

Program

Because of the amount of business expected for this meeting, and because of an embedded slide show, no program was scheduled for this meeting.

Attendance

Eric McFadden, Chair	WD8RIF	
John Biddle	W8PG	
Rich Post	KB8TAD	
Robert Moore	KC8KSM	
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB	
John Thomas	KC8JWZ	
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV	
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ	
Carl J. Denbow	N8VZ	
Josh Cash	KE8EAS	VISITOR
Robert G. Riordan	KA4VNK	
Samuel Wilson	KE8BUQ	VISITOR
Timothy Wilson	KE8EGE	VISITOR
Brooks Wilson	KD8XJ	VISITOR
Rick Riling		VISITOR

Corrections/additions of Minutes

The May minutes were passed around. Rich Post, KB8TAD, moved to approve them. Robert Moore, KC8KSM, seconded the motion. The document was approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the Treasurer's Report. We have a total of \$1,836.09 in unencumbered funds.

Jim also reported that he has received two tickets for the Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Shop & Swap Fest for anyone who wants them. It will be October 16. (Contact President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, if you have interest in these tickets.)

John Thomas, KC8JWZ, moved to approve the report. Rich Post, KB8TAD, seconded. The motion passed.

Old Business

VHF Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, has installed the ADR Interface and has ordered parts to build the interface-cable between the existing CAT-300DXL controller and the Yaesu DR1-X System Fusion Repeater through the ADR Interface. He brought the Yaesu DR1-X repeater in to demonstrate.

UHF Repeater

Via email, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he is still working on building the Arcom RC210 controller.

Club Construction / Education Project

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, said that he will still lead the project but is not ready to set a date.

ARRL Field Day – June 25-26, 2016

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported on Field Day. It was Class 1A, and was located at the Athens County Fairgrounds, inside the large brick building; there were a total of 577 QSOs plus 1,170 bonus points for 2,052 points total. He further broke the score down: 305 CW QSOs + 271 SSB QSOs + 1 FM Satellite QSO.

The participants were:

DJ Amireh, KE8BCX
Gary Carter, KD8MSR
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Constantine Faller, KC8JXA
Calvin Fulton
Mike Hansgen, K8RAT
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Bob Moore, KC8KSM
Robert Riordan, KA4VNK
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

John Thomas, KC8JWZ
Kyle Tussing
Raya Ward
Jayne Warmke
Andy Young, KD8WVX

Eric presented a slideshow of the event.

Eric thanked the many people who helped make Field Day a success: Third Sun Solar for their solar demonstration trailer; Athens 9-1-1 for their 50' crank-up mobile tower; Constantine Faller for his W8ERD mast; Carl Denbow for his IC-7300 and for his invitation to the Athens Mayor; Drew McDaniel for his call sign, his K2/100 transceiver, and his coordination with the Fair Board for use of the grounds and building; John McCutcheon for his complete 6m station; Bob Curtis for Media Publicity; Andy Young for Social Media; Miles McFadden for cooking; and to everyone who helped set up, tear down, or operate.

Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) – Saturday, September 10, 2016

<http://www.ospota.org/ospota/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF discussed it. We used the Strouds Run State Park's Bulldog Shelter. There was lovely weather despite the threat of storms moving in from the west. We made 102 QSOs contacting 23 Ohio State Parks.

Participants:

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT
Bob Moore, KC8KSM
Robert Riordan, KA4VNK

Visitors:

Brooks Wilson, KD8XJ
Russell Wilson, KE8BUP

Eric thanked Jim Crouse for reserving the Bulldog Shelter; Carl Denbow for use of his IC-7300; and all who helped set up, tear down, or operate.

ACARA Membership Survey

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF had generated a survey within Qualtrics and distributed it via email on August 12. He received 25 responses. He passed out a summary of the responses and discussed the results. (See *Appendix A*). More discussion of the survey results is scheduled for the October meeting.

One question which the survey sought to answer was: "What is a good meeting day?" Last winter attendance was low because several members attended OU home basketball games.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ provided the OU Basketball schedule for this next year: <http://www.bobcatattack.com/basketball/schedule.asp>. It shows two games on third Tuesdays, both away games: Jan 17 (OU vs Akron @ Akron) and Feb 21 (OU vs Miami @ Miami). This minimizes the conflict with ACARA meetings.

New Business

New Officer Nominations

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Nominations</u>
President –	WD8RIF	WD8RIF
Vice-President –	W8MHV	W8MHV, N8XWO
Treasurer –	KC8OVB	KC8OVB
Secretary –	KD8FRQ	KD8FRQ
Newsletter Editor –	KD8WVX	KD8WVX
Webmaster –	N8SUZ	N8SUZ
Packet Node Trustee –	N8SUZ	N8SUZ
Repeater Trustee –	WD8RIF	WD8RIF

Rich Post, KB8TAD, nominated the current slate. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, nominated John McCutcheon N8XWO for Vice-President. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, moved that nominations be closed. Bob Moore, KC8KSM, seconded. The motion passed. The Chair will notify John McCutcheon, N8XWO, of his nomination for vice-president.

