



# The Listening Post



Voice of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

January 2003

## New Schedule and Locations for Meeting this Year

In case you missed it, at the November meeting Ed Redington, W4EBR was reelected as our President. Glen Day, AG4NO was elected Vice-President, Larry Modlin, KG4SYQ Treasure, and Martha Eason, KD4PSU our Secretary.

The location and schedules for the meetings was also reviewed and changes were adopted. The meetings will be on the third Tuesdays. For the odd numbered months, starting this January will be at Cape Fear Community Collage. This months meeting will be in the Business, Industry & Government Building (805). This is on the corner of Brunswick Street. Rag Chews start at 7:00 PM with meeting starting at 7:30 PM.

The following is from our President:

*GO DOWN MARKET STREET TOWARD THE RIVER. WHEN YOU REACH 3RD STREET TURN RIGHT. GO OVER A FEW BLOCKS UNTIL YOU REACH BRUNSWICK STREET. THERE IS A PARKING LOT NEXT TO THE ENTRANCE.*

*THERE WILL BE TALK-IN ON 18 & 82 REPEATERS*

On even numbered months meeting will be held at McAllister's Restaurant 6:30 PM with meeting starting about 7:30 PM.

## Planning Sessions

The club officers will be holding planning sessions after the VE Testing Sessions. All members are welcome to come and be a part! Starting times are variable, but noon should be good.

## VE News

The VE test sessions are on the second Saturday of even numbered months, as they have been for a number of years. The fees have gone up this year to \$12. (*More about this on Page 2.*) The testing begins at 10am in Morton Hall at UNCW. Come Join many of the group at the K&W for breakfast at 8am.

## USCG Eagle Coming

Wilmington will host the Coast Guard's "Tall Ship" Eagle this July 26-28th. There is also a possibility that two other "Tall Ships" could join the Eagle.

In the planning stages is a Special Event Station to mark the occasion. More details will be coming in the months ahead.

## 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.

## Comments for the net...

The Newsletter is Back.  
Your Articles are Welcome.

Happy and Safe New Year!

Jeff / KE4LKB - Editor

***From the ARRL:*****ARRL VEC examination fee to rise**

Starting January 1, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated Amateur Radio test sessions will increase from \$10 to \$12 for the year 2003. This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading their operating privileges. Applicants failing an exam element at ARRL sessions where examiners permit retesting on the same exam element also must submit a retest fee of \$12. Additionally, the maximum reimbursement ARRL VEC allows ARRL volunteer examiner (VE) teams to retain to directly offset their prudently incurred out-of-pocket expenses will increase from \$4 to \$6 in 2003 (this fee has remained at \$4 per person served since 1991). "While the number of examinees has remained relatively unchanged in the past 24 months, our cost of doing business—and the expenses incurred by ARRL VEs—continues to rise," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "An adjustment was needed in the 2003 test fee if we intended to maintain the same level of service that our VEs and VE teams have come to expect." Jahnke said that adjusting the reimburse-

ment level for ARRL VEs who retain a portion of the fees to offset their out-of-pocket, exam-related expenses was also past due. For more information, contact ARRL VEC <[vec@arrl.org](mailto:vec@arrl.org)>.

***Poptronics ceases publication:***

*Poptronics* magazine—which evolved from the former *Popular Electronics* and *Electronics Now* magazines—ceased publication with the January 2003 edition (Vol 4, No 1). "After 94 years of publishing electronics magazines Gernsback Publications is no longer in operation," said Larry Steckler, *Poptronics*' editor in chief and publisher. "Negotiations are under way to provide an alternative publication to *Poptronics* subscribers." Steckler says a new on-line edition of *Poptronics* will soon be available. *Poptronics Interactive*, a separate on-line, paid subscription site announced in the October issue of *Poptronics*, also is scheduled to return soon, Steckler said. The company plans to post the latest information on its [Web site <http://www.poptronics.com/>](http://www.poptronics.com/). The site has been undergoing "remodeling," but Steckler said it should be back in operation by the end of January. Many veteran amateurs

may recall the "Carl and Jerry" stories by John T. Frye, W9EGV (SK), which appeared in *Popular Electronics* in the 1950s and 1960s. The tales involved the ham radio-related exploits of a couple of teenaged hams

**Propagation Forecast Bulletin 2 ARLP002**

From Tad Cook, K7VVV  
Seattle, WA January 10, 2003

After last week's big drop in activity, sunspots are back. The average sunspot number for this week was over twice what it was last week, and average daily solar flux was up over 32 points. Solar flux is expected to rise over the next few days, to 190 on Saturday, 195 on Sunday, and peaking on Monday around 200. But helioseismic images show no major spots on the sun's far side. Right now we are inside a weak solar wind, and geomagnetic indices have been quiet since last Friday and Saturday. The planetary A index has been in the single digits, but is expected to rise slightly to 15 on Friday, and then drop back again. The recent variation in solar activity shows that there is still life in this sunspot cycle, although over time we should expect a downward trend. We

*Continued on bottom of Page 4*

## **Nets, Meetings and Hamfests:**

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

Every Monday	<b>ACARC Net, 9pm - 147.180</b>
Every Wednesday*	ARES Net, 8pm - 146.670 (*Except meeting nights)
January 21	<b>ACARC Meeting</b> , Cape Fear Community College 7:30pm
February 8	<b>VE Test Session</b> , UNCW Morton Hall at 10am (Breakfast 8am at K&W) ACARC Planning Session to follow, all welcome
February 9	FrostFest 2003, Richmond, VA
March 8-9	Charlotte Hamfest
March 18	<b>ACARC Dinner Meeting</b> , McAllisters at 7:30pm
March 23	Downeast Hamfest, Kinston, NC

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## **2003 Contests**

*(For more information, please see QST, February 2003, page 103.)*

February 2	North American Sprint - Phone Ten-Ten International Winter Phone QSO Party
February 9	North American Sprint - CW
February 10	Winter 6-Meter Contest
February 15	ARRL International DX Contest
February 23-24	North Carolina QSO Party

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## **2003 Special Events:**

February 23-24	North Carolina QSO Party
June 28-29th	Field Day 2003, Hugh MacRae Park
July 26-28th	Special Event Station during Tall Ships at Wilmington ( <i>tentative</i> )

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## **Propagation Forecast**

*Continued from Page 3*

have passed the longest night of the year, and this is a good season for low band work on 160 and 80 meters, particularly when K and A index values are low. As the days get longer, higher bands will improve as we head toward the spring equinox. Sunspot numbers for January 2 through 8 were 74, 108, 117, 128, 141, 199, and 198, with a mean of 137.9. 10.7 cm flux was 118.3, 137.6, 143, 148.1, 162.1, 163.2, and 173.7, with a mean of 149.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 13, 13, 9, 7, 9, and 7, with a mean of 9.4.



This Space is Available



## Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

### January 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

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



Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 4044  
Wilmington NC 28406

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**