

Program – There was no program this month due to significant club business to work through; slideshows of Field Day and Ohio State Parks on the Air were shown during the meeting.

Member News – Andy Young, KD8WVX, is currently in Florida, having been deployed as an EMT following Hurricane Irma. Andy is Team Leader in charge of a strike team consisting of five ambulances. Andy initially reported to a Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Tallahassee, which moved south to Orlando, and then moved further south to Boca Raton; currently, Andy is operating in Ft. Myers under control of the FOB in Boca Raton. Andy reports that in Lee County, Florida (which includes Ft. Myers) the public service communications system went down and 911 crews were being dispatched by amateur radio operators.

A short slideshow of photos provided by Andy followed this announcement.

Attendance

John Biddle	W8PG
Kevin Croissant	KE8HRK
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Carl J. Denbow	N8VZ
Eric McFadden, Chair	WD8RIF
Tony Milluzzi	KD8RTT
Robert Moore	KC8KSM
John Thomas	KC8JWZ

Silent Keys

Gary Carter, KD8MSR, and Don Carter, KA8PJQ, lost their father, Bernard Carter, on September 9, 2017.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/athensmessenger/obituary.aspx?n=bernard-carter&pid=186630336&fhid=15431>

Connie Hamilton, N8IO, former ARRL Assistant Section Manager for southeastern Ohio, died on September 9, 2017.

<http://www.mariettatimes.com/obituaries/2017/09/connie-1-hamilton/>

Of Connie, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, wrote via email,

Connie Hamilton, N8IO, was a great friend of amateur radio. The [obituary](#) doesn't list everything in amateur radio. She was traffic manager for several years for the Ohio Single Side Band Net, active with the Buckeye Belles and was Assistant Section Manager for southeast Ohio. She was a regular attendee at the Athens and SCARF ham fests and others throughout southern Ohio along with many Field Day sites. Connie was the one who recommended my appointment as District Emergency Coordinator. Connie and her enthusiasm for amateur radio along with her famous hugs will be sadly missed.

Corrections/additions of Minutes

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, moved that the minutes from 5/16/17 be approved. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the report. Unencumbered funds total \$1,836. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, added that \$250 grant from Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau has arrived; the ACARA had applied for this grant to help with Athens Hamfest promotion.

Old Business

VHF Repeater

Jeff Slattery N8SUZ, wrote via email that Aaron Maynard of Athens 9-1-1 notified him that the new simulcast system is verified and the ACARA is awaiting permission from the County Commissioners to move the ACARA VHF repeater to the 9-1-1 tower at the Peach Ridge site. Jeff has contacted the Commissioners but has not yet seen our request appear in their meeting agendas. If Jeff hears nothing soon, he will email Joanne Sikorski to determine the ACARA's next steps.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF reported that Jeff Slattery N8SUZ, has tried unsuccessfully to contact the right person at Athens City to discuss the fate of the Athens City Police Department equipment in our repeater building.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggested that we adopt a new frequency pair for the VHF repeater, due to widespread interference on the current repeater output frequency. No conclusion was reached.

UHF Repeater

Jeff Slattery N8SUZ, was absent, so no report was given.

Red Cross Antenna Session

Jeff Slattery N8SUZ, reported via email that he was "going to try to get the coax entrance head for the radio room done in the next week or so. Will send out info on antenna party after."

June Picnic

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported the picnic was well attended and was a success. Thanks go to Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, for reserving the shelter; to Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, for cooking the burgers and brats; and to everyone who brought food to share.

Attendees:

John Biddle, W8PG
Josh Cash, KEA8EAS
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Kathy Curtis
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Jane Denbow
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRZ
Linsey Groeneveld, KD8KNA
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Kate McFadden, KD8KNB
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ
Bob Moore, KC8KSM
Esther Moore
Daniel Post
Edie Post
Rich Post, KB8TAD

ARRL Field Day 2017 – June 24-25, 2017

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported the ACARA competed in Class 1A at the Athens Fairgrounds, inside the large brick building. The operation made 837 QSO's on HF and 6m, made one FM satellite QSO, and earned 1,250 bonus points. Kudos go to recently-licensed Josh Cash, KE8EAS, who made 317 CW QSOs on HF and a very large percentage of the 6m QSOs, and to Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, who made nearly all of the 6m QSOs that Josh didn't. Thanks go to Athens 9-1-1 for use of their mobile crank-up tower; to Erik Peterson at Fern Hollow Farm for use of his mobile solar array; to Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, for catering Saturday supper, Sunday breakfast, and Sunday lunch; to Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, for reserving the building and providing his call sign and HF amplifier; to John McCutcheon, N8XWO, for providing the entire 6m station; and to everyone who helped in set-up, operations, and tear-down.

