

Today is World Amateur Radio Day:

**World Amateur Radio Day on April 18 Marks IARU's 92nd Anniversary**  
(from ARRL Bulletin)

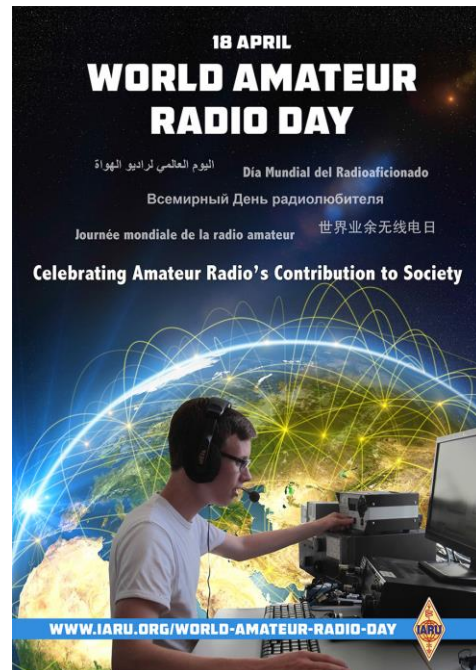
World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) on Tuesday, April 18, will mark the 92nd anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), and radio amateurs around the world will take to the airwaves to celebrate the day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. "Celebrating Amateur Radio's Contribution to Society" in the WARD theme.

Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that the shortwave spectrum — far from being a wasteland — could support worldwide propagation. In the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, Amateur Radio was "in grave danger of being pushed aside," IARU's history notes. Amateur Radio pioneers, including ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, met in Paris in 1925 and created the IARU to support Amateur Radio worldwide.

Just 2 years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, Amateur Radio gained the allocations still recognized today — 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. Since its founding, the IARU has worked tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio. Thanks to the support of enlightened administrations in every part of the globe, radio amateurs are now able to experiment and communicate in frequency bands strategically located throughout the radio spectrum.

From the 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925, the IARU has grown to include 160 member-societies in three regions. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of Amateur Radio.

Today, Amateur Radio is more popular than ever, with more than 3 million licensees! World Amateur Radio Day is the day when IARU member-societies can demonstrate the capabilities of Amateur Radio to the public and enjoy global friendship with other radio amateurs around the globe.



***Program***

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, discussed his experiences with Arduino-based electronics projects. He had on display an Arduino-based lightning-detector, an Arduino-based electronic keyer, and the modules necessary to build an Arduino-based APRS IGate.

***Attendance***

Eric McFadden, Chair	WD8RIF
John Biddle	W8PG
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
John Thomas	KC8JWZ
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Carl J. Denbow	N8VZ
Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
Josh Cash	KE8EAS
Robert G. Riordan	KA4VNK
Ty Smathers	KE8GSO

***Corrections/additions of Minutes***

The only correction to the minutes of 3/21/17 is to delete the first line which read: "AGENDA -2017-03-21". With that change, Carl Denbow, N8VZ, moved to accept the minutes. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, seconded the motion. It passed.

***Treasurer's Report***

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the Treasurer's Report. The Repeater Autopatch bill has already been paid and so does not appear under "ENCUMBERED FUNDS". We might drop the Autopatch in the future. In answer to a question, Jim stated that most people had already paid their dues, with only a few hold-outs. He will email reminders to them. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, moved to approve the minutes. John Thomas, KC8JWZ, seconded the proposal. It passed by voice vote.

*Old Business*

## VHF Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the repeater failed several times during the Athens Marathon; we need to determine if these failures were due to loss of receive-sensitivity or loss of transmitter-output—Eric suspects the former. Eric will replace the DR-1X with the old analog/FM RF-deck prior to the Athens Hamfest.

Eric announced that he received a “Collocation Application” from American Tower on 2017-03-07. He completed and submitted the application. American Tower responded on 2017-03-22 with a lease rate of \$125/month starting 2018-01-01 with an annual escalator of 3%. Eric consulted with the Executive Committee and he and Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, researched contracts with previous owners of the tower. On 2017-03-29 Eric contacted American Tower, explaining that the ACARA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a small membership, and the repeater is used primarily for public-service and emergency communications. He asked that the lease fee be reduced to the current zero dollars per month; American Tower agreed to drop the first year’s lease fee to \$50/month, with the \$125/month fee taking effect the second year. Eric reported that Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, had found four ARRL Volunteer Legal Counsels for Ohio. Eric contacted the ARRL Volunteer Counsels via email and sent them ACARA’s contracts with the tower’s previous owners. The consensus is there is no legal recourse to the new lease fee.

Eric reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had contacted Athens County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications about the possibility of moving the repeater to the adjacent 9-1-1 tower. A site visit by the 9-1-1 technician Brian; Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; and Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, was made on 2017-03-14. Brian told those members that the 9-1-1 group will be removing several antennas from the tower and that there should be room for the ACARA’s 2m repeater antenna on the tower. Brian also showed them the 9-1-1 center’s wooden, climate-controlled building which also has available internet and said there’s room within for the 2m repeater and the APRS digipeater. Brian is not in a position to offer the ACARA space on the tower or in the building—the ACARA will have to seek permission from Athens County 9-1-1 Director Dan Pfeiffer and from the Athens County Commissioners.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, moved to authorize the Executive Committee to negotiate moving the 2m antenna and feedline to the 9-1-1 tower and to hire a climber to do the job. Robert Riordan KA4VNK, seconded the proposal. The motion passed.

Eric asked Jeff to contact Dan Pfeiffer and the Athens County Commissioners about ACARA use of the tower and building.

## UHF Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the new UHF repeater is still not installed. Because of difficulties building the kit-version of the RC210, Jeff has ordered a fully assembled (personal) RC210 to try the system out with the ADR-Interface connected. The system still hangs up in the transmit mode when switching between analog and digital modes.

Jeff also would like to replace the repeater’s existing UHF Hustler antenna with a commercial-grade antenna. He made a motion for the Executive Committee to research this possibility. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### Red Cross Antenna Session

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has all the parts, but has not yet installed an entrance head in the wall. He will email the group when this is ready.

#### Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 1, 2017, 9am – 2pm

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported there were 180 runners on the course, supported by 9 operators. It was a sunny day, but recent rains made travel to the event challenging and the course muddy.

#### Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 9, 2017

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ reported there were 24 operators helping in this race. An excerpt from the Athens News follows in the Appendix. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF pointed out the ACARA logo on the Marathon banner in the article—see Appendix A.

#### Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 30, 2017

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, gave a recap: The Athens Community Center has been reserved; the rental fee remains the same as in previous years, \$300. The 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. Eric has received a \$10 gift-certificate door prize from “RF Adapter Guy”. The Masonic Lodge will provide the food concession to help raise funds for their military-veterans projects. Eric has applied for an Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACCVB) Tourism Grant. The VE Session is all arranged.

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reports that Roger Smallwood at R&L Electronics sent a Baofeng UV6R HT in response to Jim’s request for a door-prize donation.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, has picked up the door prizes from Universal Radio; these include a Baofeng BF-888 UHF HT.

Eric has arranged for use of Ron Chapman, Sr.’s PA system.

Eric asked those present for volunteers for the different assignments.

The Athens Community Center walk-through was scheduled for Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM.

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

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has almost enough operators. The races begin at 10am, but he wants operators to be in position at 9.

Thunderbunny Ultra-Marathon – Saturday, May 13

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, still needs to do some research on this. Where are good positions to place operators? Can we use the repeater, or is it in the shadow of the hills, so we need to rely on simplex? There is still a problem of finding enough operators to cover the course. The question of supporting it remains unresolved.

Athens Public Library presentation on Amateur Radio

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership 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. Todd 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.

ARRL Field Day 2017 – June 24-25, 2017

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF said that Third Sun Solar's solar-trailer is available for use; Third Sun will be selling the trailer after Field Day.

## **New Business**

Red Cross Anniversary

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Athens Chapter of the American Red Cross. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, proposed that we set up a Special Event Station to mark the milestone. We could do it sometime in August. QST would have to be notified by June. There was no action taken on this proposal. Note: the Red Cross call sign is WA8ARC.

Donation to Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, noted that we are using the Red Cross Chapterhouse free of charge. He moved to give them a donation of \$50. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, seconded the motion. It passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm

Respectfully submitted, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ

Appendix A

Monday, April 10, 2017

SPORTS

# Fifty years and running...

## Athens Marathon celebrates half a century



Above photo: The 50th annual Athens Marathon (along with the Half Marathon) gets underway in uptown Athens early Sunday morning. The race results were not available at The Athens NEWS' print deadline early Sunday afternoon. Photo at left: Ellsworth Holden Jr., one of the founders of the Athens Marathon, was on hand Sunday for the race. "That first year we had 37 runners," he said. The 2017 edition had 850 competitors in the half and full Marathon races. How many of them ran in that original race in 1967? "None," Holden laughed.