

ACARC
ACARC Mailing List

THE LISTENING POST February 2011

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 2044
Wilmington, NC 28406

View from the President

First I want to thank all those that have sent cards and passed on their sympathy in regard to the passing of my mother. She was 95 and had lived a long and proper life. She was very supportive of my getting into ham radio back in the late 1950s. Her passing was a blessing as she went comfortably without suffering.

Unfortunately, I am going to have to miss another club meeting. I probably miss it more than you all miss me. I certainly am not doing real well with my attendance this year. But it is good to see that I am hardly missed and the club is ticking along just fine.

I would like to stress that we need good support for the operation during the NC QSO party at the end of the month as we are a bonus station for those operating in the event and we should demonstrate a strong presence. The other thing is that I would like to see members get their dues in so that we can see what the club roster looks like and get people assigned to their special function groups. Field Day is just around the corner and we need to be getting geared up for that.

As soon as the new question pool books are out for General Class I would like to get a study class going on that and see if we can get some people upgraded so they can more fully enjoy the hobby.

73,
Charlie K4UWH

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 Local Net on the club's 147.180 repeater (offset +.600; tone 88.5)

Friday noon lunch bunch-location changes weekly-check club web page for current weekly-check

Saturday morning breakfast at 8:00AM-K&W Cafeteria on Oleander Drive

Third Tuesday of every month-Club meeting at CFCC North Campus-see web page for directions and parking pass

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

Upcoming Activities

Feb 12 CQ WW WPX RTTY 2/12 0000z-2400z 2/13
Feb 12 Miss QSO Party 2/12 1500z-1500z 2/13
Feb 12 Louisiana QSO Party 2/12 1500z-0300z 2/13
Feb 12 NH QSO Party 2/12 1600z-0400z 2/13
Feb 15 Club Meeting
Feb 19 ARRL DX Contest CW 2/19 0000z-2400z 2/20
Feb 26 NA QSO Party RTTY 2/26 1800z-0600z
Feb 27 NC QSO Party 2/27 1700z-0300z 2/28
March 5 ARRL International DX Contest-Phone 3/5 0000z-2400z 3/6
March 13 NA RTTY Sprint 3/13 0000z-0400z
March 13 DST Begins-Change Clocks and Smoke Alarm Batteries

This and That

Today's Volunteer Examiner Test session served two candidates, who each earned new licenses. One passed entry level Tech and the other upgraded to General.

The club equipment insurance policy was last updated in 2003. We sold a lot of the old repeater gear at the Raleigh Hamfest last year and a lot of our current gear—some of most valuable equipment, in fact—apparently was never included in the policy. We've begun an inventory of all club gear so as to determine what needs to be insured. In that context, we visited the .18 repeater site last Friday to inventory our resources there. David—N4JDW—who has been of monumental assistance with our repeater problems in the past, graciously donated his time and expertise to join us, once again, attempt to link our 2 meter and 440 MHz repeaters. The inventory went well, but not so the linking attempt. After complete rewiring of a cable harness, several blown fuses, and several lengthy phone calls with the controller manufacturer in Florida, we concluded that we seem to have a bad integrated circuit in the 440 controller board. The board is being returned to the manufacturer for repair.

The 440 repeater is down for the duration, but the 2 meter repeater is up and running and available for normal amateur radio use.

Next Tuesday's club meeting will feature a presentation by ARRL NC Section Manager Bill—N2COP—. His topics will be the new ARRL web page and how you can make it work for you to enhance your enjoyment of the ham radio experience, and also a demonstration of Automatic Packet Reporting System. A double feature!

Bill reported recently in his Section Manager's Newsletter that legislation is pending in the State Capitol at Raleigh restricting the use of cell phones for talking and texting while operating a motor vehicle. An exemption from the proposed legislation has been proposed for amateur radio mobile operation, and early indications are that the proposed exemption is receiving favorable consideration.

By the way, you can subscribe to the Section Manager's informative newsletter on the ARRL web site. It is an easy way to keep track of developments affecting hams in NC.

After the club meeting next Tuesday, our next major operating event will be the NC QSO Party on Sunday, February 27. Our club has always enjoyed considerable success—not to mention operating fun and practical experience gained—in this event while participating. We have placed well in the final standings several times. This

year, however, we will not be competing, but rather serving as one of only four bonus point stations. The event runs from noon local time until 10:00PM and we will need both morse and voice operators if we are to perform our assigned function successfully.

This event provides an excellent opportunity for seasoned HF veterans as well as newer hams without HF privileges or limited HF experience to participate in DX (long distance) communications aboard a WWII Battleship. Voice communications will use a modern transceiver and power supply fed into the Ship's original cabling to vertical antennas high on the smokestacks. Morse code communications will be from at least one of the Ship's original Government Issue late 1930s technology transmitters and receivers also fed into the Ship's original vertical antennas.

We will need operators and loggers. Logging contacts is an excellent method of gaining experience in HF DX operating. If you have never done either--operated or logged DX--No Worries! Someone mentored us and we will mentor you!

Odds and End Notes

The February issue of QST magazine contains an excellent essay from ARRL's CEO on the subject of upgrading your license and operating privileges, particularly from Tech to General Class. If you are currently studying for the General Class exam, please note that the current General question pool expires effective July 1, 2011. A new question pool will become effective on that date. Essentially, if you hope to test for a General class license under the current question pool, you will have two remaining opportunities to do so with ACARC--second Saturdays in April and June. The General exam is really no more difficult than the Tech exam, it focuses more on HF than VHF/UHF given the expanded HF operating privileges with the General class license. If you are not quite ready to test for general, watch for ACARC training opportunities after July 1.

N4OFF-Don-is looking for assistance in running the Monday night local net. Acting as Net Control provides practical experience in net communications as well as valuable insight into how a well run net works. Don't forget, we have been asked to provide communications support for this Spring's Air Show in Wilmington. We will require experienced Net Control and Net operators to successfully provide this support. The Net Control script is available on the club web page and you will get plenty of help from your fellow net check ins.

For those interested in venturing into CW (Morse Code) the Carolina Slow Net nightly at 8:00PM on 3571 Khz is a great opportunity. Code speed is 5-8 WPM and participation is encouraged.

Glenn--Ke4BMY reports that renovations are still underway at National Weather Service ILM. While formal Skywarn training will not be possible until renovations are complete, NWS does offer an excellent on line course in initial Skywarn Spotter Training on the local NWS ILM web site. Check it out. Don't forget that Spring brings tornadoes to our area and the 6 month hurricane season will not be far behind.

Glenn also advises that the famous Dr. Gray's predictions for the 2011 hurricane season are out--

17 named storms

9 hurricanes

5 major hurricanes Category 3-4-5)

73% probability of landfall on U.S. East Coast

Finally, if you have paid your club dues for 2011 THANK YOU! If you have not, please make our treasurer happy by sending him an Andrew Jackson at the Club POI Box.

73 Bill AG4PA

ACARC mailing list

Home: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/acarc>

Help: <http://mailman.qth.net/mmfaq.htm>

Post: <mailto:ACARC@mailman.qth.net>

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