The Field Day site was visited by reporters from The Athens News (Dennis Powell) and from The Athens Messenger (Larry Di Giovanni) and a story in each paper came the following week:

The Athens News:

https://www.athensnews.com/news/local/radio-event-local-elsewhere-tests-emergency-preparedness/article_0736c02e-59dc-11e7-ae16-f70cd13edac1.html

The Athens Messenger:

https://www.athensmessenger.com/news/field-day-power-outage-tests-local-ham-radio-operators-skills/article_becca2c0-66b3-51d9-9da9-ecf3ae9f601a.html

Participants:

DJ Amireh, KE8BCX
Michael Baxter
Gary Carter, KD8MSR
Josh Cash, KE8EAS
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Bob Moore, KC8KSM
Robert Riordan, KA4VNK
Andy Young, KD8WVX

A full report by Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, can be viewed on his website:
http://wd8rif.com/fd_2017.htm

A slideshow of Field Day photographs was shown.



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A view of the Field Day site



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Josh Cash, KE8EAS, operates HF; Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, logs

Ohio State Parks on the Air – September 9, 2017

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that despite a forecast for terrible propagation conditions, the ACARA operating as W8UKE at Stroud's Run State Park made a record 225 QSOs and contacted 35 Ohio State Parks for a score of 7,900 points. (For comparison, last year the ACARA made 102 QSOs and contacted 23 Ohio State Parks for a score of 2,371 points.) Thanks go to Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, for reserving the Bulldog Shelter; to Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, for serving as OSPOTA Captain and providing the HF rig; to operators Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, Josh Cash, KE8EAS, Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, Kevin Croissant, KE8HRK, and Brynn Riordan, KD8JDH; to Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, for cooking; and to everyone who helped with set-up and tear-down.

Participants:

Josh Cash, KE8EAS
Kevin Croissant, KE8HRK
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT
Bob Moore, KC8KSM
Brynn Riordan, KD8JDH
Robert Riordan, KA4VNK
Jessie Robinson, KE8HRJ

A slideshow of OSPOTA photographs was given.

Jeff Slattery N8SUZ reported via email that he activated Jackson Lake State Park for OSPOTA, making 43 QSOs and contacting 30 Ohio State Parks.



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Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, operates; Josh Cash, KE8EAS logs

New Business

A Report on the Ohio University Amateur Radio Club, W8PZS

Ohio University Amateur Radio Club President Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, and Kevin Croissant, KE8HRK, reported on progress at the OU Ham Club. They now have money from Ohio University Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) to obtain new equipment. Several projects are in the works including a sophisticated amateur-satellite ground-station. Dr. Frank Van Graas with Avionics is working to become licensed so he may become the new club advisor and trustee, taking over from Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ.

New Officer Nominations

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

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, proposed that nominations be postponed until the October meeting, due to the low attendance at this one. Carl Denbow, N8VZ seconded. The motion carried.

Upcoming Runs and Marathons:

Jeff Slattery N8SUZ, was not present at the meeting. However, he sent lists of participants for last year's events, which were passed around for people to sign up for the upcoming events. Watch for further information on these events from Jeff.

Buckeye Trail Run for the Blue Blazes – Saturday, October 7, 2017

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

Komen Athens Race for the Cure – Sunday, October 15, 2017

http://www.info-komen.org/site/TR/RacefortheCure/CLM_ColumbusAffiliate?pg=entry&fr_id=6963

Bobcat Trail Marathon – Saturday, November 4, 2017

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

Of the Bobcat Trail Marathon, Jeff Slattery N8SUZ wrote via email:

Thanks to Ted, W8KVK, just got the heads up that the Bobcat Trail Marathon folks changed from Sunday to Saturday for their race this year plus they've added a half marathon. They are also offering GPS tracking for their runners via cellphones. This will be interesting since cell coverage is minimal or non-existent over much of the park.

The marathon will start, as usual, from Burr Oak Lodge, but at 8:00 AM instead of 7:00. The half marathon will start at 8:30 AM from the shelter house at Dock 4.

Red Cross Centennial Special Event Station K8R – November 1 – 15, 2017

<http://www.ac-ara.org/wordpress/k8r/>

Jeff Slattery N8SUZ, wrote via email that participants can operate from home using the K8R call sign during the special event period.

Watch for additional information about this event from Jeff.

Meeting adjourned 8:09 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ.