



# Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

May-June  
2018 Edition

## ACARC

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(WD4FTR)

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(N4NXX)

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(KG4IIL)

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

### From The Editor

While writing this newsletter I was in the market to purchase a new transceiver. I did a lot of research into specifications and test write-ups, especially the ARRL QRZ magazine reviews. Lastly, I sought opinions from hams online. Oh boy. I quickly realized that opinions are like rear ends...everyone has one & they all stink! You quickly see the brand loyalties. They spend 2 minutes explaining why their brand is good and 10 minutes bad-mouthing everyone else's. In the end it all comes down to research, research, and research. Read this newsletter to see which one I ended up with. 73!



### Upcoming Important Events

- May 15<sup>th</sup>** Monthly club meeting, 7:00 pm
- June 19<sup>th</sup>** CFCC North Campus
- May 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>** Dayton Hamvention
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>** Museum Ships Weekend on board the USS North Carolina (BB-55)
- June 9<sup>th</sup>** VE testing, 10 am @ CFCC North Campus
- Every Monday** 2 Meter Rag Chew, 9:00PM  
147.18MHz, +0.600 offset, 88.5 tone  
Norman (KI4YSY) is net control

## From the President

*By Brad (WD4FTR)*

It has been a great month for the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio club. This month we had 5 new members pass tests and become members of the club. They are enthusiastic, young, and aspiring radio enthusiasts. They bring with them talent and ideas that will benefit the group. We held a tailgating party Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> at Ogden Park from 9-1pm and it turned out to be well attended and the Lord blessed us with a sunny day and moderate temperatures. Kudos have to go to Linwood and Jack for their efforts providing the material for making J-pole antennas and showing everyone how to make them. We think about 10 J-poles were made. All of the new members of the club made a J-pole antenna checked it out to make sure it was working and ultimately carried it home to use.

We had a nice crowd numbering about 30 who came. We even had some who bought stuff from the tailgate offerings. Linwood, Jack and I didn't sell it all but we carried less home than what we arrived with. WE had a first in that we held a test session after a meeting. Four hams took the test and four passed. There was a communication mix up where the testees were told we would hold the test after the meeting. And finally the Elmer session is working out well. We have had people coming in before the meeting time (6PM) and club members Jack, Lynwood, and Larry have been providing their expertise. I'm really proud to be the president of such a great group of supporters.



## The Effort

*By June (N4FAM)*

Expectations are fragile things. Under the Carolina blue sky with small, cottony clouds flying by, my expectations felt a little brittle as I stood there on the old deck. The girls in the ticket booth had said to wait at the top of the wooden ramp for someone to collect me, but no one had come. I

looked at my new radio- not yet programmed- so I couldn't call the guys to let them know I was there. "Preparation is key", I thought.

After 3 - 4 minutes, which seems like an eternity when expectations are on the rail, I decided to find my own way to the radio room on the Battleship North Carolina. One steep staircase, a turn, and another, then more steps down into the quiet of the ship left me feeling alone and unsure of which way to go. But suddenly as my eyes began to take in the history of the ship, a tour guide appeared like a light in the mist, and I procured directions. As my guide and I neared the rooms, the unmistakable sounds of voices, radio static and CW tones sent my expectations back up to a respectable level. My guide left me as I greeted the smiling faces and friendly "Hello there's" of the men in the Radio Room.

Before I knew it, I was seated in front of the laptop, logging new, faraway friends and marveling again at how such a feat can be accomplished with a box, some coax and an antenna. Then, I was encouraged into the station chair and suddenly I was on the radio. More than nervous, I squeezed the mic and began - CQ, CQ, CQ...

The QSO Party was in full swing, and HAMS were answering the CQ call; Spain, Belgium, France, Falkland Islands, England, Nova Scotia, and Kansas. The answers came in from all over the U.S. and Europe! I was amazed at how happy everyone was to call in and log their participation, and how fast it all happened. It was like no party I'd ever been to, and I'd never felt more at home and welcomed. Of course, the goal was to contact the 100 counties of North Carolina, but only a few of them were found. The conditions were such that the signal was being carried out over their heads, to Missouri and beyond, and may have been more disappointing if it wasn't so darn fun! The CW room was just as busy, and no less exciting to watch. How those tones can be discerned as language is a marvel and makes me want to learn it.

Because I'm a new HAM, the QSO party was also my personal 'coming out' party. My desire for HAM skills was mainly for preparation: emergency

preparedness, civil service and such, and passing the test wasn't hard. Getting my new Kenwood radio ready to use without Chirp software yet to support it was a challenge and I almost gave up. But a whole club of Elmers and a fabulous QSO party got me fired up. Encouraged by the club members, I 'peopled' the radio for only the second time, the first being just to get a radio check. Now I'm really hooked! SO, I went home, got my radio programmed, and I'm ready for the next event!

We get out of things what we put into them. I made the decision that I wasn't just going to get my license- I was going to put it to good use. I'd participate as much as possible and try to learn all I could. What are we if we cannot communicate, and this is the last line of communication if all else fails. Plus, I don't plan to sit idly by while others have all the fun!

Expectations are fragile things, but they'll never be met if we don't put in the effort. I went looking for the way to meet mine, and I've more than done that. A new group of friends, people all around the world to connect with, services to be happily rendered, and chances to talk from the historic and majestic Battleship North Carolina are just a few of the things I'm loving about this new part of my life. I'm elated that I jumped off the fence to dive in, and I can't wait to have enough knowledge and experience to pass HAM radio to another generation. I can't think of a better way to round out my preparation efforts, serve my community and be a part of an amazing culture.

Roger that?

This is June, N4FAM. 73.

College. This was our second (& third) test of the year and we now have several new operators in the community. Thanks to the 3 VE's that came out to help!



## VE Testing

*By Steve (AJ4JJ)*

VE testing was conducted twice in April - on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the North campus of the Cape Fear Community



## This Issue's Shack

This issue's shack belongs to Jim (K3DEP). From Jim:

*For HF I have a Kenwood TS-120 S that I bought new in 1979 and a Drake MN 7 Matching Network, bought used in the same year. The other HF is a Heathkit HW-9 QRP "complex" consisting of the transceiver, QRP HM-9 Wattmeter and Antenna Tuner HFT-9, all in a nicely crafted wooden box with carrying handle and battery and key storage. I bought the HW-9 equipment from the ACARC in 2013, but the gear itself was on the market from 1984 to 1991. My most up-to date equipment is my 2 meter station, a Yaesu 1500M from 1999. Antennas consist of a G5RV as an inverted V and a 2 meter, 3-element beam. On standby I have a Yaesu FRG-7 general coverage receiver, bought used in 1979.*



## What was your first?

*By Linwood (NT4F - ex. WN4LEQ, WA4LEQ, DA1OZ)*

For some of you this will be easy. The question is - what Amateur radio equipment was the first you put on the air?

I was first licensed in March 1976, some 42 years ago. There have been a multitude of HF transmitters/receivers and transceivers in my past. I'll just mention a few in this article. Before I was actually licensed I bought a Hammarlund HQ-170a from a person in Wilmington who lived on Gordon Rd for \$100.



This was a pretty good receiver for those days. It was manufactured in about 1962 and it covered 160 thru 6 meters (Ham Bands only) plus 2 meters with a converter. I carried this receiver with me where ever I was stationed in the Air Force with the exception of the year and half I was in the Far East.

Again Just before I got my license, I found a Johnson Viking II with an external VFO for \$60. This was a powerful 100 watt input transmitter with about 50% efficiency, so about 50 to 60 watts AM/CW output. I was now ready for my license to arrive. In those days it took about six to eight weeks to get the license.



While stationed in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, I was listening to the Up -Evening Net on 75 meters one evening and heard this station

about 50 miles to the south of me with a super S9 + signal. His audio was studio quality and he mentioned he wanted to sell this transmitter. Well the transmitter I had already purchased was AM/CW only no SSB. The one I was listening to was a SSB/CW and AM transmitter with about the same output power.



