

# Airwaves on the Azalea Coast



## In This Issue

### From the President's Desk

Page 2

### Our President-Elect

Page 3,4

### Items of Club Interest

Page 5

### Battleship Update

Page 6

### It's Your Turn!

Page 7

### Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

Page 8

### On the Air

Page 9

## Upcoming Events

- Dec 01 9:00pm Monday Night Ragchew NET
- Dec 05 11:45am Luncheon (TBD)
- Dec 08 9:00pm Monday Night Ragchew NET
- Dec 12 11:45am Luncheon (TBD)
- Dec 15 9:00pm Monday Night Ragchew NET
- Dec 16 6:30pm **ACARC Holiday Party**  
Junction 421 Restaurant
- Dec 19 11:45am Luncheon (TBD)
- Dec 20 10:30am FCC License Exam (Pine Valley Library)
- Dec 22 9:00pm Monday Night Ragchew NET
- Dec 25 *Merry Christmas !*
- Dec 29. 9:00pm Monday Night Ragchew NET

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

## Club Officers

- Interim President - Mike Hartmann NI2S
- Vice President - Mike Hartmann NI2S
- Secretary - Gene Costa KD2RRP
- Treasurer - Bill D'Innocenzo K3WMD



## From the President's Desk

---

- 

As you all know by now, Gene Costa, KD2RRP is our newly minted President Elect. I will remain interim President until Dec 31. I have great confidence that Gene will pick up where Jeff McCulloch, K4JEL left off and help this club carry on into the future. I am as eager as anyone to learn what Gene has in mind both tactically, and strategically, for the club's direction. I viewed my job as interim President as just staying the course - keeping the lights on as it were, until a new President was elected by the membership. I hope I have satisfactorily met this aim, and I also hope I am handing off to Gene having not made a mess of things. I will still continue in my role as Vice President, and all the duties therein. Thank you all once again for your support and patience.

73

Mike

Mike Hartmann, NI2S  
Interim President

## Meet Our President - Elect

### Gene Costa



#### ***How did you get started in amateur radio?***

In my youth, I received a CB radio from someone in my neighborhood who had upgraded the radio in his truck. At age, 13, I thought it was the coolest thing on earth to talk to people at random without using a telephone. I had been a SWL for several years and used various antennas that I built for listening, especially at night to the Canadian stations. It had no impact on my understanding of the French language. When I started to drive, I had a CB in my car until the early 90's. Then, nothing until I fully retired at age 70 and decided to look into ham radio. I got my Tech ticket in March 2019 and General in May. I spent two years taking ARRL and FEMA courses before I tested for Extra in September of 2021. Then I studied and tested for certification as a VE.

#### ***What has been one of my most memorable projects?***

After I built my first J-pole out of 300 ohm TV twin lead, I was hooked on trying to turn everything into an antenna. Nothing big, just things that are unusual or easy to throw in a backpack or suitcase.

#### ***What is your top priority as President?***

The most important task for the leadership of an organization is to maintain active engagement of the membership. It is not the President's club, but rather the job of the President to guide the club in a direction that is supported by the majority of those who choose to engage in club activities, especially at POTA or Field Day activities. As members of the Azalea Coast ARC, we are all teachers. Yes, without knowing it, you possess knowledge that you pass on to those who are new to the hobby.

#### ***Are there any upcoming projects that excite you?***

The recent J-pole and Slim Jim build event was well attended. I look forward to a future antenna build as determined by the needs of our members, new and old(er).

**Meet Our President -  
Elect**

.....  
**(Continued)**

***How can the club attract and support new members?***

Attracting new members is very important to the long-term health of the organization. We need new Technicians to engage in club activities and to get new Techs, several elements are necessary. First, in order for someone to learn about the Azalea Coast ARC, they have to be able to find us through a Google search, then a Facebook search, and ultimately, our website (in that order). Next, we have to ensure that we are welcoming to those new to the hobby who come to a meeting. Finally, we have to support new members by mentoring them with projects AND on-the-air activities,

***What do you enjoy doing when you are not on-the-air?***

My primary training is in music. After years of playing and teaching music as well as repairing stringed instruments and making violins, I now search for acapella groups (vocals without accompaniment) or groups with very intricate harmonies in any genre. The translation is Chicago, BS&T, Earth, Wind and Fire, Take 5 Manhattan Transfer on one end of the spectrum and things like World Oh World by Jacob Collier:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUS1wnA0SQM>

Since high school, I have been into photography. I worked in a camera shop for several years during college. After college, I developed color and B&W film and took infrared photos on the ground and from a small plane. Now that I have sold almost all of my equipment, film cameras are back in vogue with art students in the colleges. Oh well....

***What advice do you have for new hams joining the club?***

Attend every meeting, don't be afraid to ask questions, and if you do not understand seeming that is said in ham speak, ask for a translation. Passing the exam(s) get you the ticket. Active engagement gets you hands-on knowledge. Then you pass it on to the next newbie.

