

Airwaves on the Azalea Coast



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Club Officers

President - Jeff McCulloch
K4JEL

Vice President - Mike Hartman
NI2S

Secretary - Gene Costa
KD2RRP

Treasurer - Bill D'Innocenzo.
K3WMD

From the Editor

The June edition marks the reboot of our monthly club newsletter. Our goal is to provide fresh, useful content that enhances your amateur radio experience. Give us feedback if there is something you would like to see included in these monthly newsletters!

Upcoming Events

Jun 06 11:45am	Luncheon (Jason's Deli)
Jun 08 8:00pm	Museum Ships Weekend (Day1)
Jun 09	Museum Ships Weekend (Day 2)
Jun 10	Museum Ships Weekend (Day 3)
Jun 13 11:45am	Luncheon (Pete's Choice)
Jun 14 10:30am	FCC License Testing Pine Valley Library (in person)
Jun 17 6:00pm	Elmer Hour
7:00pm	Club Meeting
Jun 20 11:45am	Luncheon (Cape Fear Seafood)
Jun 27 11:45am	Luncheon (Henry's)
Jun 28 11:00am	ARRL Field Day (Day 1)
Jun 29	ARRL Field Day (Day 2)



From the President's Desk

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We are going to try to jump start the Club Newsletter and I would thank Bill Murray for taking on this challenge. I hope to help this effort by bringing you a short message about our Club from my presidential perspective in every issue. As I write this now, not knowing the publishing date, I hope to mention some of our club activities for May and June. Hopefully you will find further information in this issue on these events.

April ended with an Antenna Show and Tell held at Moore's Creek on the 27th. Many people got to see several antennas in several configurations and then test them on the air. Folks left with plans to try new things at their home and I look forward to hearing about their results.

The first full week in May begins the list of activities for Club members to enjoy. On the 10th members of the Club will participate as ARES members in providing communications during the MS Walk. During the next week, on the 12th and 15th there will be a Guest Operator aboard the Battleship supported by our members. On the 13th members of the club are participating as ARES members on a trip to Kinston to meet with leadership at the Eastern Branch Headquarters of the NC Office of Emergency Management. Following that, a Club meeting on the 20th and ARES meeting on the 27th complete the May events.

There are already plans being made for June activities including Museum Ships Weekend the 6th&7th, Club Meeting the 17th, Guest Operator the 19th, ARES meeting the 24th, and Field Day the 28th&29th.

The above should also include ongoing weekly activities like Monday Club and ARES Nets as well as Friday Lunches.

Be radioactive,

Jeff
K4JEL

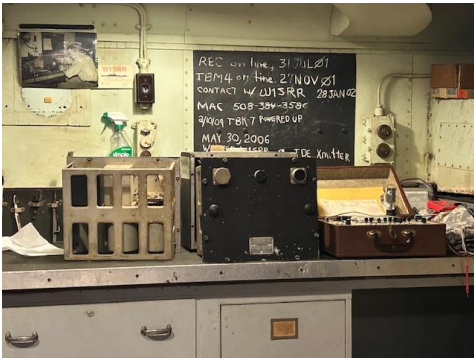


Battleship Update



The Club has launched a new restoration initiative aboard the Battleship North Carolina to restore as many of the ship's communications receivers as possible. The current team includes Jeff McCulloch (K4JEL), Justin Cokes (K3EE), Mike Hartman (NI2S), Paul Winter (KW4GI), Bill D'Innocenzo (K3WMD), Curt Seaton (K4JCS), and Jonathan Meigs (WB1AJJ).

While the exact number of receivers is unknown, it's estimated there are over 30 scattered throughout the ship. On May 18, the team met in Radio 2 (the Transmitter Room) to set up a work area, inventory tools and supplies, and begin assessments. This new effort follows a previous project that restored two of the ship's transmitters before work paused due to a loss of 3KV power. Power restoration may happen by late summer 2025, at which point work on transmitters may resume.