I was beside myself and convinced my wife to take a ride with me to look at this transmitter. In those days we were living from payday to just before payday with a new baby. I ended up paying this ham \$125 for this Hallicrafters HT-37, and hauled it back home. This transmitter and the HQ-170a receiver was the first station I put on the air. The apartment we lived in had a basement and I would come home from work head to the basement and only come up for supper and then back down till bed time. That worked for a while! I ended up selling the receiver and transmitter for \$150 each and had enough to purchase a newer used transmitter and receiver setup.



This HeathKit receiver (SB301) and (SB401) transmitter combination (1968 vintage) was designed to look like the Collins 32S-3 transmitter and 75A-3 receiver combination, but of course not the same quality as the Collins equipment. For all practical purpose they worked very well. I hauled these around for a couple of years until I could save up enough money to buy a "NEW" transceiver. I would wake up in the middle of the night thinking

about which radio to buy. Because of finances it came down to two finalists. The Kenwood TS-520s or the Yaesu FT-101E. It was a tuff decision, but decided the Yaesu FT-101E (1975 vintage) would be the one.



This transceiver had two Sweep tubes in the final with a 12BY7 driver. The radio was rated at 260 watts input with about 125 to 150 watts output. I kept this radio until after I retired from the Air Force and moved back to Wilmington. While living in Illinois I had the opportunity to purchase an amplifier from a local ham. It wasn't a super powerful amp, only about 600 watts. But it worked very nicely with the Yaesu FT-101E.



In the meantime I picked up a Kenwood TS-430S and took both radios to Germany with me. The Kenwood was about ten years newer than the Yaesu and it was solid state everything and a lot smaller.



I had a lot of fun in Germany with this little radio, especially on Ten Meters. The receiver was more sensitive on the higher frequencies than the Yaesu.

I would come home from work and sit down and call CQ one time on Ten Meters (Germany was six hours ahead of the US) and would have a pile-up with my German call (DA1OZ). I had a hard time getting off the radio for supper, stations kept calling.

While stationed in Germany I had the opportunity to pick up a new Kenwood TL-922 for a fantastic price from a local dealer.



Well as luck would have it a lightning strike took out my Kenwood TS-430s and a couple of other things. The replacement monies from the insurance company was enough to purchase a new Icom IC-746 Pro which I still have today.



In 2016 I wasn't able to go to the Dayton Hamvention, where I had planned to purchase a new Kenwood TS-590SG. So I did the next best thing and ordered one on the phone from HRO in Virginia. My buddy bought one at the fest and he got it \$20 less, but had to have it shipped to him after the fest. I received mine sooner than he did and didn't have to spend any money for lodging, food, gas, or an entrance ticket. I believe I got a better deal!!!!

So the question remains "What was your first?"

## And I Purchased...

*By Jeff (W4BIX)*

A couple months ago I smoke-checked my IC-746 and ended up retiring it until I can try to locate a replacement board. So I was in the market for a new transceiver and started my research. I did a lot of online searching, reading specs, and gathering opinions. In the end, I purchased a .....



Yes, an Icom IC-7300. I had to order it by the end of March to be eligible for the \$200 mail-in rebate. Once it's delivered this month I will be putting plenty of shack time into play learning how to use it. I already printed out the manual and started reading it. I also already purchased the first accessory – a Ten-a-Tuner module. The module plugs into the rear tuner connection and enables the radio to transmit a 10W CW tone for tuning when you press the "Tune" button on the front panel and you don't own an external automatic tuner to connect to the radio's tuner input.



I'll let you know in the July/August edition how the radio works out and I will write up a mini-review.

## The Ride to the Rescue

*A synopsis of a story by Harold Castner, W1ILE (SK)  
From August 1965 SGT (provided by Larry – WN4M)*

In this year of the ARRL's 100th anniversary, it is interesting to reflect how this small incident might have permitted amateur radio to exist after WWI...

Memory takes me back for over a half a century to my radio shack at 69 High Street, Portland Maine...During those years before 1915, we simply got resonance and blasted. We contacted ocean liners and reported docking time to agents; worked anything and, particularly old 1ZE on the New York Boat. You have to be a real OOT to remember WBF on Filene's in Boston, in addition to that grand old lady, WCC.

