

# Airwaves on the Azalea Coast



## Upcoming Events

- Mar 02 9:00pm Monday Night Ragchew NET
- Mar 06 11:45am Luncheon - Henry's Restaurant
- Mar 09 9:00pm Monday Night Ragchew NET
- Mar 13 11:45am Luncheon - Jason's Deli
- Mar 16 9:00pm Monday Night Ragchew NET
- Mar 17 6:00pm Monthly Club Meeting - Pine Valley Baptist Church -
- Mar 20 11:45am Luncheon - Pete's Choice
- Mar 21 10:00am Club Leadership Meeting Pelican Room - Pine Valley Library
- Mar 23 9:00pm Monday Night Ragchew NET
- Mar 24 7:00pm ARES Meeting 230 Government Ctr Dr
- Mar 27 11:45am Luncheon - Cape Fear Seafood (Porters Neck)

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

## Club Officers

President	Gene Costa	KD2RRP
Vice President	Mike Hartmann	NI2S
Secretary	Matt Reeps	NC1F
Treasurer	Bill D'Innocenzo	K3WMD

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## From the President's Desk

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There are some important changes presented in this message so be sure to read to the end.

As you are reading this message, quite a few of our club members have just completed volunteer work with the New Hanover County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Their work included providing emergency communications between the Emergency Operations Center and the aid stations along the race route as well as keeping a sharp eye out for any possibility of anything that could be a danger to runners or spectators (situational awareness).

March 1, 2026 is the NC QSO party so many club members will be on the Battleship North Carolina for a good portion of the day. AC4RC is not a bonus club this year so most likely, we will not be operating for the full contest.

Let's talk Volunteer Examiners (VEs) for a moment. On February 21 we had five test-takers sit for five technician exams and two people took AND PASSED the exam for General. Some of them are new club members too, so congratulations to all. A special thank you from me to the VEs who helped me through my first time trying to run the VE session. It was not without some agito for me and y'all provided the Pepto Bismol to get me through it.

On Thursday, March 5, there is a special thank you breakfast by invitation only for those who volunteer on the battleship. Saturday, March 7, is the next Hidden Battleship program when some of our members who are part of the radio restoration team will present information about the radio transmitters to members of the public who attend the event. There will be another Hidden Battleship on March 28, which will include a Guest Operator that day.

On Saturday, March 14, club members will take part in Battleship 101, during which they will discuss and demonstrate Morse Code to visitors and assist them in trying to tap out their name in code. It is always a fun event and I personally enjoy seeing the young people and old alike take an interest in learning why code and encrypted code was important during the war.

## From the President's Desk - continued

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Mark your calendars for Monday evenings at 9 pm for the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club Monday Night Rag Chew Net. Tuesday, March 17 is our next club meeting. Take Note: the Help Session will begin at 6 pm and end at 6:30 pm. The program will begin at 6:30 and end by 7:30. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 7:30 and end by 8:00 pm. If the program and a Q&A segment is concluded before 7:30, the club business will begin immediately and be held to a half-hour.

**Last, but not least, is the club leadership quarterly planning meeting on Saturday, March 21 beginning at 10 am. The location is the Pelican Room at the Pine Valley Public Library.**

The End!

Gene KD2RRP

## The History of the 147.18 Repeater System

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Editor's Note: *The following historical summary was referenced from earlier club records and appears to be an incomplete booklet. If any member has a complete version or additional information, please contact the club so that our archives may be updated and preserved accurately for future members.*

### Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club – Historical Series

The concept of the 147.18 repeater system began in October 1983 at a meeting of Glen Holden (WD4HMA), Buddy Boone (N4CTJ), Al Reynolds (N4AGQ), and Dwight Peay (K4YNY) at Dwight's home. Glen applied to the Southeastern Repeater Association (SERA) for coordination of the proposed repeater system, which was approved for operation at a height of up to 500 feet under the call sign WD4HMA.

In November 1983, the same group, joined by Charlie Vaughan (K4UWH), met again to continue development. Cecil Phillips (K4HHI) contributed a CB tube transmitter and receiver that were modified for amateur use and loaned to the group. On December 12, 1983, a simple Carrier Operated Relay (COR) was purchased to control the system. Buddy obtained a 150 MHz antenna, which was used during the early testing phase. The group also acquired a set of home-built duplexers at the Charlotte Hamfest in March 1984. In August 1984, the repeater was relocated from Dwight's home to Glen's home, and the original tube equipment was later replaced with a solid-state receiver and Clegg transmitter.

