



# The ACARA Telegrapher

December, 2015 (revised edition)

Edited by Andy Young, KD8WVX &  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 7:30pm, Athens Red Cross

## ACARA Holiday Dinner

The ACARA Holiday will be on the evening of Tuesday, December 15 at **Stephens on Court** in uptown Athens.

We'll gather at 5:30 for punch and hors d'oeuvres and we'll order our dinners from the regular menu at 6 o'clock. The *Stephens* menu can be viewed here: <http://www.stephens66.com>.

After dinner, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, will present the *NC8V Memorial Trophy* to the club member who achieved the highest score in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest the weekend prior. (See articles on the ARRL 10-Meter Contest and the NC8V Memorial Trophy elsewhere in this issue.)

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## ARRL 10-Meter Contest

The ACARA will again participate in the Club Competition of the ARRL 10-Meter Contest, which happens on December 12-13. Individual ACARA members compete individually in the contest using their own call signs and equipment and indicate on their entry that they are participating with the "Athens County ARA".

Since Eric McFadden needs to send a list of club participants to the ARRL, all members who compete need to let him know they participated. Complete rules for the ARRL 10-Meter Contest can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>.

Athens County Amateur Radio Association  
P.O. Box 72, Athens, Ohio 45701

<http://ac-ara.org>

## NC8V Memorial Trophy

The NC8V Memorial Trophy is a traveling trophy awarded to the ACARA member who achieves the highest score in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest. This trophy is awarded in remembrance of John Cornwell, NC8V (SK), who was a longtime ACARA member and a generous mentor to and good friend of many current and former ACARA members.

Eric McFadden asks that all ACARA members who participate in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest the weekend of December 12-13 send him their QSO-count and score prior to December 15 so he can announce the 2015 winner of the NC8V Memorial Trophy at the *ACARA Holiday Dinner* on December 15.

In 2014 John Biddle, W8PG, took home the NC8V Memorial Trophy—who will take it home this year?



ACARA Repeaters: 145.150 (-) 442.100 (+)

The ACARA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

## AlexLoop Magnetic Loop Antenna Presentation

If you weren't at the November 17 ACARA meeting you missed excellent presentation by Tom Rockhold, NØOGS, on his AlexLoop Magnetic Loop Antenna.

The AlexLoop (<http://www.alexloop.com/>) is a lightweight, truly portable 10m-40m HF antenna. Tom uses his AlexLoop at his antenna-restricted residence as well as when operating afield with his Elecraft KX3. Tom explained that the bandwidth of the antenna is very narrow—as would be expected of a physically very small antenna—but tuning is very quick and easy. The design effectively limits interference (QRM) from adjacent frequencies as well as providing meaningful directivity.



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## ACARA Spring Construction/Education Project

In May, 2016, Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, will be leading the club in a group-build of a two-band trap-dipole antenna. Participants can choose to build an 80m/40m version or a 40m/20m version of the antenna. The cost to build this antenna should be low and the antenna will be easy to construct. If you are interested in building a trap-dipole antenna, please contact Drew soon so he can begin ordering parts. Drew's email address can be found on the ACARA website: <http://ac-ara.org>. The date of the actual build will be decided at the January 19, 2016 meeting.

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## Field Day 2015 Results

The results of the 2015 ARRL Field Day have been published in the December issue of QST and posted online (See link, below.) The ACARA placed 23rd of 117 in Class 1A with 559 QSOs and 2,852 points, taking 3rd-place in Ohio.

View the full results:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-field-day-2015-results-now-available>.



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## Field Day 2016

It's not too early to start planning for Field Day 2016 which happens the weekend of June 25-26, 2016. For the first time, the ACARA has been given permission to use both the Kiwanis Shelter *and* the large brick building at the Athens County Fairgrounds this year. Eric McFadden has already scouted out the brick building and has some ideas for antenna deployment and station set-up, which leads to...

... Eric has a Mosley TA-33 tri-band (10/15/20m) yagi antenna available for the club to use atop the 9-1-1 Center's 50' crank-up mobile tower. This yagi was retired by Eric's father, W8EOG, several years ago and needs cleaning and possibly some restoration work before it can be successfully re-deployed. Fortunately, Mosley beams are easy and inexpensive to work on. An article in the July, 2015, *QST* (pages 39-40) provides complete guidance on the process. Is someone in the club willing to take on the task of cleaning and restoring this antenna for the club's use as a Field Day antenna? (Eric promises he won't install the TA-33 above his roof if the club restores it!)

For 2016, Andy Young, KD8WVX, will serve as HF SSB (voice) station captain and has equipment and ideas that should measurably improve the club's success using SSB. Eric will serve again as HF CW station captain. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, will again serve as VHF SSB/CW station captain.

In 2016, for the first time, the ACARA will have a computer network to allow the three stations (HF CW, HF SSB, VHF SSB/CW) to simultaneously log to the same computer file. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will be working the magic to make this happen.

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## Field Day (cont'd)

Let's use the time we have between now and the end of June to make Field Day '16 the best the Field Day the ACARA has experienced!

## Upcoming Events:

December 12-13, 2015: ARRL 10-Meter Contest

December 15, 2015: ACARA Holiday Dinner at *Stephens on Court*

February 20, 2016: ACARA February Potluck at Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio

March 14, 2016: VE Testing Session

April 2, 2016: Iron Furnace Trail Run at Lake Hope

April 10, 2016: Athens Marathon

April 24, 2016: Athens Hamfest

May, 2016 (date TBD): ACARA Spring Construction/Education Project

June 25-26, 2016: ARRL Field Day

## Ideas?

*The club leadership needs your ideas!*

Do you have ideas for club meeting presentations? Is there something you'd like to build as a club project? Is there something you'd like the club to do that it isn't currently doing? Let one of the club officers know!

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**Club Officers:**

President:	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Vice-President:	Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Treasurer:	Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Secretary:	Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Newsletter Editor:	Andy Young, KD8WVX
Webmaster:	Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Packet Node Trustee:	Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
VHF Repeater Trustee:	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Club officer email addresses are available at <http://ac-ara.org>.

Club callsign: W8UKE, in memory of Craig Farrar, W8UKE (SK)

Meeting location and time: Athens County Red Cross, 100 South May Ave., Athens, Ohio  
Third Tuesday of the month January-May and September- November  
7:30pm but arrive at 7pm for “eyeball-QSOs and ragchewing”