

ACARC

Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club

June 2015
Newsletter

ACARC

President

Pete Long
(WB3FYR)

Vice President

Harvey Hutchison
(NKØS)

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Treasurer

Allen Pellnat
(KX2H)

Newsletter

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And The New President Is...

Club members attending the May meeting elected Pete Long (WB3FYR) as the new Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club President after Charlie Vaughan (K4UWH) stepped down in April. Thank you Pete!

ARRL FIELD DAY 2015 (June 27-28)

ARRL Field Day 2015 will occur on June 27th and 28th and for our club it will be at Ogden Park. It is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On Field Day weekend, more than 35,000 Hams gather with their clubs, groups, or friends to operate from remote locations. For many individual Hams and amateur radio clubs in our Section, planning has begun and they are looking forward to the educational, operating, and public relations opportunities that are key parts of Field Day. For further information on ARRL Field Day 2015, see <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Upcoming Events

June 6th and 7th – Museum Ships Weekend
Club Event - USS North Carolina (BB-55)

June 16th – ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM

June 27th & 28th – Field Day Weekend

July 21st – ACARC Monthly Meeting 7:00PM



2015 ARRL FIELD DAY
HAM RADIO)))

Newsletter

I would ask that anyone who has comments, praise, criticism, ideas for the newsletter or would like to write a guest article to please send an email to Jeff (W4BIX) at: acarcnews@gmail.com.

Bravo Zulu

*Bravo Zulu is a naval signal, typically conveyed by flag hoist or voice radio, meaning "Well Done." In this newsletter we will strive to give a Bravo Zulu to a member of the ACARC who earns recognition. If you earn any accomplishment in the field of amateur radio (such as DXCC, license upgrade, any awards, contest placement, etc.), **please** send me an email about your accomplishment so we can share it with others.*

DXCC (RTTY) - Allen Pellnat (KX2H)

Worked All Counties (CW) – Jack Jacobs (WD4OIN) (3077 counties confirmed)

5-Band WAZ – Harvey Hutchison (NK0S) (179 confirmed)

WPX Honor Roll (Mixed) – Harvey Hutchison (NK0S) (1400 prefixes confirmed)

WPX Honor Roll (SSB) – Harvey Hutchison (NK0S) (1189 prefixes confirmed)

Battleship Update

The BB-55 crew hosted a visiting ham operator, Bud (W3KZQ) on Memorial Day weekend. Bud was thrilled for the opportunity to operate from the battleship.

Radio update: again, we are still waiting for the ship's electrician to connect the refurbished motor-generators in order to get power to the ship's radios. Until then our operation is limited to using a modern transceiver attached to the ship's antennas.

Next major event for the Battleship is Museum Ships Weekend which is scheduled for the first

weekend in June. All club members are encouraged to come on board and assist with operations that weekend! We plan to operate from on board the ship 9:00am to 5:00pm each day.

Everyone is invited to meet at the K&W Cafeteria on Oleander at 8:00am for breakfast or you can meet us at the ship. Call in on the 147.18 repeater if you need help getting to the radio room on board the battleship.

US Navy-Marine Corps MARS Program to End

The US Department of Defense (DoD) is phasing out the US Navy-Marine Corps Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) program. Its operational mission will transition to the other MARS service branches by the end of September. The head of the US Navy-Marine Corps MARS program in Williamsburg, Virginia, made the announcement. The Navy-Marine Corps MARS program also supports the US Coast Guard as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the US Department of Homeland Security, and local emergency management agencies. A US Department of Defense-sponsored program, MARS branches are separately managed by their respective military service branches. MARS volunteers are Amateur Radio operators who provide auxiliary or emergency communications to local, national, and international emergency and safety organizations, as an adjunct to normal communications.

“Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic (NCTAMS LANT) intends to work with US Army MARS and US Air Force MARS in transitioning the Navy-Marine Corps MARS (NAVMARCORMARS) program by 30 Sep 2015,” the announcement said. “The intent of the transition is to best align the program to support national mission requirements.” Chris Jensen of NCTAMS LANT told ARRL that the Navy no longer has any service specific requirements for Navy-Marine

Corps MARS and is working within DoD to transition the program into Army and Air Force MARS. "We will continue to publish updates as this transition progresses," he said.

The announcement encouraged current Navy-Marine Corps MARS members and clubs to submit applications to the US Army MARS or US Air Force MARS programs as soon as possible.

"The US Navy greatly appreciates the thousands of MARS volunteers, past and present, who have been integral to the success of MARS," the announcement concluded.

One individual who is very familiar with the MARS program said the change was not unexpected and came to a head as the US Strategic Command embraced Army MARS as the lead branch for contingency communication and Air Force MARS began partnering with the US Army program on the operations side.

"The Army and Air Force MARS branches have an obvious role in providing contingency communications for the 50 states," said the individual, who preferred not to be cited by name. "Members are everywhere 'on the ground,' and experience in Afghanistan and Iraq has proven the tactical usefulness of HF on land. There was no similar role for the landlocked membership of Navy-Marine Corps MARS."

He said the MARS program can use all the volunteers it can attract and hopes the Navy-Marine Corp MARS volunteers will join one of the other MARS branches.

Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, echoed those sentiments. "Navy leadership will continue to stay engaged with the MARS services to support the DoD quarterly exercises and other training missions and requirements as they are identified," English said. "Both Army and Air Force leadership is committed to making the transition process from the Navy MARS program as smooth as possible. Navy volunteers in good standing will transition as full members; they will not have to start over."

"We understand this will be an emotional time for Navy members to decide if they want to continue supporting the MARS program," English added. "We value the service they contributed to the Navy and invite them to continue to serve in either the Army or Air Force MARS programs."



WX4NHC Reports It's Ready for Hurricane Season

WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, reports that it's tested and ready for the 2015 Hurricane Season, which begins June 1 and continues through November. WX4NHC conducted its Annual Station Test on May 30, at the end of Hurricane Preparedness Week. This marked the 35th year of volunteer public service by the WX4NHC Group at the NHC. WX4NHC conducts its station test event each year, prior to the Hurricane Season. WX4NHC Amateur Radio Asst. Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, said the station was tested on many frequencies and modes, including, and that all radio equipment and antennas performed well.

"The WX4NHC test event is also good practice for Amateur Radio operators worldwide, but especially in hurricane prone areas, to test their station's ability to contact WX4NHC, should they need to during a hurricane," Ripoll said. "It was also a good opportunity for NWS Office staff to become aware of the unique capabilities of Amateur Radio during severe weather and disaster communications; when conventional communication modes fail."

Around The Club



ARRL JUNE VHF CONTEST

On May 27th, the ARRL website reminded Hams that the ARRL June VHF Contest will be held on June 13-15. The June VHF Contest occurs at the start of the summer sporadic E season, and intense openings on 6 meters and even 2 meters are possible. Several entry categories are available, including portable, rover, and FM-only. In January 2015, the ARRL Board approved rule modifications for the General Rules For ARRL Contests Above 50 MHz, and these changes become effective with the 2015 June VHF Contest. Assistance is now allowed for all entry categories.

For further information, see
<http://www.arrl.org/news/got-grids-arrl-june-vhf-contest-is-june-13-15>

Sample of Special Events for June

D-Day Commemoration
Jun 2-Jun 10, 1400Z-1800Z, W2W, Baltimore, MD

Museum Ships Weekend
June 6th 00:01Z to June 7th 23:59Z

Grissom Air Museum Fly-In
June 20th – 21st, 13:00Z to 19:00Z, W9G, Peru, IN

FCC ELIMINATES AMATEUR RADIO VANITY CALL SIGN REGULATORY FEE

On May 22nd, it was announced that the FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an amateur radio vanity call sign; however, this will not take effect until the required congressional notice has been given.

For further information, see
<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-eliminates-amateur-radio-vanity-call-sign-regulatory-fee>

QSLING DIRECT: A Couple of Approaches.

