



The Listening Post



Affiliated
Club

Voice of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

February 2003

First Dinner Meeting of the Year

This is an even numbered month, so this meeting will be held at McAllister's Restaurant. Dinner starts at 6:30pm with the meeting starting an hour latter, 7:30pm. Come be with fellow "hams" and be in the running for the Door Prize. Then there is always the 50/50. See you there!

Comments for the net...

So You Just Earned Your License... Now What?

Do you remember the first time you went on the air? That first cw QSO or giving your call sign followed by "monitoring" on a repeater? Getting that first antenna in the air, soldering PL259's, getting the coax into the house, and how best to place the rig in the room.

Some of us had to wait a month or so after the test to get our first "ticket" in the US Mail. We had time to study, ponder, listen, setup, and get ready. Maybe you did not have to wait for that special first time on the air, but were you ready. In any event, did you have a seasoned ham friend, an "elmer" to help?

I did, and I suspect many others of us did. Having an "elmer" can be the difference between a life long love of our hobby, or frustration and walking away in disgust without looking back.

There is ongoing discussions about starting a club "elmer" pool. Initial contact could be an e-mail address contact point. Every newly licenced ham could e-mail "Ask Elmer" with questions. Help could be an e-mail response or more as needed. Everyone has something to offer. What do you think? Let your club officers know!

Jeff / KE4LKB - Editor

VE News

The past test session saw two new Techs and an upgrade to Extra. One of the Techs also sat for the General written and passed. He is now working on his code. Congratulations to all.

Many thanks to all the VE's who came and helped with this session. Special thanks to those VE's who have not been able to help out as much in the recent past. It was great to have them in our midst. - Jeff

2003 Club Dues Due

Annual dues of \$20.00 for individuals, \$25 for family (2 or more) and \$7 for students are due by March 31, 2003.

You can send your payment to the PO Box or drop it by CHQ. Our Treasurer Larry Modlin (KG4SYQ) will be glad to make sure your status stays active. We have an active year planned.

*From the ARRL:***Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act Reintroduced in US House**

NEWINGTON, CT
Feb 14, 2003

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act has again been introduced in the US House of Representatives.

The measure is an ARRL legislative initiative. Florida Rep Michael Bilirakis put the latest version of the bill, HR 713, into the legislative hopper on February 12. It has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

When last introduced in 2001, the measure was known as HR 817. HR 713 is aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. It would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. Bilirakis, a Florida Republican, has twice before sponsored similar legislation at the League's recommendation. A Senate version of the bill is pending.

The measure would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Ama-

teur Radio and the Amateur-Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce the utility thereof" to amateurs

The ARRL is urging members of the Amateur Radio community to contact their representatives in Congress and request that they cosponsor HR 713.

Experience has shown that, while most members of Congress understand and appreciate the benefits of Amateur Radio, some may be reluctant to sign onto a technical piece of legislation without some indication of support from their own constituents. A [sample letter](#) is available on the ARRL Web site.

The 2001 version of the measure attracted 53 cosponsors in the House but last spring became one of many pieces of legislation caught up in the so-called "Enron logjam," during which the Internet and Telecommunications Subcommittee did not meet, although its full committee, Energy and Commerce, held numerous hearings concerning Enron.

Comments for the net...

Your Articles are Welcome.
e-Mail your thoughts.

Jeff / KE4LKB - Editor
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Propagation Forecast Bulletin 7 ARLP007

From Tad Cook, K7VVV
Seattle, WA February 14, 2003

Solar flux and sunspot numbers rose this week over last. Average daily sunspot numbers were up nearly 70 points and average daily solar flux rose by over 11 points. Neither number was rising over the past few days, and both are expected to continue to decline.

The predicted solar flux for Friday through Monday is 130, 130, 125 and 125. Solar flux is expected to reach a short-term minimum near 115 around February 21-22, and then reach another peak roughly around March 5-9. Don't expect high values like the past few years though. For example, during this same week last year the average daily solar flux was nearly 62 points higher at 201.8. For the ARRL International DX CW Contest this weekend we could see some unsettled or perhaps active geomagnetic condi-

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Nets, Meetings and Hamfests:

(Please Note: Some may be subject to change.)

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Every Monday | ACARC Net, 9pm - 147.180 |
| Every Wednesday* | ARES Net, 8pm - 146.670 (*Except meeting nights) |
| February 18 | ACARC Dinner Meeting , McAllisters: Dinner 6:30pm, Meeting 7:30pm |
| March 8-9 | Charlotte Hamfest |
| March 18 | ACARC Meeting , Cape Fear Community College 7:30pm |
| March 23 | Downeast Hamfest, Kinston, NC |
| April 12 | VE Test Session , UNCW Morton Hall at 10am (Breakfast 8am at K&W) ACARC Planning Session to follow, all welcome |

2003 Contests

(For more information, please see *QST*, March 2003, page 99.)

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|-------------|---|
| February 23 | North Carolina QSO Party (see Special Events Section below) |
| March 1-2 | ARRL International DX Contest - Phone |
| March 8-9 | North American RTTY Sprint |
| March 15-16 | BARTG Spring RTTY Contest |
| | Virginia QSO Party |
| March 24 | Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint CW/PSK31 |

2003 Special Events:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| February 23 | North Carolina QSO Party - USS North Carolina & Oak Island Lighthouse, Noon to 10pm |
| June 28-29th | Field Day 2003, Hugh MacRae Park |
| July 26-28th | Special Event Station during Tall Ships at Wilmington (<i>tentative</i>) |

Propagation Forecast

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tions. The earth should be inside a solar wind stream flowing from a coronal hole on Friday and Saturday. But the current prediction is for a planetary A index of only 15 over the weekend. No doubt higher latitude A indices could be higher.

For more information about propagation and an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see the Propagation page on the ARRL Web site at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html> and, especially, the article "The Sun, the Earth, the Ionosphere," by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

Sunspot numbers for February 6 through 12 were 135, 153, 162, 194, 163, 134, and 119, with a mean of 151.4. 10.7 cm flux was 149.5, 147.3, 139.2, 141.4, 136.2, 134.9, and 131.6, with a mean of 140. Estimated planetary A indices were 16, 13, 13, 15, 16, 12, and 12, with a mean of 13.9.



This Space is Available

Check out our Web Site and the state ARRL site: ncarrl.org



Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

February 2003 Newsletter



Officers and Committee Chairs for 2003

President: Ed Redington / W4EBR

Vice-President: Glen Day / AG4NO

Secretary: Martha Eason / KD4PSU

Treasurer: Larry Modlin / KG4SYQ

Net Control Coordinator: Position open

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Jolly / KE4LKB

VE Testing: Jeff Jolly / KE4LKB
Jack Jacobs / WD4OIN

Social Events Planning: Position open

Public Affairs: Bill Morine / N2COP

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FIRST CLASS MAIL