Upcoming public-service events.

The Chair announced these:

Buckeye Trail Marathon – Saturday, October 1, 0900-1500L

<http://www.buckeyetrail.org/run4blue.php>

It goes from Shawnee to Burr Oak State Park.

Komen Athens Race for the Cure – Sunday, October 23, 1000-1400L

http://columbus.info-komen.org/site/TR?fr_id=6467&pg=entry

This is a 5K run.

Bobcat Trail Marathon – Sunday, November 6, 0700-1500L

<https://www.westernreserveracing.com/events/bobcat-trail-marathon/>

Eric McFadden will be Net Control for this. We will use Simplex (146.4MHz).

Parkersburg Hamfest October 8.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, made a motion to adjourn. John Biddle, W8PG, seconded it. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned **8:25** pm

Appendix A – ACARA Survey Results

Q. If the meeting day and time were convenient, would you be inclined to attend the monthly ACARA meetings? (The ACARA currently meets at 7:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, September through May.)

Yes – 14

No – 6

Maybe – 4

Q. Which days of the week or month are **not** good for your attendance at an evening meeting? (Please answer in the form of "Wednesday" or "The 2nd Monday of the month"; list as many as are necessary.)

Monday – 1

Tuesday – 2

Wednesday – 1

Thursday – 2

Friday 2

Saturday 2

Sunday 2

3rd Monday – 1

1st Tuesday – 1

3rd Tuesday – 1

Q. You indicated you are **not** inclined to attend ACARA meetings even if the dates/times are convenient. Might we ask why you won't attend the ACARA meetings?

I am 80 years old, and really not active in Ham radio. I am willing to support the club with my annual membership fee.

Too busy with other meetings

I might if it were focused on the marathon or something else I'm involved in.

I am not participating in amateur radio anymore. This has nothing to do with the organization. It has to do with being 80 yrs old. I will continue to maintain my membership just to receive the weather bulletins

Q. What changes might the ACARA make to the meetings to make them more enjoyable or worthwhile?

"Assign members to committees and give committee reports rather than debate each project detail at the meetings. Spread the projects among the members rather than one or two member running each project.

Keep meetings to one hour."

Make me 40 years old.

nothing comes to mind

Have not attended so no comment

I've liked the ones I've attended.

at distance participation

Nothing, cause they are well entertaining and informative

Have not attended many meetings so it would not be fair to the club for me to answer this question.

I really enjoy the meetings. Sometimes they run a bit too long.

Shorter business meetings. Having the presentations at the end, like it used to be. Knowing that was coming up was an incentive to make the business meeting go faster.

everything is fine.

limit business to a specific time period

Shorter? Divide up the work? I honestly don't know.

Make me 20 years younger with more enthusiasm.

N/A Fine how they are.

Keep up programming related to Radio and other tech to keep it interesting.

Continue featured speakers on an aspect of ham radio/special operations.

Maybe add snacks during social time.

Less needless talking.

The meeting day is fine, but maybe a little earlier? 18:30 or 19:00? (This is actually an answer to "what days are not good for you" – RIF)

Q. What do you feel the ACARA as a club does well?

Any project when a lot of members show up.

Provides emergency communications in catastrophic circumstances.

Organizing for events

Civic activities

Event communication via email.

I think most all of what we do, we do well.

Friendliness among each other is so nice with advice from anyone is welcomed

Offering first time Ham classes/training

I enjoy all the field days. Setting up the site and seeing everything work.

This time together is what I like.

Annual hamfest is always well run. Building projects have been fun and educational.

Public service – 2

Everything

field day and other direct involvement activities, new ham classes, 6 meter net, etc

community support

We do public safety events well, meetings

participation as communications for assorted events.

Some contests and activities like Field Day. Good public service.

Eric has tried to arrange activities for club participation.

Q. What would you like to see the ACARA as a club do more of, or do in a better way?

Practice emergency response with Red Cross and county agencies.

I am concerned about EMP. Think a protected reserve system would be wise.

Nothing

Embrace digital modes on the repeater. Specifically Yaesu Fusion, but D-Star and DMR would be nice as well.

My thoughts on a more proactive approach to worst case scenario readiness have already been discussed, and is what our team is working on. It is not for me to change anyone else's perspective on what we should or should not be doing, or that it has any place in the business of Amateur Radio.

To seek out other licensed operators in this area and bring them to the club

Not active enough with the club to answer

I feel the club is doing very well. I just wish more time was available for me to participate and learn.

1. More building projects

2. Some technical sessions about electronic theory, if we can find the right teachers (Drew is probably the most knowledgeable on these kinds of issues.)