QSLing direct can be one of the ways to get that important contact confirmed but it can also be the most expensive. I normally figure that by the time I pay for my QSL card, two (02) envelopes, postage to send my card & return postage (normally \$2 US minimum) it consumes about \$5.00 from my pocket. There are, however, a couple of approaches that can reduce your costs but still result in a QSL card to add to your collection.

The first stop should be to QRZ.com. You may find that the DX station has a U.S. manager so two US stamps cover the cost of mailing and returning cards. You may also discover the station has a foreign manager or other pertinent QSLing information.

If no special instructions are found the next place to go is the CLUBLOG,
<https://secure.clublog.org/loginform.php> . You do not need to be a member to use the LOG SEARCH feature, <https://secure.clublog.org/logsearch.php>, found near the bottom of the left corner of the

home menu. Enter the call of the DX station in the upper box and your call in the lower box and then click on SHOW CONTACTS. If the station has uploaded tier logs to CLUBLOG it will show the confirmed band/mode of your contact(s). If the DX station has incorporated the option to request QSL card you will see a button, "Request QSL card" below the box displaying your contacts. When you select this option you are taken to a new page where cost information is displayed and another box where you must enter the YEAR of the QSO as well as the Month, Day, Hour (HH) & Minute (MM). You then select the button, "Confirm QSL details" and if your information is correct you can then finish the process and normally pay with PAYPAL.

You do not need to send the DX station your QSL card and there is normally only one charge to confirm all your QSL with that station. PAYPAL provides you with a confirmation number of your payment and the DX station mails their card direct to your address.

If the DX station does not use CLUBLOG and you must QSL direct you can frequently go an alternate route & purchase foreign stamps for the country where the DX station or the manager is located. You can find foreign postage supplies listed in the classified ads in QST & CQ magazines.

Why purchase foreign stamps? Frequently the cost for the stamps is less than the amount of green stamps you would send to the DX station. Also there is less chance of the stamps being stolen. (NOTE: NEVER put your or the DX stations call sign on the outside of the envelope.)

My foreign stamp supplier of choice is William Plum, <http://www.arvelo.net/N2MZZ/N2MZZ-V02/nomenu-w-plum-site.html>, or just google "William Plum". You can request a price list of stamps and other mailing supplies by sending an email to plumdx@msn.com.

From experience I wait until I need several foreign stamps and then do a mass order. William only charges a \$1.00 mailing fee no matter the quantity of the order.

Any questions, please email me at NKOS@ARRL.NET.

See you in the pileups!

Hutch, NK0S

Radio Call Saves SOTA Climber Following Fall

A Littleton, Colorado, radio amateur and mountaineer was happy to have his hand-held transceiver along on May 17 after he slipped and fell from an icy ledge in Berthoud Pass while snowshoeing. Summits On The Air (SOTA) enthusiast Brad Byland, WA6MM, said he's been climbing and mountaineering for many years now and never before came this close to "a possible life-ending disaster."

"I'm doing fine," Byland told ARRL this week. "I didn't get hurt...only bad wind and sunburn on my face! My daughter says my geeky hobby — ham radio — saved me from my dangerous hobby — climbing and mountaineering!"

Byland said that while this was his first climb in the Berthoud Pass area, he was never "lost," as some media accounts reported. He had prepared to climb Mount Flora — which would have been his 29th SOTA peak — by studying maps and others' trip reports, plus he had his iPhone with GPS, a compass, and his radio along.

"Things went smoothly until about 12,700 feet," Byland said, at which point, with visibility deteriorating, he decided to turn back. "It wasn't long before I was in a total whiteout," he recounted. "The ground is white, the air around me is white, and I had no perception of direction and elevation. My iPhone GPS was of no use as I couldn't read the display. I pulled out my compass for navigation." Byland said he knew the basic heading he should follow along the ridge, and he proceeded.

“A short time later I had a strange feeling I was floating in air. I didn’t realize I was falling until I landed on my back on a snow filled ledge about 20 feet below a cornice,” Byland continued. “I was quite surprised and amazed I suffered no injuries.”

But he was essentially “stuck,” and, while his snowshoes remained on, he was not able to climb back up, due to the overhanging nature of the cornice. “I needed to wait for better conditions,” he concluded. “After about an hour I decided to make a call for help, as I knew it would take time for a rescue party to mobilize and find me. Spending the night would probably not end well, and I might have had to take on significant risk to attempt a self-rescue.”

Byland said he’d programmed his radio to a few local mountain repeaters, he was able to quickly contact another ham, “and the rest of the story unfolded with my eventual rescue.”

While well equipped for his situation, he remained on the ledge for 4 or 5 hours. “I was in good spirits,” he said, “and I can’t tell you enough about how comforting it is to have another person on the radio keeping me informed of the rescue process. I didn’t feel so alone on that ledge.”

Byland thanked the Alpine and Grand County Search and Rescue members who got him off the ledge. “Words alone cannot express my feelings of gratitude for the work you do and the countless hours you invest in this service,” he said. “My donations to both SAR groups are forthcoming.”

He also expressed his gratitude to the hams who picked up his distress call and quickly notified authorities. “The outcome would have certainly been different without their help,” he said. “I particularly want to thank Alpine SAR ham radio operator Mike, KCOCNT, who spent countless hours with me exchanging vital information during the rescue operation.”

In retrospect, Byland said, he should have taken another route or hunkered down and waited for better visibility before descending.

AC4RC LOTW Stats

DXCC Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	DXCC Credits Awarded	Total (All)	Total (Current)
Mixed	15	0	0	15	15
CW	2	0	0	2	2
Phone	6	0	0	6	6
Digital	13	0	0	13	13
80M	1	0	0	1	1
40M	2	0	0	2	2
20M	14	0	0	14	14
15M	1	0	0	1	1
10M	3	0	0	3	3
Challenge	21	0	0	---	21

WAS Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	WAS Credits Awarded	Total
Mixed	39	0	0	39
80M	5	0	0	5
40M	22	0	0	22
20M	33	0	0	33
15M	1	0	0	1
10M	3	0	0	3
CW	6	0	0	6
Phone	35	0	0	35
Digital	25	0	0	25
PSK31	20	0	0	20
RTTY	9	0	0	9
80M Phone	4	0	0	4
80M Digital	1	0	0	1
80M RTTY	1	0	0	1
40M Phone	21	0	0	21
40M CW	4	0	0	4
40M Digital	1	0	0	1
40M	1	0	0	1

WAS Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	WAS Credits Awarded	Total
PSK31				
20M Phone	27	0	0	27
20M CW	2	0	0	2
20M Digital	24	0	0	24
20M PSK31	20	0	0	20
20M RTTY	8	0	0	8
15M Phone	1	0	0	1
10M Phone	3	0	0	3
Triple Play	66	0	0	66
5-Band	64	0	0	64

WPX Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	WPX Credits Awarded	Total
WPX Mixed	118	0	0	118
WPX Mixed 80M	5	0	0	5
WPX Mixed 40M	40	0	0	40
WPX Mixed 20M	96	0	0	96
WPX Mixed 15M	2	0	0	2
WPX Mixed 10M	5	0	0	5
WPX Mixed North America	103	0	0	103
WPX Mixed South America	4	0	0	4
WPX Mixed Europe	11	0	0	11

WPX Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	WPX Credits Awarded	Total
WPX CW	7	0	0	7
WPX CW 40M	5	0	0	5
WPX CW 20M	2	0	0	2
WPX CW North America	7	0	0	7
WPX SSB	84	0	0	84
WPX SSB 80M	4	0	0	4
WPX SSB 40M	36	0	0	36
WPX SSB 20M	59	0	0	59
WPX SSB 15M	2	0	0	2
WPX SSB 10M	5	0	0	5
WPX SSB North America	80	0	0	80
WPX SSB South America	2	0	0	2
WPX SSB Europe	2	0	0	2
WPX Digital	58	0	0	58
WPX Digital 80M	1	0	0	1
WPX Digital 40M	2	0	0	2
WPX Digital 20M	55	0	0	55
WPX Digital North America	47	0	0	47
WPX Digital South America	2	0	0	2
WPX Digital Europe	9	0	0	9