

THE LISTENING POST

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

June 2013

Editor's Note – As Charlie (K4UWH) and Jack (WD4OIN) each mention in separate articles below, we turned in a very good performance during Museum Ships Weekend. However, I think we should be just a bit concerned that forty percent of the participating operators were from another club for our club's premier annual event.

Field Day, the annual ARRL national contest event next weekend will require a big turnout by all club members who can volunteer. This is a great occasion on which to test your operating skills and resistance to sleep deprivation. .

Jeff Wingfield, KI4JDE

PRIORITY MESSAGES - The next meeting of the club will be Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at Cape Fear Community College on the North Campus. Our ACARC web page has directions.

Steve Wilder (AJ4JJ) announces that four candidates presented themselves for the June test session. One candidate took and passed the exam for a General Class license; three were examined and passed the Technician Class exam.

The next VE Test Session will be held on August 10, 2013 at the McKeithan Building, Cape Fear Community Collage North Campus. Testing will start at 10:00 AM. Steve requests that all ACARC members who are designated Volunteer Examiners join him. If you can, meet the team at K&W Cafeteria for breakfast at 0800 before the exam session.

Club dues (\$20) are now payable to Treasurer Allan Pellnat, KX2H. Bring a

check or cash to the meeting or mail a check to him at the club address. Put your call sign on the check.

CHIEF RADIO OPERATOR MESSAGE - It is sure hard to say much after the fantastic showing during Museum Ships Weekend. Some of the local club members as well as club members from Goldsboro, Raleigh and Cary all had a blast working ships and other stations during the weekend. Everything on the ship worked great and all total there were around 1,000 QSOs logged. Those that participated got a nice little piece of paper to hang on their wall or put in their scrapbook. A big thanks to Jack, WD4OIN, and Norman, KI4YSY, for getting things organized and overseeing our play time on the North Carolina.



MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND 2013
June 1 - 2, 2013
USS North Carolina NI4BK

The operators listed have demonstrated their skills in the art of radio communications.

Hutch NK0S	Charlie, K4UWH
Jay N3QH	Jake, KQ4TG
Jeff KI4JDE	Jim, K3DEP
Norman KI4YSY	Jack, WD4OIN
Pete WB3YFR	Mike, W4DSE
Roger AK4RS	Robert WD4FIX
Albert N4ZFG	Ray KD4FV
Peter WA5T	

From the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station, we thank you for your participation in the 2013 International Museum Ships Weekend.

Our operations aboard the North Carolina are certainly getting around by way of mouth from events like the Museum Ships Weekend, the North Carolina QSO Party and articles in publications like Monitoring Times. The number and frequency of requests for guest operator events is growing. Jack, Allan and Norman may well be calling on some of us for

help at times so stay tuned.

I have turned my attention toward Field Day and I hope many of the rest of you have also. I have been making sure I have the latest version of the software, know how it works and verifying that it works on the computer I plan to use with my station during Field Day. In addition I have been looking at the rules to make sure I understand them. I have been sending out invitations to our elected officials.

I will now be turning my attention to getting news/press releases prepared and out to the local news/press people in the county. I have also begun to get out the equipment necessary to support the CW operations at the Field Day site. I hope many of the other club members are doing what they need to do to be ready to support Field Day and help make it a successful emergency test again this year. I don't know about the rest of you but I am looking forward to the Saturday night spaghetti dinner.

Hope to see all of you at the meeting immediately before Field Day. We will go over the final plans at that time. Also I recommend that you all plan to attend the meetings. I have acquired some door prizes to go along with the 50/50 drawing so it would be wise to be there and have tickets in the fight. The prizes alone are worth more than the 50% part of the money. So see all of you at the meeting.

Charlie Vaughn, K4UWH

FROM THE RADIO ROOM - On Saturday, June 1, the Museum Ships weekend started out in great shape. Twenty meters had a pile up from start to finish. Forty meters started out strong but slowed down and then quit. The operators changed to ten meters and found that band meters open. They worked ten meters until about 1:00pm before it collapsed.

The CW operators found the bands slow all day. Museum Ships Weekend is not a big CW event.

On Saturday we made about 650 total contacts. Less than ten percent of the contacts were on CW and the rest on SSB, still, thanks to twenty meters, this was a big number !

Sunday we went in with high expectations. Our expectations were killed

quickly. Apparently we suffered the effects of a solar flare and band conditions were terrible. A few contacts were made on CW and SSB on forty meters but frustration set in and we threw in the towel on those modes. The guys worked hard to get the contacts we got on twenty meters.

