

Program

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, demonstrated the “**SDRplay Radio Spectrum Processor 2**” software-defined-receiver with “**SDRUno**” software (<http://www.sdrplay.com/>). The RSP2 is a software-defined receiver that covers the radio spectrum from 1kHz to 2GHz with up to 10MHz of bandwidth and multiple Virtual Receivers. The RSP2 retails for \$169; the **SDRUno** software is included.

Several bands and modes were demonstrated for a very impressive presentation.



Attendance

Eric McFadden, Chair	WD8RIF
John Biddle	W8PG
Robert Moore	KC8KSM
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Gary Carter	KD8MSR
Kirk Groeneveld	KC8JRV
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Andy Young	KD8WVX
Robert G. Riordan	KA4VNK
Steven Wilson	KE8GED
Timothy Wilson	KE8EGE
Jedidiah Wilson	KE8GEB
Brooks Wilson	KD8XJ

Corrections/additions of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were distributed. Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, moved to approve them. Andy Young, KD8WVX, seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the Treasurer's Report. We have a total of \$1,191 in unencumbered funds.

Jim urged all to be sure to pay their dues of \$20.

Robert Moore, KC8KSM, moved to approve the report. Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, seconded. The motion passed.

Old Business

VHF Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF: The 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. The use of the ARCOM ADR Interface device will eventually allow us to switch the repeater to automatic digital/analog mode.

Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, adjusted the repeater-output audio levels on March 4; Eric asked to please let him know if the output levels are still too low.

Eric is still trying to diagnose why transmit drops out during the initial ID.

Eric announced that he received a “Collocation Application” from American Tower on 2017-03-07; it looks like we might be required to start paying a lease for use of the tower.

UHF Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he is still working on building the ARCOM repeater controller.

ACARA / SCARF VE Session – March 13

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ reported via email that one person tested; Deborah Elliott, KD8TQC, from Jackson earned her upgrade to General. The VEs were Jim Crouse, KC8OVB; John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; and Scott Green, KD8KZG.

Club Construction / Education Spring Project – postponed until May

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, the leader of the project, was not present when this topic came up.

Red Cross Antenna Session

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he will make a call for volunteers once the entrance head and pipe are installed for the antenna cable.

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, explained this is a 13.1 mile / 4.5 mile run on the trails in Lake Hope State Park.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he has confirmed the participation of himself; Josh Cash, KE8EAS; Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; Miles McFadden, KD8KNC; and Bob Moore, KC8KSM.

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 9, 2017

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, noted this is the 50th anniversary of Ohio's longest consecutively run marathon. However, despite earlier reports, the volunteer shirts will be regular t-shirts.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he has confirmed with Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, that the APRS back-end developed by himself and Rob Jacobson, KB9AFT, will be available for our use; Ted will not be available for testing and will not be available on the voice-net the day of the event. Jeff further confirmed that all stations are covered except Upper River Road.

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. Our hamfest is registered/sanctioned by the ARRL; hamfest materials from ARRL including gift certificates have been received. Eric has arranged for door prizes from Universal Radio. He has also received a \$10 gift-certificate door prize from RF Adapter Guy.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has confirmed that the Masonic Lodge will provide food concession to help raise funds for their military-veterans projects.

Eric has applied for Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACCVB) Tourism Grant.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, confirmed via email that he will be handling indoor table reservations; he has received one request.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ confirmed via email that the VE Session is arranged.

Eric reminded the membership that the Jackson Hamfest will be Saturday, April 29, the day before the Athens Hamfest.

ARRL Field Day 2017 – June 24-25, 2017

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced that the Athens County Fairgrounds is reserved. The demolition derby is the weekend prior. The Athens 9-1-1 mobile tower has been reserved. The Third Sun Solar trailer has been requested; we are still awaiting word back from Third Sun Solar. The Field Day 2017 Packet is available on ARRL.org and has been downloaded.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he has invited Mayor Patterson to visit the FD site and to declare Amateur Radio Operator Appreciation Days; the mayor's office has already accepted the invitation to visit the FD site and present the proclamation.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he has invited the Athens County Commissioners to visit the FD site and to declare Amateur Radio Operator Appreciation Days.

New Business

Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Sunday, May 7, 2017; 9am – 5pm

<https://www.usacycling.org/events/getflyer.php?permit=2017-660>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he has four operators confirmed: himself; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; Mike Cooper, KC8WMY; and Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ. Jeff is seeking additional operators.

Thunderbunny Ultra-Marathon – Saturday, May 13, 2017

<http://www.thunderbunny50k.com/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, explained that the Thunderbunny Ultra-Marathon is a 50K / 25K / 12K run in Strouds Run State Park

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he has two operators confirmed; he thinks we will need 8 to 10 operators to properly cover the course.

Athens Public Library presentation on Amateur Radio

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, told the group that Todd Bastin, Adult Programming Coordinator at the Athens Public Library, has invited the ACARA to present a program on Amateur Radio at the library. He has dates open in spring and summer. Eric asked who might be interested in doing such a presentation. An honorarium from the library is available to presenters. No volunteers came forward at the meeting.

ACARA Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the members that last month Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had asked if there was interest in the club building a DMR repeater as a way to keep one of the repeater frequency pairs currently held by Bill Creighton, K8TUT, in Athens. (“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 reported via email that he has left a message with Bill Creighton, K8TUT, about the frequencies. He also reported that Bill Warthman, K8WJW, is researching in order to build his own DMR repeater. Eric mentioned that Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, has experience with DMR and has expressed interest in helping to deploy an ACARA DMR repeater.

ACARA email problem

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, alerted the members that some emails sent via the mail-list are failing to be delivered. Eric contacted OU OIT on February 24; OIT generated a work order (#458735) to fix the problem but Eric hasn't yet heard back on this work order.

Since this problem was first noticed, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has split the ACARA mail-list into multiple sets of addresses; this seems to have solved the problem for all but those members with Roadrunner (rr.com) addresses. Jeff is also working on correcting some incorrect email addresses within the mail list and is working to develop a database with call signs, names, and addresses for the treasurer.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ.