free radio???

Upcoming Important Events

- | | |
|--|--|
| July 1 st - 8 th | 13 Colonies Special Event |
| July 4 th | Happy Birthday America! |
| July 8 th | Firecracker Hamfest
Salisbury, NC |
| July 15 th | Mid-Summer Swapfest
Cary, NC |
| July 18 th | Monthly club meeting 7:00pm
CFCC North Campus |

Museum Ships Weekend

by Jeff Bixby (W4BIX)



One of the annual fun events our club participates in is Museum Ships Weekend held the first weekend in June (this year June 3rd & 4th). The event is sponsored by the amateur radio crew onboard the USS New Jersey (BB-62), a museum ship located in Camden, NJ. Members of the ACARC participated this year as well as several visiting hams who graciously show up every year to partake in the fun.



A total of 571 QSO's were made this year from ham operators all around the world. A huge "tip of the hat" to all who assisted this year operating on board the USS North Carolina (BB-55)!



Nothing Like Great PR

by Jeff Bixby (W4BIX)

June 23, 2017 was a bright sunny day in Wilmington. It was also the day ham radio made it on the local television news!

Bill Morine (N2COP), representing the ARRL Roanoke Division and Bill Jefferson (K4BUX), representing the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club were featured in the 4 o'clock hour on the NBC local affiliate WECT First at Four program. The gentlemen discussed the modern role of amateur radio and the upcoming ARRL Field Day activities in the Wilmington area with anchor Ashlea Kosikowski. Great job fellas!



ARRL Field Day 2017

by Jeff Bixby (W4BIX)

The 2017 version of the summer ARRL Field Day is now in the books! A note from our ACARC President:

I am very proud of the members of the ACARC who came out and made this field day an exciting one. Seventeen members attended. Some brought cookies, drinks, food, then gave a hand setting up, operated, and socialize. It was a perfect example of emergency conditions with antennas put up in an hour and then talking on the radio. There were no towers or lines shot up over the trees or light poles. It was hot but the breeze made it relatively comfortable. There was no pressure put on anyone to make contacts or even operate. The whole outing was very relaxed. Even the meal of hot dogs, beans, and salad was simple. The club members came together as a group to put this event on. It was fun and it was pleasurable. Everyone attending made it a success.

Brad WD4FTR



Quarterly Project

“Portable” Base Station

by Jeff Bixby (W4BIX)

I’ve operated from remote locations several times, mostly when I’ve gone camping. Sitting inside my vehicle operating at a remote site doesn’t appeal to me as I like sitting outside at a table enjoying the sun and fresh pine scent. I usually load up my radio, boat anchor power supply, tuner and everything else into the back seat and then set it all up on a picnic table at the remote site. I decided I needed a change from carrying armloads of equipment back & forth to the truck.

Now keep in mind, this is my little project that was quickly planned and hatched. There are far better items like this out there. I’m just sparking the idea. Do your research, look at photos, get better ideas. You can use a much smaller and more compact case with a mobile radio rig and small tuner (example – look at the case used on the WECT broadcast pictured earlier in this newsletter). I purchased my case utilizing the dimensions of what I already own and what needed to fit in the case.

So, off to Amazon-land I traveled and ordered everything I needed for a travel case that will hold the equipment. Coming from an IT background, using some kind of rack-mounted setup appealed to me. Everything was ordered, delivered and the construction began.

The case is a MCM Electronics audio travel case with front and rear removable covers. The covers have seals making the case weatherproof. One of the covers has an installed zippered pouch to hold paperwork, manuals, etc. With the rack mount type case purchased I opted to use three 1RU 60 lb. capacity steel ventilated shelving for my equipment (note – 1RU means 1 rack unit or 1.75” tall). At the top I installed a Furman 8-outlet switched power conditioner. The Furman unit has two lights that extend out and light up the front of my equipment and desk when working at night. Nice!! The boat anchor power supply earned a permanent spot indoors and I ordered a MFJ-4230MV 30 amp



switching power supply as a replacement. Much smaller and lighter than the previous power supply!

Inside my new traveling companion (from top to bottom) –

Furman M-8Lx power conditioner

Top shelf: Signalink USB
 MFJ-553 straight key

Middle shelf: power supply
 tuner

Bottom shelf: speaker
 IC-746 radio

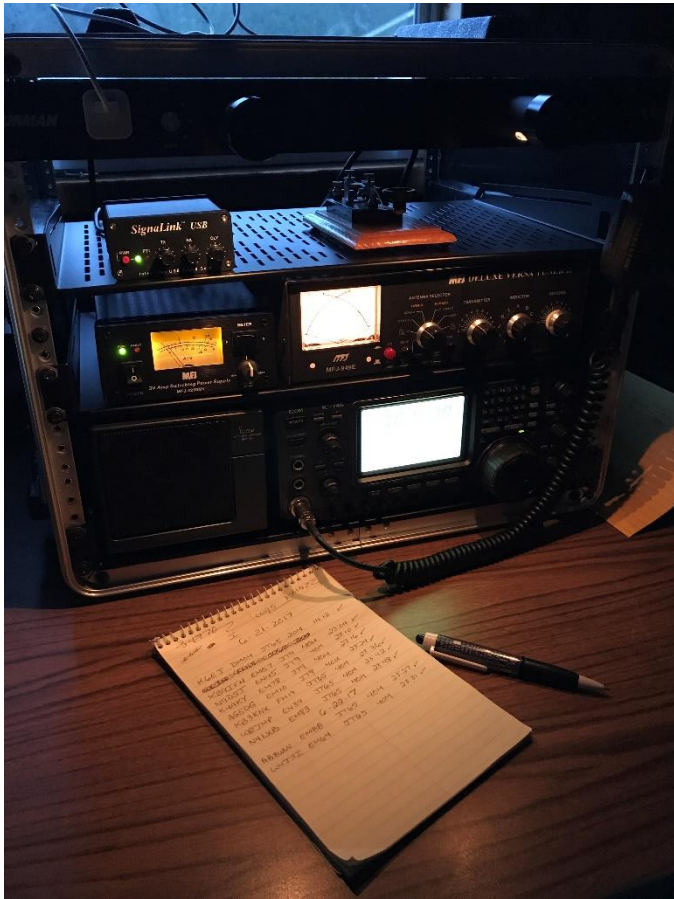
Because everything is rack mounted I can move items up or down as needed for new equipment or configuration changes. All of the equipment is anchored down on the shelves to prevent damage during movement of the case. In addition to the 8 rear outlets the power conditioner has a handy front outlet for such things as charging your iPhone!

Parts List (prices vary depending on where you order from):

- 1 - Stackable ABS 19" Rack Flight Case - 8RU
- 3 - AC Infinity Vented Cantilever 1U Universal Rack Shelf
- 1 - Furman M-8Lx Merit Series 8 Outlet Power Conditioner and Surge Protector



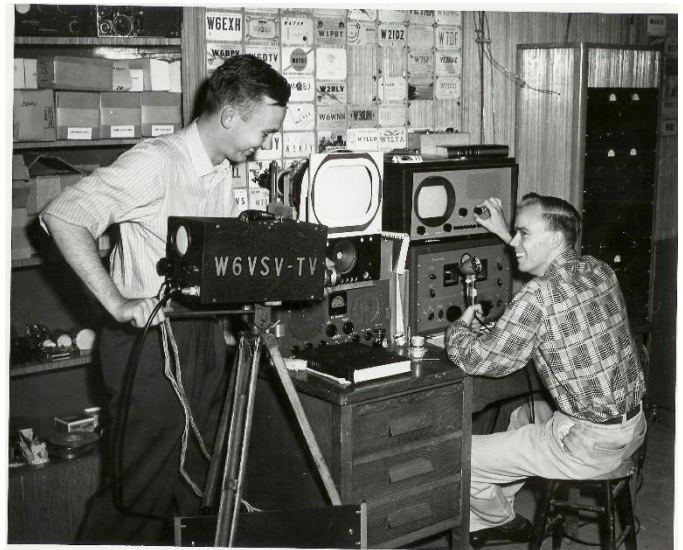
Another picture (taken in the evening) showing how the lights on the power conditioner light everything up.



newsletter. Antenna, project box, anything. Brag about what you built!

Like what you see? Hate it? Just don't care? Let me know. Some feedback would be appreciated.

W4BIX@ARRL.NET



Newsletter

by Jeff Bixby (W4BIX)

PLEASE...PLEASE help me keep it alive. Submit pictures. Submit articles. Submit ideas for articles. Submit events, birthdays, milestones achieved. ANYTHING! I want this newsletter to reflect YOUR voices.

I plan to *trying* to include a quarterly project in the newsletter. If you have a pet project you would like featured please send me photos and a write up, similar to what you see in this month's

