



ACARA

NEWS BRIEFS

ATHENS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
- FEBRUARY 2012 -

NEXT MEETING ~ TUESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY, 7:30PM

Greetings All,

Well it looks as if winter has found us at last this year. I certainly hope everyone is staying warm and your antennas are surviving the ice and snow.

The club had a wonderful Saturday operating outside the Athens library for the "Freeze Your Bee Off" contest. It was great to see everyone who stopped by, and we had excellent turnout from the public. Thanks to Eric McFadden WD8RIF for organizing the event and supplying the tent— it would have been rough without it.

Bob Crouse KC8OVB would like to remind everyone that if you did not take advantage of the early membership renewal program we had in place this year, another year has gone by and it is time to renew.

Get on the air!

For CW operators, 18-19 February offers the ARRL DX contest, followed by the phone contest over the first full weekend in March, the 3-4th. Each contest lasts 48 hours. Full contest information is available from [the ARRL](#).

While there are several contesting opportunities in the approaching weeks indicated in the calendar on the next page, the ACARA also has a number of service opportunities coming in the spring, and now is the time to check the gear. Feed lines, batteries, generators, etc. All of it needs occasional maintenance, and if done now there's plenty of time to order any needed replacements.

Contact Us!

Online at: ac-ara.org

Ohio University, Facilities Management Building, 1 Riverside Drive

W8UKE 145.150

ACARA Events Calendar 2011

⇒ Sunday's - 5pm/6am Net - 50.4MHz

⇒ Second Monday's - 7pm - 2 meter net 145.150MHz

⇒ Saturday Informal Breakfast - OU Inn - 11am

February

11-2 Feb., CQWW RTTY WPX

13-17 Feb., School Club Roundup

18-19 Feb., Int. DX Contest CW

25-6 Feb., CQWW 160m SSB contest

March

3-4 Mar., Int. DX Contest Phone

12 Mar., Ham Class Test Session

24-5 Mar., CQWW WPX -SSB

April

1 April, Athens Marathon

9 April, monthly 2m net

15 April, ARRL Rookie Roundup

21 April, MS Walk

Podcast of the Month

This month's adventure in digital media is the "Sunday Liveshow" available from hgaradio.com. Not a true podcast, the Liveshow is a live broadcast streamed to the internet on Sunday nights, and subsequently available for download on the website. If you check out the archives, don't worry— it's still loading. If you don't have a fast internet connection, it might be faster to walk to Georgia.

The Liveshow covers the basics of operation, and the various other dimensions of setting up a station and being a good citizen on the air. Most of this is not groundbreaking, but since starting this feature I've gained an appreciation for video. It's one thing to hear a discussion regarding the best way to solder an SO-239 connector to a cable. Figuring out what those people are actually talking about is immensely easier if there's an accompanying video to look at. So the Liveshow isn't doing anything a lot of others aren't, but they are doing it with video.

The ACARA meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7/7:30pm at Ohio University, Facilities Management Building, 1 Riverside Drive, between Shafer and Factory Streets.

Our 5pm/6am Net meets every Sunday afternoon at 5:00pm on 50.400 MHz, AM mode. This is a net that promotes vintage six meter radios and the classic AM voice mode.

Our 2 Meter Net meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm, on the ACARA repeater, 145.150MHz. This is a net operation and procedure training exercise as well as emergency equipment and operations practice. Net Control is open to anyone and there is no experience required.

In National News

The ARRL has announced its second annual video contest, and unless you won the contest last year, you're eligible to take home one of several cash prizes. At only 5 minutes in length, it sounds like a very do-able project for anyone who knows their way around a video camera. [Full details and technical requirements are here.](#)



In International News

The World Radiocommunications Conference has approved a proposal (which has two more hurdles to clear) to grant a new medium frequency band for amateur use at around 472kHz. The allocation would be about 15kHz wide. [Details of the press release are available here.](#)



In Other Media

Looking to integrate your amateur radio operating into your other social media? Martin Kaltenbrunner has developed the Tworse Key, a telegraph key that attaches to a computer through a USB port and translates Morse code into letters in a Twitter account (get it, Twitter + Morse?).

Design schematics and the computer code are free-ware, [available here.](#)