3. Get repeaters running better, and maybe interconnected into a wider system, like K8TUT used to do

everything is fine for me.

more build-it projects, example; Home brew SDR

Other members plan programs, assist with meetings, etc..

More construction projects or something along those lines.

helping others extend their license into more advanced class levels.

club multi-op contesting HF/VHF/UHF

Promote a little more participation/competition for some contests that members participate in. Maybe add some club awards in addition to the NC8V 10 M trophy?

Too much senseless talking/blathering during meetings.

Q. Would you like to see more ACARA club building projects?

Yes – 14

No – 6

Q. What sort of ACARA club building projects would you like to see?

Station set up basics. We need to show newbies how to get started.

antennas, hpsdr builds

Don't know yet

Antenna builds, ham shack layout ideas.

I only have a dipole. I would like more antenna projects.

Just a few ideas:

1. 10M SSB&CW transceiver

2. Multiband dipole antenna

3. Simple one band (40M, for instance) yagi antenna
easy stuff to get youngsters interested (i.e. grandkids)

I don't know--I do know you get folks involved, and that's always a positive.

Antennae (beams, etc.).

I would like to see a regular scheduled building project (once or twice per year). Kinda of open to what they might be. Extension of pc/computer technology for use in the hobby might be something.

antennas and receivers

More antenna projects like portable, Yagis or other beam designs. Test equipment, keyers?

Q. Do you participate in amateur radio support of public service events?

Yes – 11

No – 9

Q. Which public service event is your favorite?

Athens Marathon – 6

Marathon events

All of them

Field Day

I participate in any on an episodic basis.

Q. Do you feel the ACARA should support...

... the current number of public service events it supports – 14

... more public service events than it currently supports – 4

... fewer public service events than it currently supports – 2

Q. Which amateur radio activities play a significant role in your ham radio life?
(Select a many as apply.)

- Contesting - 7
- DXing – 2
- Ragchewing – 4
- County hunting
- Field or portable operations – 7
- Mobile operations – 5
- EMCOMM or public service – 5
- Amateur satellites - 1
- Moonbounce
- Working special event stations – 5
- Homebrewing / kit building / repairing / restoring equipment – 8
- Experimenting with antennas – 6
- Hamfesting – 4
- Other:
 - Digital modes (Yaesu System Fusion, D-Star, DMR, etc...)
 - Have yet to purchase a radio, I am interested in DX and ragchewing

Q. Do you consider yourself primarily...

- ... an MF/HF operator – 4
- ... a VHF/UHF operator – 1
- ... both an MF/HF operator and a VHF/UHF operator – 7
- ... neither an MF/HF operator nor a VHF/UHF operator – 8

Q. Do you consider yourself primarily...

- ... a voice (SSB/AM/FM/Digital-Voice) operator – 12
- ... a CW operator – 1
- ... a digital-mode operator – 2
- ... other
 - I am currently lost, but searching.
 - builder, experimenter

Q. Which are the main contests in which you participate?

Ohio State Parks on the Air – 4

Route 66

Field Day – 3

ARRL 10 Meter – 3

Any of the ARRL contests

DX

U.S. Islands

Q. Which contest(s) are you not participating in that you'd like to participate in?

Ohio QSO Party – 2

The ones on the weekends... ;-) Hard to take time away from grandkids.

DX

National Parks on the Air

Various digital mode contests -- PSK, RTTY, FeldHell, etc. I have participated in these, but only on rare occasions.

10 Meter

Q. Optional: additional comments

I'd like to keep our meeting on Tuesdays

Hope my Yes/no answers do not skew your vote.

I would like to get together on what we can do at the hospital. I am about to get elbow deep into our radio setup there, and it would be nice to include the club as part of those plans.

I cant afford a new radio and have no idea what to look for in a used radio. The few operators I have spoken with have varying opinions of equipment and the hobby in general and have not been particularly helpful. But then I am guilty of not asking for help, a flaw I need to work on.

I think it would be nice if ACARA did some joint things with SCARF. In a relatively small county, we have two ham radio clubs. We should not be at odds with each other but work in cooperation with each other. I know that we've had a few folks leave ACARA and join SCARF. There seems to be a feeling that ACARA caters more to the "university crowd" and SCARF is more for the "average joe or jill" ham. I don't think this is a fair characterization, and I would like to see less of this stereotyping and more joint efforts between the two clubs. This might be pie-in-the-sky dreaming, but that's the way I see it.

I'm happy to support my better half!

I would like to see regular building events. I would like to see more recognition of the public service events that the club participates in. I would like to work toward advancing my class to general and beyond and maybe the club could help promote that like they do for technician class. I would be interested in working on something that relates PCs in with the hobby. The club serves the community but you hardly see any local media coverage of what is being done. When I go to hamfests I feel like as a hobby it is one for old men. I know that our club has younger members but overall this is true. I would also like to see the hobby, not necessarily our club, show how hobby/amatuer radio has helped other advances in technology outside of the hobby.