

Program:

KB8TAD introduced the very rare Hallicrafters SR-75 Novice transceiver which was available only from 1950 to 1951. Rich's example is the only one he has ever seen and, despite research, Rich has been unable to find anyone who has ever used one of these rigs on the air. Rich compared the SR-75 to the S-38B receiver, upon which the SR-75 transceiver is based. Rich wrote of his restoration of these radios in recent issues of *The Spectrum Monitor* magazine. The S-38B appeared in the January 2017 issue and the SR-75 appeared in the February, 2017 issue (<http://www.thespectrummonitor.com/>).



Rich Post, KB8TAD, demonstrates the Hallicrafters SR-75 transceiver; the lamp is serving as a dummy load. Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, and Carl Denbow, N8VZ, watch. (photo credit: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF)

Attendance

Josh Cash	KE8EAS
Carl J. Denbow	N8VZ
Eric McFadden, Chair	WD8RIF
Tony Milluzzi	KD8RTT
Rich Post	KB8TAD
Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
Mike Stephenson	AC8VY

Corrections/additions of Minutes

Copies of the minutes of the January 17 meeting were distributed. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, moved to approve the minutes. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without dissent.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, the Treasurer's Report was distributed by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. The total unencumbered funds amount is now about \$1,146.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mike Stephenson, AC8VY, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Old Business**VHF Repeater**

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club's new Yaesu DR-1X repeater was placed into service on Sunday, February 12, in FM-only (analog) mode, under the control of the existing CAT-300DXL controller. While interfaced to an external controller, the DR-1X is able to operate only in FM-only (analog) mode.

We are currently testing the performance of the repeater and controller. Eric requests members exercise the repeater and to please send any observations to him (wd8rif@arrl.net). (Eric is already aware that the initial reset-beep and voice-ID is being blocked by the repeater.)

UHF Repeater

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ reports that progress is being made in the construction of the Arcom RC210 Controller.

February Potluck

The ACARA's February Potluck was held on Saturday, February 18 at the Red Cross Chapterhouse at 100 South May Avenue in Athens. Participation was good with around twenty members and guests attending. Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, provided a second-season episode of the television series *The Twilight Zone* entitled *Nick of Time* (1960) on DVD; this episode starred a young William Shatner. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, provided an episode of the television series *The Naked City* (1958-59 and 1960-63) on 16mm film.

Club Construction / Education Spring Project – date in May TBD

Project organizer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, was absent from the meeting. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that his email last month revealed significant interest among members in participating in this building project. We hope to be able to choose a date for this antenna-build soon.

Red Cross Antenna Session

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ reported he has gained permission to run antenna feedlines through the exterior wall directly into the Red Cross Chapterhouse amateur radio station. He's currently trying to source an appropriate 3" entrance-head. Jeff has a dual-band (2m/70cm) vertical to install for voice-comms The existing 2m-only Ringo will be repaired and will remain on the roof for packet/APRS use.

Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 1, 2017, 9am – 1pm

<http://www.ironfurnacetrailrun.com/>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reports he has lost one operator but all other stations are covered. Josh Cash, KE8EAS, volunteered to work the final station.

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 9, 2017

<http://www.athensohiomarathon.com/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF reported that this will be the 50th anniversary running of “Ohio’s Longest Running Marathon”.

Eric reported he has attended all marathon meetings. At the most recent meeting, registration for the full- and half-marathons was approaching 500 runners.

Contrary to what was previously reported, the Marathon Committee will be providing traditional t-shirts to volunteers, not long-sleeve, half-zip shirts. (The long-sleeve, half-zip shirts turned out to be too expensive.)

Jeff has most operator assignments confirmed. Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, volunteered to fill a staffing-hole at the Glen Ebon crossing.

Jeff is coordinating with Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, and Rob Jacobson, KB9AFT, on the APRS configuration for the event.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 30, 2017

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF reported that the Athens Community Center has been reserved. The rental fee remains the same as previous years, \$300.

The hamfest is registered/sanctioned by the ARRL; hamfest materials from ARRL including gift certificates have been received.

A \$10 Gift Certificate door prize has been received from The RF Adapter Guy (<https://squareup.com/market/the-rf-adapter-guy>) who will not be able to attend the hamfest this year.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ reported that the Masonic Lodge will provide the food concession to help raise funds for their military veteran projects.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF reported that he applied for the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism Grant. This grant, if received, will help defray the cost of printing fliers and sending postcards.