Well, one night in the summer of 1912, I tuned to WBF and intercepted a message addressed to Senator Hale, of Maine, from President Taft, on the Mayflower. It seems the president had not intended to visit Portland, but apparently had changed his mind, and the message advised Senator Hale that the President would arrive in Portland the next morning at 9:00AM. Well, this was pretty short notice, and it was late evening already. We knew how important this message would be to Senator Hale. Furthermore, I knew that Senator Hale was not in his home in Portland, but was at his summer home in Falmouth, about 5 miles north of Portland, where there were no telephones.

I quickly contacted several locals hams in town, and the group reasoned that the message would be telegraphed from Boston, and probably delivered to his Portland home by western union bicycle. There would be quite a delay before the message would get to him in Falmouth. One of our group owned a car, so we decided to deliver this important message ourselves. It was quite late and one of our group compared our ride to Paul Revere's! After a few minutes, we entered the large estate where the Senator and knocked on the door. After some time, a light came on and a sleepy butler opened the door slightly, giving one of us to say we had an important message for the Senator.

The butler immediately closed the door and locked it.

After a few minutes, Senator Hale opened the door, wearing a bathrobe, and seemed rather cautious about this commotion. Senator Hale was handed the message, and the group waited. After reading the message, and receiving further explanation, the Senator realized the importance of the message, and immediately the entire household was aroused and hasty preparations made to meet the President the following morning.,

Senator Hale thanked us, and said he was very grateful and if the opportunity ever arose, he would like to return the favor. The next morning, the Mayflower docked in Portland and was met by Senator Hale, the Mayor and a delegation of city fathers.

Five years later we were involved in WWI, and I enlisted and became a Chief Radioman in the US Navy. After the war was over, the ARRL began urging the reestablishment of amateur privileges. I applied for a license, and was given the call IUG, but difficulties arose. It seems the government was considering steps to limit the amateur radio privileges, and perhaps do away with it all together.

I became personally acquainted with H. P. Maxim and together we discussed what might be done. The situation did not look promising, but I learned from Maxim that a Senate committee which was considering this restriction of amateur privileges was headed by Senator Hale, of Maine!!

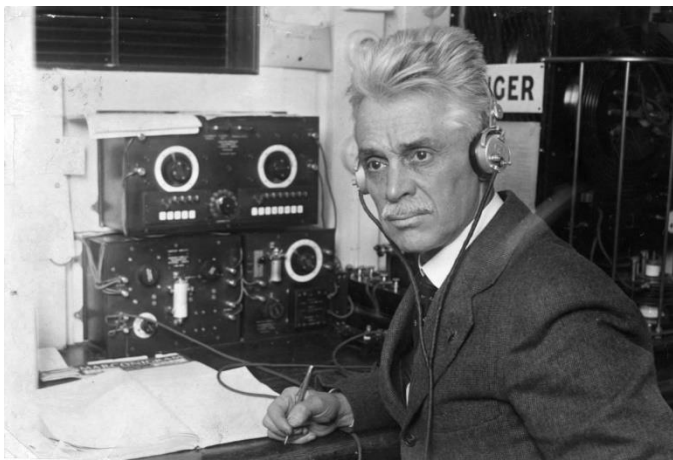
I sat down and wrote Senator Hale a letter. I emphasized how much the self-trained amateur had contributed to the war effort and closed the letter by reminding him that I was one of the boys who brought him that message so long ago, and asked him if he remembered. I received a most cordial reply from Senator Hale. He was sympathetic with our cause and stated that he felt the self-trained radio operator was a justifiable argument for continuing the opportunity by which

experienced operators would be trained and radio in time of national emergency.

In his last paragraph, he briefly stated that he did recall the favor we had done him years ago, and that he did remember.

No one will ever know, but to his dying day Hiram Percy Maxim believed that letter did the trick, and all of a sudden, the amateur privileges were re-established and have continued to this day.

