

*Attendance*

Eric McFadden, Chair	WD8RIF
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
John Thomas	KC8JWZ
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Andy Young	KD8WVX
Rich Post	KB8TAD

*Program*

Rich Post, KB8TAD, gave a presentation on recycling the parts from a compact fluorescent light bulb. He also discussed using the parts from a scrapped computer power supply.

*Corrections/additions of Minutes*

There were no corrections to the minutes of 11/17/15. Rich Post moved to accept them. Andy Young seconded the motion. It passed.

*Treasurer's Report*

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the Treasurer's Report. We have \$1065 of unencumbered funds. We have to pay \$55 for the Repeater Autopatch from Frontier, plus \$3 for Xerox copies.

Bob Curtis moved to approve the report. Rich Post seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After some discussion of our extensive use of the Red Cross Chapter House, it was proposed to give \$50 to the Red Cross. Bob Curtis so moved. John Thomas seconded the motion. It passed.

*Old Business*

VHF and UHF repeaters

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF announced that he has weatherized the (analog FM) repeater on November 23.

On the issue of controlling the repeaters, he spoke with a technician at Yaesu. WIRES-X will *not* provide a means to control the DR-1X repeater; it only allows for connecting the repeater to the WIRES network. Neither Eric nor the technician could find in Part 97 of the FCC Rules the rule that requires repeaters to have an "off-input" control mechanism. He next spoke with Dan Henderson, N1ND, Administrator, ARRL Volunteer Counsel and Volunteer Consulting Engineer Programs, about Part 97. Part 97

<http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio>) doesn't say in one sentence that an off-input control mechanism is required but by reading the definition of "Automatic Control"

(97.3a6), rules on repeaters (97.205), and rules on Telecommand (97.213) it becomes evident that an off-input control mechanism is still required (and, coincidentally, that our current system of a single phone line shared between autopatch and control doesn't meet the letter of the law) .

The DR-1X does allow the repeater to be set to not repeat what it receives on the input (i.e., to be "shut down") if pin 1 of the I/O port is pulled low; we might be able to maintain our existing CAT controller and phone-line connection solely to provide this functionality. If we do this (or choose to not use the CAT controller at all) we lose the autopatch—do we still need an autopatch with everyone carrying cell-phones?

There are two alternatives:

1. Install a 220MHz receiver, antenna, and DTMF decoder at the repeater site to pull pin 1 low when necessary; control ops would need 220MHz transmit-capability; one receiver should be able to control both the VHF and the UHF repeater by using two DTMF codes.
2. Purchase DSL for the repeater site and add a PC, Raspberry-Pi, or Arduino to drive pin 1 low via telnet or other application; one such computer should be able to control both the VHF and the UHF repeater using two commands or one computer could be dedicated to each repeater and connected via a local-area-network to the DSL router.

The VHF repeater (analog FM) is behaving well. The UHF repeater is still inoperable.

#### Club Construction / Education Spring Project

In the last newsletter, it was indicated that the date (in May) for this project will be chosen at this meeting. Here is the announcement from the December newsletter:

“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://www.ac-ara.org>. The date of the actual build will be decided at the January 19, 2016 meeting.”

John Thomas, KC8JWZ, moved that the date and time will be May 7, at 1:00 PM. Andy Young, KD8WVX seconded the motion. It passed. Anyone interested should contact Drew soon.

### Holiday Party

This was held December 15 at Stephens on Court St.

It was attended by ten ACARA members and guests:

John Biddle, W8PG  
 Carl Denbow, N8VZ + Jane  
 John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
 Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
 Eric McFadden, WD8RIF + Vickie, KC8MAJ  
 Rich Post, KB8TAD + Edie  
 Tom Rockhold, N0OGS  
 Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ  
 Andy Young, KD8WVX + Jennifer

Eric received several comments that the venue, Stephens on Court, was more than satisfactory; Eric received no negative comments about the venue, menu, or service.

### ARRL 10-meter Contest / NC8V Memorial Trophy – December 12-13, 2016

The Chair announced that Four ACARA members participated in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest:

Andy Young, KD8WVX	93 QSO	6,696 points
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	63 QSO	5,796 points
Carl Denbow, N8VZ	38 QSO	1,292 points
John Biddle, W8PG	23 QSO	460 points

Andy Young, KD8WVX won the NC8V Memorial Trophy with his score of 93 QSOs and 6,696 points. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, presented the trophy.