Final totals were 969 contacts; with 70 CW contacts logged. We worked 23 Museum Ships. Fifteen operators came aboard over the weekend with six travelling from Goldsboro.

A big thanks to the following operators who made this weekend a success -
From the Goldsboro/Wayne County Club:

Mike, W4DSE, Roger, AK4RS, Robert, WD4FIX, Albert, N4ZFG, Ray, KD4FV, Peter, WA5T

From Wilmington:

Hutch, NK0S, Jay N3QH, Jeff KI4JDE, Norman KI4YSY, Pete WB3FYR, Charlie K4UWH, Jake KQ4TG, JIM K3DEP, Jack WD4OIN

Jack Jacobs, WD4OIN

JUNE MEETING PROGRAM - Field Day plans and special door prizes.

CLUB ACTIVITIES - Several activities for club members occur regularly. Every one is encouraged to participate.

- ◆ Club Net at 2100 EST on 147.18 each Monday
- ◆ Noon Lunch Bunch at a location announced via e-mail each week. Often includes a show and tell or discussion of topic of interest. Dutch treat.
- ◆ Alternative weekly ham-oriented lunch groups. Ask at club meeting about getting on the announcement list.
- ◆ Ham test sessions conducted by Volunteer Examiners at 1000 EST on the second Saturday of even months at Cape Fear Community College. Check the ACARC web site for February details.

AZALEA COAST CLUB IN THE CANADIAN PRESS - Many of you will remember that we had a visitor vacationing in Myrtle Beach who joined us during the North Carolina QSO Party aboard the battleship. He is a correspondent for a Canadian publication. Ron Walsh, VE3GO. e-mailed me that his article on our BB55 operations appears in the June issue of Monitoring Times. This is a Canadian publication aimed at short wave

listening and other related activities.

I went to Barnes & Noble back in May to see if they even carried it on their newsstand and the May issue was there. I returned recently and could not find the June issue on the news stand. The customer service person checked it out for me and she couldn't find it on the stand either although it shows up on their computer. I'm not sure there is any other outlet locally that might carry that magazine.

Visiting the Monitoring Times website, I did a one time download of the June issue at a cost of \$3.19. The article is on pages thirteen through fifteen. Website is <http://www.monitoringtimes.com> Click on Current Issue.

I will run off a few paper copies of the three pages to bring along to the upcoming meeting.

Allan Pellnat, KX2H

SAY AGAIN - Other items of interest to club members might include:

- ◆ Weekly swap meet managed by the Wilmington VHF Association takes place on Thursday evenings at 2000 EST on 147.345. A great place to find what you need or unload what you do not.
- ◆ The Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club web site (ac4rc.org) has an abundance of information about the club, events, and links to other amateur radio activity.

CORRESPONDENCE - Charlie Vaughn is helping the Reddington family find new homes for Ed's ham equipment. If you have an interest in any of the following items, get in touch with Charlie. Proceeds will help with college expenses of Ed's grand daughter.

Yaesu YO-301 \$ 129.00

A simple connection between a transceiver and computer sound card to operate Digital Modes: WSJT, PSK-31, Packet, APRS, AMTOR, RTTY, SSTV, CW, HSCW, plus contest voice keying, contest memory keyer, etc. Uses internal jumpers to set up for any radio. Includes AC power supply, all cables and a collection of popular Digital Mode software on CD. Has all of the features of the MFJ-1275, plus: an Auxiliary input jack to switch the sound card to another device. No more plugging and unplugging. Direct CW/FSK keying jack, headphone jack (use stereo headphones), also turns off external speaker. Plug in a footswitch or other for PTT switch when not using VOX. Includes CD with digital modes software, RS-232 and audio cables, and AC supply.

Astron 40M Power Supply \$ 75.00

Icom IC-38A 220 Mhz FM Transceiver \$ 75.00

Bencher Paddle \$ 40.00

MFJ 259B Antenna/SWR Analyzer 1.8 – 170 Mhz \$ 115.00

Icom SP21 Speaker/Phone Patch \$ 35.00

SA400 Soldering Station

Drake TRC CB Transceiver (old) \$ 10.00

Icom IC 2A (old) Make an offer

2 Motorola Speakers \$ 5.00 each

Radio Shack Field Strength Meter \$ 10.00

Icom IC-T 70A Dual Band Hand Held (144/432) \$ 150.00

MFJ-1279 Rig Interface for voice, cw and digital modes \$ 60.00

73, KI4JDE