

# THE LISTENING POST

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 4044  
Wilmington, NC 28406

November 2011

## CLUB OFFICERS for 2011

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

## REGULAR CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monday 9:00PM local-ACARC weekly net on the Club's 147.180 repeater.

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

Third Tuesday of every month-Club meeting at CFCC North-see web page ([www.ac4rc.org](http://www.ac4rc.org)) for directions and parking pass..

Second Saturday of even months-VE Test Session.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Club meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> as above. Expect to hear a report on President Charlie's recent DXpedition.

We will be doing a bit of cleanup work at the repeater site during the coming week, as well as installing a better grounding system.

We will take another crack at contacting the USS Wisconsin (BB-64) on December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> from the USS North Carolina (BB-55). Wisconsin will be celebrating Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on that weekend. We look forward to the permanent berthing of the USS Iowa (BB-61) during 2012 in the Long Beach, Ca. area, and hopefully association with a local amateur Radio Club. Iowa will then join Massachusetts (BB-59), New Jersey (BB-62), Wisconsin (BB-64)—in Norfolk, VA--, North Carolina (BB-55), Alabama (BB-60), Texas (BB-35), and Missouri (BB-63) —in Pearl Harbor, HI—as the last of the American Battleships afloat, all serving as

Museums/Memorials. [ Utah (BB-31) and Arizona (BB-39) are of course at the bottom of Pearl Harbor with crew members permanently interred. ]

The North Carolina will also be on the air for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Check the Club web site for the schedule.

The Club annual Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday evening December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Hibachi Grill on South College Rd. near the intersection with Market St.

## PRIOR ACTIVITIES

Over 40 Amateur radio volunteers from the Wilmington community participated in this year's BEACH2BATTLESHIP Iron Distance Triathlon—an excellent turnout, but we could have used more. (The full distance event includes a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride, followed by a 26.2 mile run, for a total of 140+ miles. There was also a half distance event.)

The early weather was not cooperative. The swimmers came out of 60 degree water (+/-) and hopped onto bicycles in temperatures in the mid 40s with a chill, damp wind and some light drizzle. Several bike riders gave up the effort early on due to symptoms of hypothermia—a few required medical attention.

By early afternoon, however, the weather had moderated for the conclusion of the bike event and conditions actually appeared favorable for the evening's marathon event.

The Hams covering the swim event got everybody out of the water safely, The Hams in the SAG (Support and Gear) vehicles were dispatched by Net Control Station at the Battleship to the scene of required mechanical repairs to flat tires, bent rims, loose mechanical connections and balky derailleurs. Sag Hams also coordinated emergency medical attention when required. The Hams at Rest Stop/Aid Stations for the bike and run routes coordinated provision of medical and mechanical assistance when and where required, and also insured that their locations remained supplied with liquid and solid nourishment for the contestants.

Of particular note was that the Hams in the three SAG vehicles this year had the benefit of complete, selfcontained communications packages provided by David—KB4FXC.

“Commo in a Valise” included two radios with required cables and accessories, one for voice communications and one for APRS, a power supply and an antenna. The complete package in a small suitcase was a great improvement over prior years since the SAG vehicles are jam packed with bicycle tires, rims, pumps, and other miscellaneous spare parts. APRS capability also enabled Net Control Station to

dispatch the nearest SAG vehicle to the scene of required mechanical assistance over the 112 mile bike route. Well Done David!

The December issue of QST has the statistics from Field Day 2011. The New Hanover County effort placed sixth in its category in North Carolina—597 contacts, 41 participants, 2,654 total points—a nice effort.

This past weekend the Club's "Radio Guys" were on board BB-55 for Hidden Battleship, explaining the function of the Ship's Morse Code transmitters to the tour participants. At the same time, we were entertaining visitors from the Wayne County Amateur Radio Club as "Guest Operators" a program that also raises funds for the Ship. Operating SSB through the Ship's original cabling and antennas, the group made 120+ contacts in under three hours.

Unfortunately, we are suffering from a complete loss of motor generators in the main Transmitter Room aboard the North Carolina. While we were preparing to install the long awaited motor generator unit for the TDE, the motor generator unit for the TBM-4, which had been operating more or less reliably for the past several years, gave out. Fortunately, the Ship's electrician was present in Radio 2 when the incident occurred, and able to trace the problem to the source almost immediately. It seems that a relay in the overload cutout box between shore power and the motor generator unit generator failed. The TBM-4 awaits a decision by the Ship on a course of action.

We then turned attention to the TDE. Before installing the motor generator unit in the radio itself, a knuckle busting squat, grunt and shove exercise, we hooked up all the connection points to insure it would function as desired. It turned over, the radio came alive, all meters read properly and we did put out a Morse Code signal to the antenna.

However, after securing it inside the radio, it refused to generate electricity properly. We are still scratching our heads and working on it.

The bottom line is we have no working CW transmitters in Radio Two.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 19,20,21 ARRL Phone Sweepstakes

24 Thanksgiving

26 CQ WW CW DX Contest

30 End of Atlantic Hurricane Season

December 2,3,4 ARRL 160 Meter Contest

3,4 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

8 ACARC Christmas Party

There will also be numerous Museum Ships and other entities and Special Event stations on the air between December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> this year commemorating Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Check out the listings in December's QST.

Speaking of which, the lead editorial in that issue of QST "It Seems to Us" discusses the long awaited increase in solar activity as it produces favorable conditions for HF propagation, particularly on 6, 10, and 12 Meters. Check it out.

All for now, more later

73 Bill AG4PA