### License Class

The class is held on Mondays. It started Jan 11 at the Red Cross Chapterhouse.

Eric, WD8RIF announced that so far two students have attended; a third has expressed interest but as yet has been unable to attend. The two seem eager.

Currently, teachers are Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; Drew McDaniel, W8MHV; & Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Eric would like additional teachers/presenters to help with the February 29 “Special Operations” session; he asked: Can NS8O present on Contesting? Can KB8TAD present on restoring and using vintage equipment? Can N8VZ present on digital modes?

Only one of the above was at the meeting, so they will be asked via email.

A VE test session will be held March 14.

### Athens Marathon

It is Sunday, April 10, 2016. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ was not present to discuss it.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 24

Eric, WD8RIF will apply for the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau 2016 Tourism Grant to help pay for it. He will turn in the request later this week.

ARRL Field Day – June 25-26, 2016

The Chair led a discussion on this. It will be at the Fairgrounds again, and we have permission to use the large brick building for our operations. The broken Mosley TA-33 was discussed again. There were no volunteers to work on it.

### **New Business**

February Potluck

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB said it will be at the Red Cross Chapter House Saturday, February 20 at 5:30 PM. We will gather at 5:30 and eat at 6:00 PM. Bring a covered dish to share, and your own drinks, cups, plates, etc.

Eric will bring some episodes of “The Twilight Zone” to show.

Thunderbunny 50K

This will be Saturday, May 14, 2016

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ forwarded the following email:

To All Interested Parties,

Southeastern Ohio Trail Runners (SEOTR) is excited to announce the formation of their second trail running event, the Thunderbunny 50K. After two years of successful Iron Furnace Trail Runs (IFTR) hosted at Lake Hope State Park, SEOTR is now ready to host a second yearly race, now at Strouds Run State Park in Athens, Ohio. IFTR grew from 70 to 170 participants from year one to two, and we feel this popularity makes a second trail race in the form of the Thunderbunny 50K great timing. We are also really excited to have this be the first know Ultra Marathon (races beyond 26.2 miles long) in Athens County.

The date for the Inaugural Thunderbunny 50K is May 14, 2016. This race will also have two shorter course distance options. Details and registration will be online in the near future. This event operates in accordance with a permit from Ohio Department of Natural Resources. And just as a reminder the 3rd Annual Iron Furnace Trail Run is April 2, 2016. All information on SEOTR on its events can be found on the website at <http://southeasternohiotrailrunners.org/>

You are receiving this email if you are affected or I think you may wish to collaborate in any way. Some of you have worked with me in the past with Iron Furnace. Races of this type require sometimes 1 volunteer for every 2-3 participants, everything from medical EMS on site, aid station workers, start/finish line timers, and more are needed to ensure a successful event and most importantly, safety to the participants. I also know there are many associated non-

profit organizations who have a valued interest in Strouds Run State Park and I've included some of the emails I have in my contacts.

Please reach out to me if you fall into one of those categories and would be interested in collaborating with this event. SEOTR is a non-profit organization and has the main goal of promoting trail running as a healthy lifestyle, and we also want to give back to the trails that we utilize. We have found that hosting events can have the most impact in meeting our mission.

If you have any questions or would like to find more information about the Thunderbunny 50K, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. My contact info. is below.

Michael Owen

This was discussed briefly. Jeff himself has said in the past that we are spread very thin in trying to cover so many events. There was some doubt expressed about taking this on as a new communications project.

Alden Library QST subscription

Rich Post, KB8TAB, reported that Alden Library no longer carries QST and suggests WD8RIF, W8MHV, or others employed at OU might try to have the subscription renewed.

Email Address for ACARA.

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, passed around the "Annual Manual" to show the ACARA ad. He noted that most ads had a phone number a reader could respond to. We have our web address shown, but it is a dead end because there is no phone number or single email address someone could use to ask for further information, such as about the course, or how to get involved. He has asked the Webmaster, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, to put an email address in a prominent place on the home page, which someone can use to ask a question or make a comment. It will be administered by the Secretary of the organization.

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB moved that the meeting be adjourned. John Thomas, KC8JWZ seconded the motion, which carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ.