

Airwaves on the Azalea Coast



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Upcoming Events

- Sep 05 11:45am Luncheon (TBD)
- Sep 12 11:45am Luncheon (TBD)
- Sep 16 6:00pm Elmer Hour (Pine Valley Baptist Church)
- Club Meeting
- Sep 19 11:45am Luncheon (TBD)
- Sep 23 7:00pm ARES Meeting - 230 Government Center Dr
- Sep 26 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

Member Spotlight - Mike Hartmann

I've been around Ham Radio my entire life. My father, K2AJV (SK), was a Ham since his teens, so radio fascinated me from as far back as I can remember. My father had explained how radio worked, and it boggled my young mind how you could manipulate these tiny things called electrons and out comes an invisible signal someone on the other side of the world could pluck out of the sky, and hear, with enough fidelity to recognize the voice of the sender. It still is a wonder, as far as I'm concerned.

My father brought me and my older brother to club meetings and Field Day, which cemented my interest in Ham Radio. I've attended every Field Day since I was 7—back then it was a grand adventure of tents, antennas, bugs, food, and my mother's endless supply of cookies.

I tried studying for the Novice Exam as a kid but never followed through. In my teens, CB radio was popular, and a group of us met nightly on the air. I introduced them to Ham Radio, and with our Physics teacher, Bill Grahn, WB2QFX (SK), as our Elmer, we formed a high school club. After months of study, one parent drove us to the FCC office on Varick St. in New York City, where we all passed the Novice exam. I later upgraded to General (on the second try) and eventually Extra—on the first.

My father was thrilled when I got my ticket and bought me my first rig, a Ten-Tec Century 21 CW-only radio. Though I never mastered code at his speed, I became proficient at 20+ wpm and enjoyed CW contesting—especially Field Day and the CQ WW DX Contest.

For years my stations were antenna or location-challenged—even stringing a 15m dipole through my apartment to get on the air. I also loved kit building, eagerly awaiting each Heathkit catalog. My first HW-7 was a disaster, but I learned soldering and patience, eventually succeeding with the complex HW-5400, which I still own and plan to restore.

While other hobbies came and went, Ham Radio has always stayed with me. I've long been active in clubs and drawn to emergency communications, starting with Essex County RACES and later serving as Radio Officer for Parsippany's Office of Emergency Management. That role sparked a deeper interest in emergency management, with responsibilities that grew well beyond RACES.

**Member Spotlight -
Mike Hartmann**

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(Continued)

After receiving an early retirement 'package' from my then employer, I elected to tear up roots, and leave NJ for NC. Almost the first thing I did after settling in Rocky Point was find and join the Azalea Coast ARC. I have always appreciated the welcome I received as a lone transplant coming into the area. Quickly after joining the club, I discovered that the club had a relationship with the Battleship North Carolina. It was kind of love at first thought - I immediately signed up to be part of the group working with the Battleship, and the rest, as they say, is (recent) history.

Ham radio has been thoroughly interwoven in the fabric of my life, and I have no reason to expect that won't continue until I am planted in the ground - hopefully many years hence.

Items of Club Interest



Outgoing President Jeff McCulloch, K4JEL, says a few final words on his seven years of leadership as Vice President and Interim President Mike Hartmann, N12S, looks on from the podium.

From the Editor's Desk

What a great turnout we had at the August club meeting! There were 33 members in attendance and several attending via Zoom. Our new meeting location at Pine Valley Baptist Church is well equipped and there is room for YOU! Haven't attended a meeting in a while? Join us on the 3rd Tuesday of the month! The Elmer Hour begins at 6PM and the regular meeting starts at 7PM. Join us in September to make (or renew) connections with your fellow amateurs!

Electing a New President

This past Tuesday at our regular monthly meeting we discussed and voted on the way forward. Those in attendance voted in favor of setting aside the by-law requiring an immediate election in favor of forming a Nomination Committee and have this group, with officer oversight, help with this process. The goal is to have at least one nominee by the regular annual election schedule of November.

The Nomination Committee has been formed, and the members of the committee are Rita Holmgren, KO4GHW, Paul Winter, KW4GI and Dan Monck, KH7DM. Anyone interested in submitting their name for consideration should contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

FCC License Exam Schedule

Our next test session is October 16th @1030. The test site will be 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 info just contact Justin at k3ee@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Club Activities

In September we will be doing a club POTA outing. The location and time will be announced later. Look for further information from Justin in the reflector email.

In October and November we will be hosting an antenna build party and fox hunt. More to come from those...

Items of Club Interest

Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition COMMEX AAR

The After-Action Report (AAR) from the Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (EHPC) COMMEX 008 was released in July. The EHPC supports healthcare focused preparedness and response efforts across a 29-county region in North Carolina. This exercise was developed around the communications failures that were experienced in western North Carolina during hurricane Helene in 2024.

Several ARES and AUXCOMM members from Brunswick and New Hanover Counties participated in the full-scale exercise. Some amateur radio operators participated in the exercise from their homes, using their radios and antennas. Several others were stationed at the Regional Communications Center-East, in Kinston.

The event drew 137 participants who represented 32 agencies across North Carolina. There were 14 public safety agencies, 10 healthcare facilities, 5 public safety answering points, and two federal agencies (US Coast Guard Air Station with a MH60 from Elizabeth City, North Carolina and the Civil Air Patrol North Carolina Wing with a C182 fixed wing aircraft.)

This functional exercise highlighted the use of VIPER radio systems, emerging technologies such as Starlink and satellite broadband solutions, and PACE planning awareness, plus use of Winlink for rapid transfer of information, aviation assets to deploy a repeater at 7,000 feet, and an expanded presence of amateur radio operators (62 operators involved). This exercise was the eighth and will be followed by another in November. Because it was a hybrid exercise that spanned 7 hours, participants at home or work locations had to adjust and adapt to changing scenarios throughout the day.

--Gene Costa, KD2RRP, Public Information Officer, Azalea Coast ARC



Battleship Update

We have two guest operators at the ship for the month of August. We have gathered at the ship several times this month to advance the restoration cause.

We have moved the ball forward. We are still working on the receiver power supplies. We've discovered we still need a few more components. Meanwhile we did the resistance checks on the 2nd power supply. We tested about 30 vacuum tubes using the restored Heathkit TC2 tester. Most tubes we've tested thus far have tested good, a few were marginal, and a couple indicated a short. Many tubes yet to test.

Jon Meigs WB1AJJ did some scoping investigation of the generators and the transmitters in anticipation of having the generators reattached. We are also working on arranging a follow-up discussion with the broadcast engineer who is going to be doing the generator reconnection work in the coming weeks (hopefully).

Meanwhile we are working on the 2nd TC2, which we may elect to resell once we get it working again, and Lee Garris has donated a 3 third vacuum tube tester, which is now on the ship.

Obviously tons more to do, but we are making progress.

Mike Hartmann
NI2S

Tech Insights

The Xiegu G90 HF radio has become a favorite among hams looking for an affordable, low-power rig for both the shack and POTA outings. Like all electronics, however, it isn't immune to the occasional mechanical failure.

In a recent video, Walt Hudson (K4OGO) – better known as “Salty Walt” – shares his experience with a common issue that can sideline the G90. Known for his hands-on approach to portable antenna experimentation, Walt walks viewers through the problem and demonstrates a straightforward repair.

My Xiegu G90 Died - Here's the Easy Fix

*Walt's content can be found on his YouTube channel **Coastal Waves & Wires**, where he regularly posts practical tips for the portable operator. He is also the author of Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Sketchbook, available through the ARRL website – a valuable resource for anyone interested in building and experimenting with antennas.*

What Should You Use to Clean Video Monitors & the TFT LCD Touchscreens on Your Amateur Radio Transceivers?

Cleaning displays on phones, touchpad devices, and computer monitors needs to be done occasionally if you are like most of us, and try to interact with these devices with greasy fingers! The TFT-liquid displays that are found on many new amateur radio models.

In a recent blog post, On All Bands, an amateur radio blog by DX Engineering addresses this question.

On All Bands

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

09/27/2025- Lexington Hamfest

Location: Lexington, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: W4PAR Healing Springs Mountain VHF Society

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

11/16/2025-JARSfest

Location: Benson, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Johnston Amateur Radio Society

Website: <https://www.jars.net/jarsfest-2025/>

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 - 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
 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