Throughout this period, the group worked to secure a better permanent location. A proposal dated January 7, 1985, was submitted to install the repeater at New Hanover Memorial Hospital. Permission was granted a few months later. At the Charlotte Hamfest in March 1985, the group located and purchased a used set of Wacom duplexers using donated funds. Glen and Dwight tuned the duplexers and installed them on the repeater system. Around June 1985, the repeater was temporarily relocated to Buddy Boone's home and upgraded with a new microprocessor controller. Shortly afterward, in early July 1985, the system was installed at New Hanover Memorial Hospital with the county's approval.

On July 23, 1985, the repeater system was struck by lightning. The receiver was destroyed, and the duplexers were damaged. Fortunately, the system was covered by ARRL insurance, which provided funds for repairs and replacement equipment. The repaired duplexers were reinstalled, and a loaned receiver allowed the repeater to return to service in late August 1985. A permanent replacement receiver arrived shortly thereafter, and a different antenna was installed in October 1985 to further improve performance.

At the regular club meeting on November 17, 1986, Dwight Peay and Glen Holden proposed that the repeater system be transferred to the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club. After discussion, the motion was approved. From that point forward, the 147.18 repeater system became the property of ACARC and has remained a cornerstone of the club's communications infrastructure.



## Battleship Update

The restoration team continues to make steady progress on the Battleship. We have peeled a lot of onion layers on the TDE generator, and have likely found the root cause of the underperformance problem - namely a broken wire in the armature winding, which is bad news. However, we may have found a new-old-stock armature for that generator in the ship's extensive parts stores. So all hope is not lost. I think the probability that this is the correct part is better than 50/50, but more part number research/cross-referencing is needed. We also make progress in digging into aligning, and repairing as needed the receivers, and their power supplies. Aside from restoration efforts, we participated in the Battleship 101 program in February, introducing kids young and old to the world of Morse Code. We have several guest operators scheduled in the coming weeks, and the Club will be operating from the Battleship on Sunday, March 1 for the NC QSO party. We'll operate 2 rigs from Radio Central. We'll gather at 9:30am and operate either until we tire out or the event ends at 8:00 pm. If you opt to come to the ship mid-operation, call us on the club repeater (147.18) so we know you've arrived and can make arrangements to get you to Radio Central.

73

Mike Hartmann

NI2S

## Items of Club Interest

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### FCC Requires That FRN Contact Information Be Updated Within Ten Days of a Change

02/20/2026

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® reports that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes to its rules to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the [CORES](#) system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

Because every FCC licensee—including amateur radio operators—must have an FRN to file applications, this requirement applies to all licensed amateurs. FRN contact information is handled separately and apart from contact information related to a license in the [License Manager System](#). Both records must be kept up-to-date, and each requires a separate update.

Until now, no specific deadline existed for updating FRN or license contact information. Instead, the amateur rules at sections 97.21 and 97.23 provide that a license may be suspended or revoked “if FCC correspondence is returned as undeliverable because of an incorrect address/email.” These provisions remain in effect as well as the 10-day deadline applicable to FRN information.

If your FRN information is current and has not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. It is recommended to periodically check both the [CORES](#) and [License Manager Systems](#) to ensure contact information is accurate, even if no changes have occurred.

The new deadline (section 1.8002(b)(2) of the Commission’s Rules) became effective on February 5 as part of a proceeding that was limited to further constraining robocalls. Although the proceeding focused on robocall issues, the 10-day update requirement applies broadly to all FRN holders. On February 6 the FCC confirmed in a Public Notice that the new deadline applies to all FRN holders. The amendment replaces language adopted in 2001 that required FRN holders to keep their contact information up-to-date but had not imposed a deadline for doing so.

Numerous requests for clarification from non-robocaller interests led the FCC to issue a [Public Notice on February 6](#) (see also [PDF](#)) clarifying that fines imposed on those subject to the robocall rules for not keeping contact information up-to-date do NOT apply to licensees such as radio amateurs, but that the 10-day deadline does apply to all FRN holders.

See the following resources for updating FRN and license information.

FCC Tutorial on updating FRN information:

[https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Update\\_FRN\\_Information.htm](https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Update_FRN_Information.htm)

ARRL information on how to update license information:

<https://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes>

**For assistance, call the FCC FRN Help Desk:** (877) 480-3201 (available 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

Source; <https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-requires-that-frn-contact-information-be-updated-within-ten-days-of-a-change>

## Items of Club Interest (continued)

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### 2026 Membership Dues

This year's dues for membership in the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club are due. We encourage payment as soon as possible and request all members intending to renew or join do so no later than the end of March. Let me remind everyone that starting this year we have a **2-tier membership structure**. Full voting membership is \$40 per year for a single or family membership. Family membership consists of all licensed family members living at the same address.

