

Airwaves on the Azalea Coast



In This Issue

From the President's Desk

Page 2

Member Spotlight

Page 3, 4

Items of Club Interest

Page 5,6

Battleship Update

Page 7

Monthly Tech Tip

Page 8

Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

Page 9

On the Air

Page 10

Upcoming Events

- Aug 01 11:45am Luncheon (Jason's Deli)
- Aug 08 11:45am Luncheon (Pete's Choice)
- Aug 16 10:30am FCC License Testing Pine Valley Library (in person)
- Aug 19 6:00pm Elmer Hour
- 7:00pm Club Meeting
- Aug 22 11:45am Luncheon (Cape Fear Seafood)
- Aug 26 7:00pm ARES Meeting - 114 Cinema Dr
- Aug 29 11:45am Luncheon (Henry's)

More details on these and other scheduled events can be found here: [AC4RC Club Calendar](#)

Club Officers

- President - Jeff McCulloch K4JEL
- Vice President - Mike Hartmann NI2S
- Secretary - Gene Costa KD2RRP
- Treasurer - Bill D'Innocenzo. K3WMD



From my desk,

Since I graduated from Clemson in 1983 I have been a group leader. Starting with 10-15 guys in the woods of north Georgia (Outdoor Treatment Facility, I knew I should explain that) through 33 years of teaching and coaching. After retirement I took over leadership of ARES and ACARC. That's 43 straight years of being a front man. I'm not sure I'll like it but I think I'd like to try not being a group leader.

So soon the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club will have a NEW President. I find that exciting. I look forward to my successor taking the club to greater heights. The details of the transition are being worked on now, so I have nothing to announce about our next President.

As I told someone earlier, I'm still going to be at the meetings and activities, it just won't be me up front. Thank all of you for your support during my tenure. I can't even figure out how long it's been. But I can say it has been fun and that is because of all of y'all.

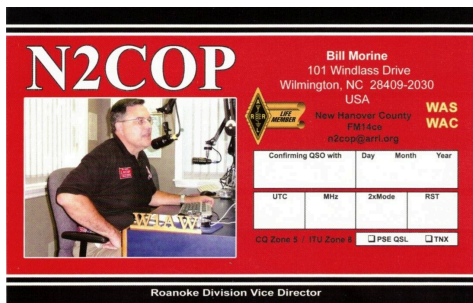
Jeff
K4JEL



Member Spotlight - Bill Morine

It's an honor to be the member profile for the August, 2025 edition of the ACARC newsletter, because this month marks my 55th anniversary of being licensed. After years of dabbling in AM DXing and CB, I took the Amateur Radio plunge in August, 1970. Growing up in a suburb of Boston, my best friend from high school and I went to the local FCC office to take our Novice exam. Most of the FCC workers then were grizzled World War II vets. The guy at the front desk in the drip dry short sleeve white shirt, thin back tie and pocket protector greeted us with, "What the hell do you want?"

Until 1983, all Amateur Radio exams were administered at FCC offices if you lived within 75 miles of one. I took my Novice exam at the Boston office on the 16th floor of the Custom House; my Technician exam in at the FCC office on K Street in Washington, DC, and my General exam at the Philadelphia FCC office, which had moved to an office building in suburban King of Prussia, PA. Today, the Custom House building in Boston is a Marriott hotel. On my bucket list is to sleep in the room where I took my Novice test and became WN1NOP.



Until the early 1990s, if you moved outside a call district, you were required to get a call sign containing the numeral where you resided. In the mid 1970s, I moved to northern Virginia and became WD4NZF. Next, I got a job offer with AT&T which required me to move to New Jersey, and I became WB2ZHS. I was still a Technician licensee at that time with Novice level HF privileges. I was still too poor to afford a CW keyer or even a paddle, so I was banging out on a straight key W-B-2-Z-H-S. I hated that callsign, but this was the pre-vanity era so I was stuck with it.

The only way out in those days was to upgrade, so I sat for the General exam in 1981 and marked off on the FCC 605 form that I would take any new 1-by-3 callsign. To my delight I got N2COP. I sat for my Advanced level license and later my Extra at VE sessions since the mandatory FCC office exams were eliminated. Also relaxed was the mandatory call district numeral requirement for callsigns, and I got to keep N2COP when I moved to North Carolina.

My first station in 1970 was a Knight Kit T-60 crystal controlled 60 watt transmitter and a Hammarlund HQ-110C receiver. Under the old Novice rules, maximum wattage allowed was 75 watts and you were not allowed to use a VFO (Variable Frequency Oscillator). Your crystals kept you frequency bound, or what was informally called, "rock bound."

Member Spotlight - Bill Morine



Most of us only owned 4 or 5 frequency crystals because they were expensive at \$4.00 each. If you heard a station you wanted to work 3 KHz up from your crystal's frequency, you took your crystal apart with a Phillips screwdriver and lightly used a pencil eraser or fine grit sandpaper to raise the frequency. The danger with this approach was that you might overshoot the frequency by several KHz, and your crystal was now permanently set at the new frequency. Ah, the good old days.

Also, I couldn't afford a T/R relay (Transmit/Receive), so I manually threw a DPDT knife switch (Double Pole-Double Throw) to change the 300 ohm twin lead to my inverted V antenna. Also, older transmitters had grid block keying, so if your finger slipped off your CW key knob and on to the key metal while you were transmitting, you'd get a sudden and startling RF burn. No legal disclaimer came with key instructions.

My first venture into VHF in 1977 was a Clegg FM-27B, a 25 watt synthesized mobile rig. To select a repeater frequency, you manually tuned in the receive frequency, then zero beat the 600 KHz offset transmitter frequency. No scanning in those days! Over the years I've owned a Heathkit HW (Hot Water) 101, Icom 735 with a newfangled LCD display, Drake TR-4, and for a long time I used an Icom 746, a very well built and versatile rig. My favorite antenna? Many Hams scoff at folded dipoles but I've owned three Barker & Williamson folded dipoles and I have done exceedingly well with them all. Because of the type of homes and lots I've owned, I've used wire antennas only my whole Ham career.

In my 55 years of being a Ham, equipment, modes and band conditions have never been better than they are now. The only sadness I feel is the ever-increasing noise floor but otherwise Ham Radio is better than it's ever been. When I began you had only two choices - CW or phone. Today, there's an explosion of digital modes, many capable of weak signal DX, so even those with compromised stations have worldwide capability.

Finally, our marvelous hobby contains a few naysayers who criticize the younger whippersnappers who don't join club events and are ruining Ham Radio. Young people approach Amateur Radio and their participation differently from many of the traditional ways older folks do. Please be patient and supportive of the next generation so our hobby - the world's greatest hobby - can continue to thrive.

73 de Bill N2COP

Items of Club Interest

An Update from the Club Officers

Greetings to all Azalea Coast ARC members.

As you all saw Jeff's email, he has decided to step back from being President of the club. We thank Jeff for his years of dedicated service to the Azalea Coast club, and wish our President Emeritus well, as he returns to life as a non-officer member of this organization.

Mike Hartmann will serve as interim President while we step through the process of electing a new President. Mike Hartmann indicates he is not interested in the President's position, and will not be submitting his name for consideration of this post.

We met and discussed the current situation. We feel that to have an election in August, when member participation is at its lowest level, is not in the long-term best interests of the Club. Therefore, we are proposing to our members that we forego the By-law requirement to hold an election in August, and stay the course on holding an election on the normal schedule of November. This gives us time to prepare, and for those who may be interested in the President position time to step forward.

We further propose to form a Nomination Committee of three to oversee the election process for this important officer position. Anyone who has an objection to this approach, we would be happy to discuss this with you. Meanwhile, if you're interested in serving on the Nomination Committee, please contact any officer to let us know.

73 to all,

The Officers of the Azalea Coast ARC

Items of Club Interest

Repeater Team Update

The repeater team has been working on both software enhancements and hardware additions for several weeks now. As soon as the temperatures break and our team is healthy again, we will install the new hardware, update the software, and make adjustments to the volume levels for the repeaters. Yes, we will change the courtesy tone on 18 back to a single tone. There will be a difference when the repeaters are linked in the future.

Gene
KD4RRP

FCC License Testing

The next club test session is scheduled for August 16th 10:30 am at the Pine Valley Branch of the NHC Public Library 3802 S. College Rd Wilmington, NC 28412. We tested Jeff Jolly's Ham camp on the 25th of July at St. Mark's Catholic School and we have 4 students ready to make the leap into amateur radio.

Justin
K3EE

Club Activity

In September we are looking for a Fox Hunt or an antenna build. If anyone has a place that could host us for the antenna build with A/C that would be great! Please reach out to Justin if you know of a suitable location.

Justin
K3EE



Battleship Update

For July, we've had a busy month for guest operators despite the heat. Six hams came to the ship to operate from Radio Central. In addition, the Restoration Team met on the ship and continued to work on the tube testers. We've determined the Heathkit tube testers need their carbon resistors replaced. Also we've determined a power meter on the Hickok tube tester is shot and we need to try and find a replacement. Meanwhile, the team dug into one of the receiver power supplies which we had targeted for initial restoration. We found serious damage inside the unit by a grenaded capacitor. We will need to try and source replacement parts, if they can be found. During our activity, one of the ship's maintenance workers brought a friend on-board who is a retired broadcast radio engineer. The engineer has experience with the generators in Radio 2, and feels he can align them, and connect them. We agreed to reconvene in the fall, during cooler weather, to have him do his work. We may very well have power restored to the transmitters before the end of the year! More good news - Jon Meigs WB1AJJ met Nick, the owner of the Navy_Radio.com website at the Cary Hamfest. Nick offered us a working power amplifier tube for the TBM-4 transmitter. This is akin to having someone hand you a bar of gold off the street. Very exciting times seem to be on the horizon for our efforts on the Battleship!

Mike Hartmann
N12S

Monthly Tech Tip

Digital Mobile Radio

In the June issue, we solicited ideas to research for upcoming issues. One member expressed an interest in learning more about Digital Mobile Radio (DMR). John 'Miklor' K3NXU has created a Basic Tutorial discussing various aspects of DMR at the following link:

<https://www.miklor.com/DMR/ppt/DMR-BasicTutorial.pdf>

Under the Digital Section of the Repeater List on page 10 are the digital repeaters in our area.

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

08/09/2025 - 25th Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society Swapfest

Location: Fayetteville , NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://cfarsnc.org/>

08/09/2025 - Florence Hamfest

Location: Florence , SC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Florence Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4ulh.com/>

8/09/2025 - Tidewater Hamfest and Swap Meet

Location: Portsmouth, VA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tidewater Radio Conventions

Website: <http://trcihamfest.com>

08/29/2025 - 08/30/2025- Shelby Hamfest, ARRL NC Section Convention

Location: Shelby, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://shelbyhamfest.com>

09/27/2025- Lexington Hamfest

Location: Lexington, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: W4PAR Healing Springs Mountain VHF Society

Website: <https://www.w4par.org>

04/04/2026 - RARSfest, The Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL Roanoke Division
Convention

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.rarsfest.org>

Wilmington Area Amateur Radio Repeaters v
On-Air Within 40 Mile Radius Of Downtown Wilmington - JUNE, 2025

V1.0 for June, 2025

ANALOG FM

<u>Freq.(MHz)</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>PL Tone</u>	<u>Remote Access</u>	<u>Nets</u>	<u>Club Affiliation</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
145.170	N4JDW	Leland	88.5				
145.250	KN4UKU	Leland	88.5				Brunswick SKYWARN
145.370	N4GM	Bolivia	88.5			BSARC	Also C4FM Fusion
145.410	NC4NH	Wilmington	67.0		Mon. 7:00PM	NHC ARES	
146.730	N4ILM	Porters Neck	88.5			WVHFA	Upgrades in progress, 05/2025
146.820 *	N4ILM	Winnabow	88.5		Thurs. 8:00 PM	WVHFA	Use 147.060 as alternate, 05/2025
146.940	N4JDW	Hampstead	88.5			HH	
147.060	N4ILM	Malmo	88.5			WVHFA	Upgrades in progress, 05/2025
147.180	AC4RC	Wilmington	88.5		Mon., 9:00 PM	ACARC	Net Linked To 442.500
147.315	N4GM	Bolivia	118.8	EchoLink	Mon. 7:00PM ARES Mon 8:30 AM Ragchew	BSARC	Fulltime link 444.750 EchoLink Node 825587
147.345 *	N4ILM	Winnabow	88.5			WVHFA	
147.375	NC4PC	Burgaw	88.5		Mondays 8:00 PM	HH	Fulltime Link 443.550 except when in P-25 mode
224.520	WA4DAN	Kelly	91.5				
224.680 *	N4ILM	Winnabow	91.5			WVHFA	
442.025	N4JDW	Burgaw	88.5				
442.500	AC4RC	Wilmington	88.5		Sundays 8:00 PM	ACARC	Net sometimes on 147.18
442.600	N2MH	Oak Island	141.3				
443.550	NC4PC	Hampstead	100.0		Mondays 8:00 PM	HH	Fulltime Link 147.375 except when in P-25 mode
444.500	K4FXC	Wilmington	67.0				Relocating repeater, 05/2025
444.750	N4GM	Calabash	118.8			BSARC	Fulltime Link 147.315
444.85 *	N4ILM	Winnabow	88.5		Thurs. 8:00 PM		Swap Net - Thue=rsday Night
444.95 *	N4GM	Bolivia	118.8			BSARC	Also C4FM Fusion
444.175	N4JDW	Winabow	88.5				.

DIGITAL

<u>Freq</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>CC</u>			
144.390	N4ILM-4	Winnabow	APRS			WVHFA	
144.900	K4BLA	Delco	DMR	CC1			2.5 MHz positive offset
145.370	N4GM	Bolivia	C4FM		East Coast WIRES-X	BSARC	PL 88.5 in Analog FM
442.600	N2MH	Oak Island	C4FM		Local Coverage	N2MH	PL 141.3 in Analog FM
444.075	N4JDW	Hampstead	P-25				
444.1875	N4JDW	Winnabow	P-25				
444.2375	N4ILM	Winnabow	DMR	CC1			NC-PRN --Internet intermittent 05/2025
444.95 *	N4GM	Bolivia	C4FM			BSARC	PL 118.8 in Analog FM
444.975	NE4SC	Shallotte	DMR	CC1			

NOTES: * Temporarily Off The Air
 # Receiver temporarily offline since 147.06 site being used for 146.82 transmit

LEGEND ON CLUB TRUSTEES OR OWNERS

ACARC - Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club www.ac4rc.org

BSARC - Brunswick Shores Amateur Radio Club www.n4gm.org

HH - Hampstead Hams www.hampsteadhams.com

NHC ARES - New Hanover County Amateur Radio Emergency Services <http://nc4nh.org/>

WVHFA - Wilmington VHF Association www.n4ilm.org

Every effort is made to keep this list accurate, but not responsible if there are errors