Restoration work area in the Radio 2 compartment aboard Battleship North Carolina. Two WWII vintage power supplies and a Heathkit vacuum tube tester pictured on our work bench. (Note the chalk board and the memorialization of the first contact made using a restored

Led by Curt Seaton and supported by Jon Meigs, the "Restoration Team 2.0" has started documenting receiver restorations using a new archival system. Initial work focuses on evaluating two power supplies already on the bench and the receivers located in Radio 2. Some Club-owned test gear also requires repair, supplemented by members' personal equipment.

The team is enthusiastic about the project and will keep the Club informed of their progress.

Museum Ship Weekend

The operating time plan for Museum Ships weekend has been approved by Battleship management:

The event officially begins at 8:00pm local time on Friday June 6th. The radio club will operate two radios from Radio Central from 8:00pm to no later than 11 (we may stop at 10:00pm). To operate starting at 8:00pm, we'd need to be on the ship to set up the radios at 7:00pm.

On Saturday June 7th the club will set up radios at in Radio Central @9am, as well as Radio 2, and the Gazebo (if it has not been reserved - pending confirmation), and operate from 10:00am until probably sunset or say about 8:00pm.

On Sunday the club will set up radios again in Radio Central, Radio 2, but we'll probably not use the gazebo, and operate from 10:00am until probably 6pm or so. The event officially ends at 7:59pm Sunday.

Please let me know if you plan on operating from the ship for this event.

Mike Hartmann
N12S
mjhart1500@gmail.com

Monthly Tech Tip

Lightning Protection

Protecting your amateur radio equipment from lightning strikes is crucial, as lightning can cause significant damage to your equipment, your home, and even pose a risk to your personal safety. Here are some steps you can take to minimize the risk of lightning damage to your amateur radio station:

- **Disconnect antennas when not in use:** Disconnecting antennas from your radio equipment when not in use is a simple yet effective method to reduce the risk of damage from lightning. It is especially important to do this during thunderstorms or when lightning is anticipated.
- **Lightning arrestors:** Install lightning arrestors, also known as surge protectors or coaxial protectors, on all coaxial feed lines entering your home. These devices help divert lightning surges to ground, reducing the risk of damage to your radio equipment.
- **Grounding:** Proper grounding is essential for lightning protection. Establish a single-point grounding system for your amateur radio station, connecting all equipment, antennas, and lightning arrestors to a common ground point. Use heavy-gauge copper wire or copper straps to connect your equipment to ground rods driven into the earth. The grounding system should be bonded to your home's electrical service ground to create an equipotential ground plane.
- **Grounding antennas and towers:** Ground your antennas and antenna masts or towers to prevent the buildup of static charge and to provide a path to ground for lightning energy. Use ground radials or ground rods connected with heavy-gauge wire or copper straps to create a low-resistance path to ground.
- In addition, you can use spark-gap devices or air terminals on the top of your tower to help dissipate static charges.
- **Protect other connections:** Don't forget to protect other connections to your amateur radio equipment, such as power supplies, phone lines, and network cables. Use surge protectors or lightning arrestors designed for these specific connections to minimize the risk of lightning damage.
- **Unplug equipment during storms:** If a thunderstorm is imminent or already in progress, unplug your radio equipment from power outlets, antennas, and other connections. This helps to further reduce the risk of damage from lightning-induced surges.
- **Tower placement:** When installing a tower or antenna mast, avoid placing it near power lines or tall trees. This reduces the likelihood of lightning striking your tower or antenna system.
- **Maintain your lightning protection system:** Regularly inspect and maintain your lightning protection system to ensure its effectiveness. Check all connections, grounding rods, and wires for corrosion or damage, and replace any damaged components.

While it's impossible to guarantee complete protection from lightning, following these steps can significantly reduce the risk of damage to your amateur radio equipment and help ensure your safety.

*Posted April 8, 2023 Updated August 1, 2023
By Ham Radio FAQ*

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

V2.2 for May, 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				
145.370	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