## Items of Club Interest

---

### **Pass The Bill | The ARRL Grassroots Campaign**

ARRL has launched a nationwide grassroots campaign aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.

Cast your vote! You do not have to be a member of the ARRL to cast your vote and make your voice heard!

**<https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation>**

### **FCC License Exam Schedule**

The final testing session for the year will be held on December 20, 2025 @1030 at the New Hanover County Public Library (Pine Valley Branch,) 3802 S. College Rd in Wilmington, NC 28412.

### **Volunteer Examiners**

We are always looking for more people to be on the VE Team. For more information, contact Justin Cokes (K3EE) at [k3ee@yahoo.com](mailto:k3ee@yahoo.com).

### **Upcoming Club Activities**

#### **Pearl Harbor Day**

When : December 7th - (Details TBD)  
Where: Battleship NC, 101 Battleship Rd.

#### **ACARC Holiday Party**

When: December 16th - 6:30pm  
Where: Junction 421 Restaurant  
5401 South College Rd



## Battleship Update

We had a full month in November. For Veterans Day operations, about 11 club members participated, and although band conditions were challenging, we logged 128 contacts—mostly on SSB with a few on CW. We also welcomed our first guest operator in quite some time; conditions improved significantly for that session, and our guest made 91 contacts in roughly an hour.

Members of the Volunteer Crew returned to the ship for another Hidden Battleship event. Our updated narrative of the Transmitter Room was very well received, drawing numerous positive comments from visitors and earning us a note from the Battleship team expressing “a million trillion thanks” for our efforts.

Restoration work continues across multiple areas. We’re making progress on power supplies, have begun work on the receivers, and are also addressing the transmitters. We attempted a generator test for the TDE transmitter; while the test was unsuccessful, we gained valuable insights that will guide our next attempt.

Mike Hartmann  
NI2S

## It's Your Turn



### **From the Editor's Desk:**

As we wrap up the year, it's hard to believe how quickly the months have passed since we relaunched our reconstituted club newsletter back in July. Each issue has been a labor of love—an effort to curate information, stories, and technical pieces that reflect the wide range of interests within our club. My goal has been to keep the content fresh, useful, and enjoyable, but the most meaningful and memorable material always comes from you, the members who make this club what it is.

Looking ahead to next year, I want to continue building a newsletter that captures the heart of our hobby – curiosity, experimentation, service, learning, and fun. The best way to do that is with your participation. No contribution is too small, and you don't need to be an expert to share something others will value. Please consider helping shape our 2026 issues in any of the following ways:

- **Share a short article or story**

Tell us about a recent project, activation, contest experience, shack improvement, radio purchase, or problem you solved. If it engaged your skills as an amateur operator—even in a simple way—others will enjoy hearing about it.

- **Suggest (or submit!) a Tech Tip**

If there's a technical topic you'd like to see covered, let me know. Even better, send in a short write-up that can be summarized in 100-200 words—a simple fix, a tool you've found helpful, a programming shortcut, a tuning trick, or anything you've learned that might help another operator.

- **Contribute photos, charts, or notes from the field**

A good picture or quick field report often tells a story on its own. These help bring the newsletter to life and show the wide variety of operating we enjoy as a club.

- **Recommend larger topics for future issues**

If there's something you've always wanted to understand better—digital modes, antennas, grounding, propagation, home-brewing, emergency communications – let's put it on the list.

Send your input and suggestions to [wjm320@gmail.com](mailto:wjm320@gmail.com)

## **HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**

**02/13/2026 - 02/15/2026**

### **Orlando HamCation, ARRL Southeastern Division Convention**

Location: Orlando, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club

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

**03/06/2026 - 03/07/2026**

### **Charlotte Hamfest**

Location: Concord, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Mecklenburg ARS

Website: <http://charlottehamfest.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>

**05/15/2026 - 05/17/2026**

### **Dayton Hamvention**

Location: Dayton, Oh

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <https://hamvention.org/>

**09/04/2026 - 09/05/2026**

### **Shelby Hamfest, ARRL North Carolina State Convention**

Location: Shelby, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://shelbyhamfest.com>

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

V1.1 for November , 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		Tues. 7:00 PM		Brunswick SKYWARN Primary
145.250	KN4UKU	Leland	88.5				Brunswick SKYWARN secondary
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		Last Weds. 7:00 PM	HH	Pender SKYWARN
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
224.520	WA4DAN	Kelly	91.5				
224.680 *	N4ILM	Winnabow	91.5			WVHFA	
441.850	W4FTK	Shallotte	DPL 315			Fleet Talk Group	Allstar 40040 & Echolink W4FTK-R
442.025	N4JDW	Burgaw	88.5				
442.500	AC4RC	Wilmington	88.5		Mon., 9:00 PM	ACARC	Net Linked to 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
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	WVHFA	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		WVHFA	NC-PRN --Internet intermittent 05/21
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