

# THE LISTENING POST

*Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club*

PO Box 4044

Wilmington, NC 28406

January, 2011

147.18 (+.600 88.5)

442.50 (+5 88.5)

<http://www.ac4rc.org>

## *View from the President*

First off as we enter the new year of 2011, I again want to say thanks to Ed, W3NZ, who has served the Club in many ways over the years and stepped down as secretary; and to Hutch, NK0S, who served as the club Treasurer for several years. These guys gave us good service and it was a pleasure working with them.

Now, 2010 was a great year for the ACARC. We were fortunate to have a good stable meeting place. We had a good program for all the meetings and the Newsletter got out all year long. The web site was completely revamped and is one of the better looking ones in the area. The new Hamfest saw increasing attendance. Our Field Day effort was a big success and doubled last year's efforts. The support of the Battleship was productive and we gained a lot of good publicity. Membership was increasing. So 2010 was a great year due to the contribution of lots of folks.

Looking into 2011, we see the opportunity to continue where 2010 left off. We have some new officers that are eager to work for the club and we have a number of people that have volunteered to take on some of the roles and help expand our efforts. I think our biggest opportunity is to provide some training for the Technician class license holders to help them to upgrade to General and higher. This will provide them the more to the club. I would also love to see more support for all the club activities-Battleship, Field Day, and club meetings, etc. I believe we can all become better ham operators in 2011.

Charlie Vaughn K4UWH

### Club Officers for 2011

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

### Regular Recurring Club Activities

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

Third Tuesday of every month-club meeting at CFCC North Campus-see  
the Club web site for details

Friday Noon Lunch Bunch-location changes weekly-check with KM4VX  
for current week; also announced on club reflector

Saturday Morning Breakfast @ K&W Cafeteria on Oleander Drive  
@8:00AM

### Upcoming Activities

Through February 6<sup>th</sup>---Spratly Island DX Expedition (postponed—see web site at [www.ac4rc.org](http://www.ac4rc.org))

January 15<sup>th</sup>---Hidden Battleship-The “Radio Guys” will be on board BB-55 in the main transmitter room explaining the ship’s radio communications during her WWII service and successful efforts by club members to restore several of the transmitters to operating condition on the ham bands. We will also have “Guest Operators” from the Wake County Amateur Radio Club on board.

The North American QSO Party (SSB) will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday January 18<sup>th</sup>---ACARC meeting at CFCC-7:00PM-check the web site and watch the reflector for updates

January 28, 29 & 30---CQWW 160 Meter Contest (CW)

February 5<sup>th</sup>----10-10 SSB Contest; Minnesota QSO Party

February 6<sup>th</sup>---Vermont QSO Party

February 12<sup>th</sup>&13<sup>th</sup>---CQWW WPX RTTY

February 15<sup>th</sup>--ACARC Meeting

Also, mark your calendars for Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. ACARC will once again be on board BB-55 to participate in the North Carolina QSO Party. The contest lasts from Noon to 10:00PM, and this year NI4BK will be one of only four stations throughout NC that will be worth bonus points for successful contacts. We plan on operating 2 SSB stations and 2 CW stations. The Ship has always been a popular contact during the event for hams throughout North America and well beyond. This event also presents an enjoyable opportunity to polish up your operating and logging skills for Field day 2011. Turn out and get on the air.

## Further Reflections on 2010

As Charlie has observed, the ACARC enjoyed a great deal of success last year, from the NC QSO Party, through Museum Ships Weekend, Field Day, JOTA, Beach2Battleship Iron Distance Race, and Christmas Party, as well as other activities aboard BB-55—Guest Operators, Hidden Battleship, commemoration of the anniversary of the signing of the Instruments of Surrender ending WWII on the decks of the USS Missouri via ham radio contact with BB-63 in Pearl Harbor, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

Our long dormant web page was completely redesigned and made fully operational by web Guru Jack-WD4OIN. Jack keeps the site up to date and interesting with the periodic posting of new materials.

Bill-N2COP was elevated to the position of ARRL Section Manager, and his replacement as local PIO-Glenn-KE4BMY-has garnered local media attention for club activities through the year, as well as significant mention in national ham publications concerning the club and the amateur community in general.

Our Volunteer Examiner Team administered 36 license exams to 23 candidates, resulting in the granting of 6 new Technician licenses, 11 new Generals, and 2 new Extras. Of VE Team members, Jack—WD4OIN—leads the pack with 79 VE sessions, followed by Jeff—KE4LKB—at 72, Jake—KQ4TG—at 55,—Ed—W3NZ—at 48, Hutch—NK0S—at 46, and Mark—N1KFC—at 43. The rest of the accredited VEs (18) tally between 36 and 2 sessions.

We have a good mix of old and new in the club leadership, and can look forward to an even better year in 2011. A great year indeed!

## EDITORIAL MUSINGS

Our privileges as amateur radio operators are set forth in 47CFR97 (Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 97.) The opening paragraph of the document (Subpart A, Section 97.1) sets forth the “Basis and purpose” of the legislation.

“The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles...”

It is of no small significance that the Regulations refer to our hobby as a “service.” Of the five “principles” set forth, paragraphs (a) and (d) are particularly relevant.

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts.

The emphasis on “emergency communications” and “trained operators” stands out. The logical interpretation of the intent of the “enabling legislation” is that along with the privileges of operating on particular frequencies in particular modes, comes the obligation to be prepared to serve our communities in the event of a communications emergency.

How do we become and stay prepared?

Merely holding a license and a radio will not create a trained operator. Experience “in the field” is also necessary.

The club Monday evening net and other club activities such as Field Day, Battleship events, support for Boy Scout events, etc. provide the opportunity for expanding our communications horizons and abilities.

We can all learn operating techniques and practices from more experienced members.

An even better learning opportunity occurs from time to time in the Wilmington community when we are asked to provide communications support for community charitable events such as “Diabetes Walk” and “MS Walk”.

Within the past few years we have also provided communications support for the Wilmington Air Show and the Beach2Battleship Iron Distance Triathlon.

These events provide good, solid communications training in “tactical” situations (i.e. real time, real life)—coordinating with event personnel, organizing a net, establishing a protocol, assigning communications assets etc., as well as giving the event organizers immediate information as to incidents and circumstances occurring throughout the event area.

These events not only provide support for local community activities, but also offer invaluable training and practical experience opportunities for area amateur operators. We should all take advantage of every such opportunity.

### END NOTES

Contributions to the Newsletter are welcome and solicited, as are suggestions and observations—send them to [bill012345@bellsouth.net](mailto:bill012345@bellsouth.net). If you must throw brickbats, please keep them low and outside. This is your Newsletter. Let me know what you would like to see.

Watch for improvements and format changes in the future as new computers and new operating systems are incorporated.

73, Bill AG4PA