

# 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

### Battleship Update

Page 6

### Monthly Tech Tip

Page 7

### Upcoming Hamfests and Conventions

Page 8

### The Month in Pictures

Page 9

### On the Air

Page 10

## Upcoming Events

Nov 3	9:00pm	Monday Night Ragchew NET
Nov 07	11:45am	Luncheon (TBD)
Nov 10	9:00pm	Monday Night Ragchew NET
Nov 14	11:45am	Luncheon (TBD)
Nov 17	9:00pm	Monday Night Ragchew NET
Nov 18	6:00pm	Elmer Hour (Pine Valley Baptist Church)
	7:00pm	Club Meeting
Nov 21	11:45am	Luncheon (TBD)
Nov 24	9:00pm	Monday Night Ragchew NET
Nov 25	7:00pm	ARES Meeting - 230 Government Center Dr
Nov 27		<i>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</i> 🦃
Nov 28.	11:45am	Luncheon (TBD)

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

---

- 

The holiday season is right around the corner, and so is our annual holiday party. We're scheduled for Dec 16 at the 421 Restaurant in Monkey Junction. Kindly RSVP to Paul Winter if you're coming, so Paul, and the restaurant, can both plan for an accurate head count.

To my great relief Gene Costa has stepped up to take on the role as POTARC. (President of the Amateur Radio Club). In my waning days as Interim President, I'd like to thank everyone for your support, and patience.

Mike Hartmann, NI2S  
Interim President

## Member Spotlight - Bill D’Innocenzo

.....

I’ve been a geek my whole life. My XYL loves to remind me that I was in the AV Club in high school, but running 16mm projectors and black-and-white TVs on rolling carts was a blast when I was 16.

That same year I bought my first radio—a Lafayette Comstat 25A, a 23-channel, vacuum tube CB. Since I wasn’t yet 18, my dad got the license for me—KDV8562—and I spent hours rag chewing and chasing “skip.” I wish I still had that radio today.

After high school I drifted from radio, studied law enforcement, then switched to electronics, learning tube theory and early TTL logic. I was hooked and even volunteered after graduation to explore this new “digital” world. My early career as a technician led to electrical engineering studies at Northeastern University and hands-on work with microprocessors like the Zilog Z-80. I became a non-degreed engineer designing and programming embedded systems—CNC controllers, cassette-based paper tape replacements, and more.



Eventually, I moved into manufacturing, applying my design skills to automate production and test processes. That shift proved wise when the tech world slowed in the early 2000s. I transitioned into medical device manufacturing, where I spent nearly 20 years before retiring in 2022.

Retirement brought my love of radio back. After moving to Wilmington, I decided to pursue my amateur license. In April 2023, I passed both the Technician and General exams at a session hosted by the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club (ACARC). Though not quite ready for Extra, I was thrilled to start my ham journey.

**Member Spotlight -  
Bill D’Innocenzo**

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

Eager to learn, I joined ACARC and was warmly welcomed by members like Rita (KO4GHW), Mike (NI2S), Jack (WD4OIN), and Linwood (NT4F). Over coffee and good advice about rigs, power supplies, and antennas, I quickly realized I had found “my people” again.

Today, I try to pay that generosity forward by helping new hams while still learning myself. The Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club has not only given me knowledge and support but also lasting friendships that make Wilmington feel like home.

A year later, I was honored to be elected club treasurer, taking over from Anita (KG4IIL), who served beautifully for more than eight years. Whether operating aboard the Battleship North Carolina, joining a POTA activation, or just sharing lunch with fellow hams, I feel truly blessed to be part of such a welcoming community that shares my lifelong passion for “playing radio.”

73 (and 88, where appropriate) de K3WMD, Bill

## 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**

When : November 8, 2025 @ 1030am

Where: Battleship NC, 101 Battleship Rd.  
(meet in the snack room)

We will operate from the ship or the gazebo, maybe both, if we have enough people there. We will also use this as a chance to prepare the ship for Veterans day on the 11th. As normal we will be operating from the ship most of the day.



## Battleship Update

Veterans Day commemoration event is coming up on 11/11. We'll be on the ship working the bands, saluting the veterans of our Armed Forces.

Restoration - continued steady progress...(but, one set-back)

Paul Winter is working on replacement capacitor assemblies for the Receiver power supplies ("rectifiers" in Navy parlance). This is the last item to replace to finish the restoration of each unit. Then we'll restore in assembly-line fashion. Curt is chomping at the bit to dive into the meat of Receiver restoration.

Prepping the TBM-4 transmitter for power restoration. We've had a set-back here - the engineer who was to reconnect power has cancer and is undergoing treatment. We won't see him on the ship for about 2 months if the therapy is successful

Jon Meigs is studying the antenna trunks to see if we can improve the improvised antenna connections between the transmitters and the trunks leading to the superstructure. We are getting a copy made of the trunk blueprint found in the ship's archives.

We also made some progress on understanding what might be wrong with the rebuilt TDE transmitter generator. The folks at the American Wireless Association had some valuable info on a common issue with this unit.

Mike Hartmann  
NI2S

## Tech Insights

### The Basics of Noise Reduction in Your Shack

QRN (natural noise) and QRM (man-made interference) can make even the best radio setups frustrating to operate. While some noise is unavoidable, a few simple techniques can significantly improve your listening experience.

#### 1. Identify the Source

Start by pinpointing where the noise is coming from. Turn off household electronics one at a time—LED lights, switching power supplies, Wi-Fi routers, and dimmer switches are common culprits. Moving your receiver to a different location can help isolate the problem.

#### 2. Use Proper Grounding

A solid RF ground reduces hum and interference. Connect your station to a single-point ground and ensure shielded cables are properly terminated.

#### 3. Install Ferrite Beads and Chokes

Clipping ferrite beads on power and antenna cables suppresses high-frequency noise before it reaches your radio. For persistent interference, consider common-mode chokes on feedlines.

#### 4. Filters and DSP

Most modern transceivers offer noise reduction filters and digital signal processing (DSP). Experiment with notch filters, bandpass filters, and NR/ANF features to remove unwanted signals without affecting your desired reception.

Even modest efforts in noise reduction can make a world of difference. Cleaner signals mean more enjoyable contacts and less frustration on both HF and VHF bands.

Source: ChatGTP

**HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS****11/16/2025 - 36th Annual JARSfest 2025**

**Location:** Benson, NC

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Johnston Amateur Radio Society

**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>

**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>

## The Month in Pictures



A Good Crowd was in attendance at the October Club Meeting!



Paul KW4GI (Mr. NET Control) at the Antenna Build Activity



Jon Meigs WB1AJJ presents at the October club meeting

**Wilmington Area Amateur Radio Repeaters** v  
**On-Air Within 40 Mile Radius Of Downtown Wilmington - AUGUST, 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			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](http://www.ac4rc.org)  
BSARC - Brunswick Shores Amateur Radio Club [www.n4gm.org](http://www.n4gm.org)  
HH - Hampstead Hams [www.hampsteadhams.com](http://www.hampsteadhams.com)  
NHC ARES - New Hanover County Amateur Radio Emergency Services <http://nc4nh.org/>  
WVHFA - Wilmington VHF Association [www.n4ilm.org](http://www.n4ilm.org)

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