

# THE LISTENING POST MAY 2011

AZALEA COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PO BOX 4044

WILMINGTON, NC 28406

EYECATCHER!!! Don't forget the Club meeting this coming Tuesday evening—7:00PM CFCC North Campus. Also, If you have not yet paid your dues for 2011, please do so at the meeting or send \$20.00 to the Club PO BOX. Put your call sign on the check.

## 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 147.180 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 (5/17/11) 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.

The Club President will offer a discussion of his Air Cannon launching device for wire antenna supports. Our on the scene correspondent—Ron W4VGX—reports that no injuries were suffered by any hams and no damage was done to the environment during a recent Lunch Bunch demonstration of this infernal device.

There will also be some discussion of Museum Ships Weekend which is fast approaching. Finally, there are only two more Club meetings before Field Day, and we will be discussing plans for club participation.

Museum Ships weekend is, in fact, 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.)

Look for an article on Museum Ships Weekend to be posted on the Club's web page in the immediate future. Also, look for some photos of the recent Wilmington Air Show.

Just a little further over the horizon is Field Day 2011—always the last full weekend in June—this year, June 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. Come to the meeting this coming Tuesday evening for continuing planning activities and provide your input. Field Day is the biggest amateur radio event of the year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAY

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

5/20,21&22—Dayton Hamvention

5/21—Armed forces Day

5/28,29&30-Memorial Day Weekend

5/28-CQ WW WPX Contest

5/29—For All You QRP'ers Out There—MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint

### JUNE

6/1—Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins  
6/4&5—Museum Ships Weekend  
6/4&5—AL QSO Party  
6/6--67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day  
6/11—Regularly scheduled VE Test session at CFCC North Campus  
6/11-19—WW QRP Contest  
6/18—ARRL Kids Day  
6/18&19—WV QSO Party  
6/21—First Day of Summer & ACARC Club Meeting  
6/25&26—Field Day

#### ODDS & END NOTES

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 Tuesday night or send to the P.O. Box.

Hurricane season is also fast approaching (June 1 through November 30). It is not too soon to check the batteries in your handheld radio and other alternative power sources. Handheld batteries do not last forever, and eventually will not take a recharge, no matter how many deep recycles are performed. Better to order replacements now than to have worn out batteries fail when you need them. In addition to extra self contained batteries, an extremely practical solution to portable power is the AA battery case. Most handheld manufactures offer these devices as an option, and there are also after market options. A 3 AA battery case will provide a nominal 4.5 volts of power; a 6 AA battery case will provide a nominal 9 volts of power. AA batteries are available literally everywhere, much more so than self contained handheld batteries. AA battery cases for most handhelds are advertised in many of the amateur radio magazines and are also available through the internet.

June's QST presents a discussion of antenna height with relevance to take off angle. A lot of technical material, but some interesting observations. The editorial--"It Seems to Us"--addresses, of course, Field Day.

May's issue of the online only World Radio contains interesting articles on sunspots, home brewing and another of "Krusty Old" Kurt Sterba's discussion of (allegedly) inflated manufacturer's claims for the performance of their antenna products, this one entitled "Here We Go Loop De Loop".

See you at the meeting.

All for now, more next month,

73 Bill AG4PA