In addition to the full voting membership, we now offer an associate, non-voting membership for \$20 per year for either single or family membership. I will send reminders periodically between now and the end of March. In these email reminders I will include a list of those already renewed so you can verify if your payment has been received and recorded.

**You may pay your dues in one of three ways.** Mail your **check** payable to ACARC in the amount of either \$40 or \$20 to our Wilmington P.O. Box 4044 (see full address below). You can also give any officer a **check or cash** at a meeting, lunch, or other gathering. Finally, you can pay electronically using **Venmo**. See the link and QR Code below. If you use Venmo, we kindly ask that you include a bit extra to cover the Venmo transaction fee. The transaction fee is 1.9% + &0.10. or \$0.48 for \$20 and \$0.87 for a \$40 payment.

In addition to making your 2026 membership payment, the club would appreciate any additional donation you'd like to make...every little bit counts! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

-Bill, K3WMD  
Treasurer

**Mailing address:** ACARC, P.O. Box 4044, Wilmington, NC 28406

**Venmo Link:** <https://account.venmo.com/u/ac4rc>

### ACARC Secretary Position

Thanks to Matt Reeps (NC1F) for volunteering to become our new club secretary. His appointment was enthusiastically endorsed unanimously at the February club meeting. Thank you Matt for your willingness to take on this important responsibility!

## Items of Club Interest (continued)

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### Monday Night Ragchew Net

A new month and new opportunities to contribute to our club's Ragchew Net programs!

Just a 3 to 10 minute talk on any aspect of Amateur Radio.....

- <sup>2</sup> Have you experimented with a new antenna
- <sup>2</sup> Tried a digital mode
- <sup>2</sup> Picked up a new HT, Mobile, or Base Rig
- <sup>2</sup> Started/finished a project
- <sup>2</sup> Found a new gadget for your shack that might be useful for others

If the answer is 'yes' to any of those questions.... or a question that wasn't asked.....

Please consider sharing your experience, knowledge, or thoughts during our Ragchew Net!

Keep it light n' simple.... 3 to 10 minutes!

Paul KW4GI

Net Control

## **HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**

**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 50 Mile Radius Of Downtown Wilmington - February, 2026**

v2.0 for February, 2026

**ANALOG FM**

**Linked**

<u>Freq.(MHz)</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>PL Tone</u>	<u>System</u>	<u>Nets</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
145.130	K4BLA	Whiteville	162.2			K4BLA	<a href="https://backwoodsdmr.org/">https://backwoodsdmr.org/</a>
145.170	N4JDW	Leland	88.5		Tues. 7:00 PM		Brunswick SKYWARN Primary
145.190	WD4FVO	Jacksonville	88.5		Sun. 8:00 PM	Onslow ARC	
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		First Wed. 7:00 PM	HH	Pender SKYWARN
146.985	N4DBM	Elizabethtown	162.2			K4BLA	<a href="https://backwoodsdmr.org/">https://backwoodsdmr.org/</a>
147.000	NC4OC	Jacksonville	88.5		Tues.,Thurs 8:00 PM	Onslow ARC	Tues. Net Ragchew; Thurs EmCOMM
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
224.540	WA4DAN	Kelly	91.5				
224.620	K4BLA	Whiteville	123			K4BLA	<a href="https://backwoodsdmr.org/">https://backwoodsdmr.org/</a>
224.680 *	N4ILM	Winnabow	91.5			WVHFA	
441.850	W4FTK	Supply	DPL 315	Allstar 40040	EchoLink W4FTK-R	Fleet Talk Group	
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
443.825	N4DBM	Elizabethtown	118.8			K4BLA	<a href="https://backwoodsdmr.org/">https://backwoodsdmr.org/</a>
444.625	K4BLA	Whiteville	118.8			K4BLA	<a href="https://backwoodsdmr.org/">https://backwoodsdmr.org/</a>
444.750	N4GM	Calabash	118.8			BSARC	Fulltime Link 147.315
444.85 *	N4ILM	Winnabow	88.5		Thurs. 8:00 PM	WVHFA	Swap Net - Thursday Night
444.95 *	N4GM	Bolivia	118.8			BSARC	Also C4FM Fusion
444.175	N4JDW	Winabow	88.5				.