

## THE LISTENING POST APRIL 2011

AZALEA COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB PO BOX 4044

Wilmington, NC 28406

EDITOR'S NOTE: This edition of the Club Newsletter will be a slightly shorter version, due to club activities immediately prior to the club meeting tomorrow night—April 19.

### CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2011

President-Charlie Vaughn—K4UWH; Vice-President-Don Hall—N4OFF; Treasurer—Allan Pellnat—KX2H; Secretary—Norman Clemmons—KI4YSY.

### REGULAR CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monday 9:00PM-ACARC weekly Local Net on the club's 1457.180 repeater (offset +.600; tone 88.5).

Friday noon Lunch Bunch-location changes weekly-location announced on club reflector.

Saturday morning breakfast at at 8:00AM at K&W Cafeteria on Oleander drive.

Third Tuesday of every month- club meeting at 7:00PM at CFCC North Campus-see web page for directions and parking pass.

Second Saturday of even months-VE Test Session at CFCC North Campus-see web page for details and requirements.

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The ACARC April meeting will take place this coming Tuesday evening (4/19/11) at 7:00PM at CFCC North. We are most often to be found on the third floor of the McKeithen Center, which is the building directly to the front as you enter the campus. Check with the security guard at the main entrance. Don't forget to check the club web page for specific directions and parking pass.

After the club meeting, the next two major club activities will be MSW 2011 and FD 2011.

Museum Ships weekend is coming up on June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. Retired (i.e. “Museum”) military and civilian ships, aircraft, museums and memorials from all over the world come up on the amateur band waves, providing an opportunity for the ham community at large to make contact. Participating ships and other entities usually number over 90. There is a contest within the event as the “Museum” entities attempt to contact each other. The ACARC has just recently received 2 certificates from the Battleship New Jersey (BB-62), the sponsor of the event, confirming not only our participation in the event, but also our prowess in contacting the required number of other “Museum Ships” to qualify for the award. (Most of the entries use modern ham equipment to make contacts. The North Carolina is one of the few to fire up an original Government Issue 1930s technology Morse code transmitter. The North Carolina's call sign during her WWII service was NIBK. Today, our club puts her signal out on the amateur band waves as NI4BK.)

Just a little further over the horizon is Field Day 2011—always the last full weekend in June. Come to the meeting tomorrow evening for continuing planning activities and provide your input. Field Day is the biggest amateur radio event of the year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April

18<sup>th</sup>-World Day Amateur Radio Day

19<sup>th</sup>-club meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>-ARRL VEC Amateur Exam Day

4/30-Florida and Nebraska QSO Parties

4/30-MS Walk @ Greenfield Lake \*\*\*

May

5/7-Indiana, Nevada and 1 New England QSO Parties

5/7-Stormfest @ Cape Fear Museum \*\*\*

5/14-CQ Magazine International DX Contest

5/14-Armed Forces Communications Test

\*\*\*Contact Glenn—KE4BMY--for coordination

26TH/27<sup>th</sup>-CQWW WPX SSB Contest

5/17<sup>th</sup>-Club May Meeting

## ODDS & END NOTES

At the March club meeting, President Charlie—K4UWH—presented an overview of his Dxpedition to Sint Maarten, a newly created DX entity.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, The VE Team administered ham exams to students at Roger Bacon Academy in Leland. Seven students took a total of eleven exams, and we were able to pass three of them for awards of new Technician licenses. All three, plus one additional young ham, joined us at the Wilmington Air Show with their newly awarded FCC licenses. (More on the Air Show below.) Several members of the local amateur radio community, in the weeks prior to the actual test date, gave presentations to the kids in the training class on the many facets of ham radio—Dxing, QRP & kit building, APRS, digital comms, restoration and operation of the Battleship's original radio equipment, etc.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, at our regularly scheduled VE Test Session, we passed two candidates, one for an upgrade to General Class, the other for a new Technician license.

Over the past weekend, we had a good turnout of club members to provide backup communications support for the Wilmington Air Show. Saturday's event literally never got off the ground due to the severe weather moving into eastern North Carolina, which led to so much tragic loss of life and property damage not so very far away. Skywarn was active throughout late Saturday afternoon and the early hours of the evening.

Payment of dues to the club has been somewhat slow this year. We are well into the first quarter of the year and returns have not been what would be expected at this point. It is certainly understandable that, in difficult times, disposable income is not as great as in better times. If you have paid your 2011 dues, Thank You! However, we would ask that if you have not paid your 2011 dues to the ACARC, if you possibly can, please send \$20.00 for individual or family dues to—ACARC, PO BOX 4044, Wilmington, NC 28406. Our club has always kept membership dues to the minimum necessary to fund club operations.

Field Day is fast approaching with its concomitant expenses for generator fuel, ice, water and soft drinks and food for the Saturday evening dinner. The club also incurs regular and recurring expenses for postage, a Post Office box, as well as miscellaneous equipment purchases. The club's primary radio, the ICOM 746, is in need of repair. We may be able to get the repair performed in South Carolina, but the possibility remains it might require shipping to Seattle, with related shipping and insurance expenses in addition to the repair itself.

So, if you can, please bring a check to the meeting tomorrow night or send to the P.O. Box.

May's QST presents a cogent discussion of the threat to ham radio operations on the 440 MHz band, as well as the possibility of an AMRAD allocation in the MF band, between 415 and 525.6 Khz, just below the U.S. AM band. The past two issues of Monitoring Times—this month's issue dedicated to Amateur Radio—have presented a very informative discussion of horizontal loop antennas for the ham bands.

ARRL SM Bill—N2COP—indicates no immediate worries regarding proposed legislation in Raleigh banning cell phone use while driving—as far as ham mobile operation is concerned. Apparently, ham radio interests got a foot in the legislative door early on this one. Delaware hams have not been so lucky. It seems that State's ban on cell phone use while operating a motor vehicle does not, I say again, does not, exclude ham radio mobile operators from the ban, except under emergency situations.

Also, continued focus of attention is required to insure that local municipalities comply with state law regarding full compliance with the FCC's PRB-1 decision, which essentially dates back to 1985. The full ramifications of this issue are much too complex for discussion here—but essentially involve the necessity to insure that local communities comply with State law in applying zoning and other ordinances with regard to amateur radio antennas.

There also appears to be a certain degree of recognition at the federal level that the proposed reallocation of portions of the 420-450 MHz band away from amateur radio for allocation to emergency responders may require further consideration.

Finally, look for a push to get behind proposed federal legislation regarding homeowners associations and restrictions on amateur antennas in “planned communities” with “Covenants, Codes and Restrictions”.

Look for the SM's April e-mail newsletter. If you don't get it already, you can sign up for it on the ARRL website.

All for now, more next month,

73 Bill AG4PA