We are reminded in Holy Writ to "Cast our bread upon the waters" and it seems it came back after some 8 years, as an investment in the future.



H.P. Maxim – W1AW



2014 ARRL 100 Year Anniversary Logo

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**TO XYL'S**

**ONLY** Does your OM's ham-shack resemble a surplus store? Are you afraid to clean "that corner" for fear the vacuum cleaner will inhale cables, spare tubes or crystals? For your own future peace of mind why not describe Collins compact KWM-1 to him: small enough to fit neatly into the bookshelves in the living room, 175 watts of input power (SSB-PEP), a super-sensitive receiver, outstanding frequency stability and calibration, 14-30 mc frequency range — and, when he is mobiling in the family car, it makes a neat installation, easily removable, not a "shin bumper." Cost? Through the years it will cost him less than anything else he can build or buy. Tell him to call his Collins distributor for the facts about the revolutionary KWM-1 mobile transceiver. Available on easy terms.

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## Announced DX Operations

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL VIA	Reported By	Info
2018 May02	2018 May04	Ogasawara	<a href="#">JD1BLY</a>	J15RPT	J15RPT 20180317	By J15RPT fm Chichijima I (IOTA AS-031); 630-6m; CW SSB + digital; see Web for QSL details; op updates via: <a href="#">JD1BLY Twitter</a>
2018 May02	2018 May15	Mozambique	<a href="#">C8T</a>	Club Log	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170929	By ON8KW ON7TQ CS8ABG + team; 160-6m; CW SSB + digital
2018 May02	2018 Jun01	Hawaii	KH6	N2HX	N2HX 20180316	By N2HX as KH6/N2HX fm Maui (BL10pw); mainly SSB RTTY
2018 May05	2018 May12	Malta	9H3JI	Auto Buro	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180322	By F5SGI; 80-6m; CW; QSL also OK via F5SGI direct
2018 May08	2018 May11	South Cook Is	<a href="#">E51KMR</a> 	LotW	KM7R 20180331	By KM7R fm Rarotonga I (IOTA OC-013, BG08ct); @E51JD; mainly SSB; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via Club Log
2018 May11	2018 May18	Lord Howe I	VK9LI	LotW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20180308	By VK3QB VK3YB VK3HJ fm IOTA OC-004; 160-17m; CW SSB FT8; QSL also OK via VK2CA and Club Log
2018 May26	2018 May29	Svalbard	JW8DW	LotW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20180123	By LA8DW fm Spitsbergen I; HF; CW SSB
2018 Jun01	2018 Jun09	Sao Tome & Principe	S9	EB7DX	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20180323	By EB7DX as TBA fm Sao Tome I (IOTA AF-023); 40-6m; mainly SSB RTTY FT8, some CW; 100w; holiday style operation
2018 Jun13	2018 Jun25	Turks & Caicos	VP5	W9DR Direct	W9DR 20171107	By W9DR as VP5/W9DR fm FL41aw; 6m (50.115 MHz); CW SSB; 1kw; 5 ele yagi; salt water launch to EU + NA
2018 Jun13	2018 Jun27	Grenada	J3	G4DFI	<a href="#">TDDX</a> 20180102	By G0JVG as J3/G0JVG; mainly SSB; 300w on HF, 200w on 6m; vertical, 3 ele 6m yagi
2018 Jun24	2018 Jun30	Taiwan	BW	LotW	<a href="#">DXNews</a> 20180212	By DF8DX as BW/DF8DX; HF; mainly CW; QSL also OK via DF8DX
2018 Jun26	2018 Jul06	Baker I	<a href="#">KH1</a>	LotW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20170825	By N1DG N4XP K6TD + team as TBA; 160-6m; CW SSB + digital; QSL also OK via Club Log (preferred) and K4TSJ direct (w/ SASE or \$2 or 2 Euros); dates tentative
2018 Jun27	2018 Jun29	Market Reef	OJOY	M0SDV	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20180121	By MM0NDX G4PVM DL8JJ fm IOTA EU-053; HF; call sign tentative; possibly short activity on Jun 26 (evening)