The Jackson Hamfest will be Saturday, April 29. This is convenient for vendors, who can cover two events in one weekend. It may lower ACARA attendance, however.

ARRL Field Day 2017 – June 24-25, 2017

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Athens County Fairgrounds has been reserved, that the Athens 9-1-1 System's 50' crank-up mobile tower has been reserved, and that Third Sun Solar's solar demonstration trailer has been requested but no reply has yet been received. Eric also reported that the Field Day 2017 packet is available for download; Eric said he doesn't think any rules have changed since last year.

Eric reported that someone suggested to him that a combined ACARA/SCARF Field Day effort might be worth considering. Eric asked Josh Cash, KE8EAS, who is also a SCARF member, if SCARF participates in Field Day. Josh reported that, yes, SCARF does participate in Field Day with a big class 1-A effort every year. Since SCARF does their own Field Day, Eric will not pursue a combined ACARA/SCARF Field Day at this time.

New Business

Athens Public Library Presentation on Amateur Radio

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has been contact by Todd Bastin, Adult Programming Coordinator at the Athens Public Library, who has invited the ACARA to make a presentation on Amateur Radio at the library. There are open dates for such a presentation in spring and summer. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, expressed willingness in making a presentation. Eric will contact members who weren't present at the meeting to gauge their interest in participating in a presentation.

ACARA DMR Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, asked if there's interest in the club in building a VHF DMR repeater. ("DMR" is one of a number of digital-voice/data modes used on VHF and UHF by radio amateurs: see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_mobile_radio.) Jeff explained that one of the benefits of DMR over other digital modes is that a frequency pair can be "split" into two channels each 12.5kHz wide; these narrower channels can be used simultaneously for two channels of audio, two channels of data, or one channel of voice and one channel of data. Jeff went on to explain that there's growing interest within Ohio ARES to implement a statewide DMR system for emergency communications.

Jeff reported that he has been contacted by a member of the Scioto Valley club to see if one or both of the repeater-pairs currently held by Bill Creighton, K8TUT, is available. Jeff has been unable to bring up either of Bill's repeaters and feels that if Bill agrees to give up one or both of the pairs, one or both of them should stay in the southeastern Ohio area. Jeff will contact Bill to determine the status of Bill's repeaters and the frequency pairs.

A brief discussion of required equipment (repeater, cavities, feedline, antenna) and location (9-1-1 tower on Peach Ridge Road) followed. Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, has experience with DMR and will work with Jeff to put together a package for the club to consider at a future date.

ACARA Group-Email Issue

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he and others have noticed a problem when sending an email to the ACARA distribution list. Several ISPs—ohiou.edu and rr.com in particular—have been bouncing emails sent via the ACARA distribution list. Eric asked Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, to look into this problem. Jeff suggested it might be time for him to move the ACARA website and associated email addresses to a new host. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggested the ham-owned QTH.com is worth considering.

Ohio University Amateur Radio Club

Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, reported that the recently-inactive Ohio University Amateur Radio Club is being revived by himself and several other students. He reported that there are several students preparing to test in order to earn their licenses; Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reminded Tony of the upcoming March 13 VE Test Session. Tony reported that the existing club station is Stocker Center is undergoing renovation and improvement. The club's advisor is currently the retired professor and ACARA member Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, but a new adviser is expected to be appointed soon.

Amateur Radio in the Classroom presentation by Jeff Slattery

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that on February 15, 2017, he made a presentation on *Amateur Radio in the Classroom* at the annual Ohio Educational Technology Conference (<http://oetc.ohio.gov/>) in Columbus. Jeff's presentation covered new digital technologies being used by amateurs as well as the use of Arduino processors in Amateur Radio. Jeff reported that as part of his presentation, he demonstrated an Arduino-based lightning detector and an Arduino-based electronic keyer, both of which he built himself. (Jeff will be sharing both of these projects with the ACARA members at the March 21 ACARA meeting.) Jeff reported that his presentation had good participation and was well received.

Adjournment

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, moved for adjournment. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, seconded the motion. The motion carried without dissent.

Meeting adjourned 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, President