

Program – Due to the many items on the agenda, there was no program .

Member News –

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced that Universal Radio, a store which many in the Club use for amateur gear, is moving to Westerville.

Attendance

Eric McFadden, Chair	WD8RIF	
John Biddle	W8PG	
Robert Moore	KC8KSM	
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB	
John Thomas	KC8JWZ	
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV	
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ	
Andy Young	KD8WVX	
Carl J. Denbow	N8VZ	
Josh Cash	KE8EAS	
Tyler Hooker	AK5HT	
Robin Rose	Guest	
Rob Rose	Guest	
David Bradley	N8DWB	(Red Cross)

Corrections/additions of Minutes

The minutes for the September meeting were passed around. Some typos were noted.

Andy Young, KD8WVX, moved to accept the minutes as corrected. John Thomas, KC8JWZ, seconded the motion, which passed.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the Treasurer's Report. The total unencumbered funds are about \$927. We have to pay about \$300/year for equipment insurance and the same amount for liability insurance.

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, moved to accept the report. John Thomas, KC8JWZ, seconded the motion. It passed.

Old Business

VHF Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he attended the Athens County Board of County Commissioners Meeting on September 26. Thanks to groundwork well-laid by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, the Commissioners consented to allow the ACARA to locate the VHF repeater on the Athens County 9-1-1 tower at the Peach Ridge Road site. The County's law office is currently generating the no-fee lease document. Once this document is signed, ACARA can coordinate with Aaron Maynard to move the equipment to the tower and building. The minutes of the September 26 Athens County Board of County Commissioners Meeting are available here:

http://www.co.athensoh.org/document_center/Commissioners%20Office/2017/Sept.26.17.M.wpd.pdf

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, submitted the following via email 2017-10-05: Spoke with Lt. Aaron Maynard from 9-1-1 at LEPC (the Local Emergency Planning Commission, ed.) yesterday. He said he gave a copy of my request letter to the prosecutor who is working on writing up the lease agreement which will basically allow us to transfer to their tower for free, that we will incur the costs of mounting our antennas and feedlines, etc. and will be for a period of five years. Also that should they need the space for the county, we would have to move. He said that probably won't happen since there will still be plenty of space. He said any old equipment has already been removed. We are just waiting on the prosecutor to put all that into the legalese the state requires. Once we have the signed and approved contract we should be able to make the move so we may want to start investigating a climber to accomplish our move.”

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, additionally submitted on 2017-10-17 that he has been corresponding with Athens City. Tom Pyle, Athens City Chief of Police, told Jeff via email, “The city definitely has radio resources in the building and on the tower, including our main APD VHF repeater and voter system, however, we have never paid any lease to have those resources placed there, nor have we been approached by any owner or business affiliate etc. to sign a lease. Until the City is formally approached to vacate or sign a lease, we have no intention of taking any action. If we are approached to sign a lease, we will consider/negotiate terms at that time.”

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that due the ACARA's contract with the City of Athens, the City of Athens has "right of first refusal" on the ACARA's repeater building should the ACARA vacate the building. Eric asked how much would ACARA like to see from a sale of the building to the City, should it come to that? A 10'x10' wooden building at Lowe's costs \$898 exclusive of shingles, paint, and floor decking; our building also has a steel door, an aluminum-framed outer door, vinyl siding, electrical wiring with service box, and a Polyphaser entry panel; a replacement Polyphaser entry panel would cost over \$1500. There was some discussion on this, but no conclusion was reached.

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, has been in contact with the climber we used several years ago to install our current antenna and feedline. We may have to take up a collection to pay a climber.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, the repeater trustee, said that the system is currently running with the old RF deck.

UHF Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ was not present, so there was no report.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has suggested that when we move the VHF antenna to the 9-1-1 tower, we might also consider replacing the old 440 MHz antenna at the same time.

Club Construction / Education Project – two-band trap-dipole

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, announced that the project would take place at the Red Cross Chapterhouse on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 2:00 PM. He will buy the parts. An email will be sent out asking members to sign up, so he knows how much to buy.

*(Post-meeting update in the interest of preventing confusion: After the September meeting, the project was rescheduled for 2pm on Sunday, **January 21, 2018** to avoid the SCARF Hamfest which is on the morning of the previously chosen date—WD8RIF)*

Red Cross Antenna Session

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, not being present, there was no report.

The Chair did give an update by saying that the new feed thru must still be installed.

ACARA DMR Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, was not present so there was no report.

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA successfully supported the Buckeye Trail Run for the Blue Blazes Marathon and Half-Marathon which started and finished in Shawnee, Ohio. Operations were on 2m simplex. The organizer has already asked for ACARA support of next year's event, which will happen on Saturday, October 6, 2018.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, submitted via email:

“A big thank you to all of you who helped last weekend with the Blue Blazes Marathon. The Buckeye Trail Association folks were appreciative of our support.”

Participants:

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
John Thomas, KC8JWZ

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, submitted via email:

“A big thank you to all of you who helped...with the Komen Athens Race for the Cure. [T]he contact person from Komen gave a big thank you for today's help. The report today was that over 1100 participants were registered for Komen which is about double from last year. This number will probably continue to grow as more survivors and families hear about this race.

“These public service events provide a lot of visibility for our clubs and reportable volunteer hours the ARRL accumulates through our monthly ARES reports. This helps counter the arguments that big business makes when they try to take some of our radio spectrum by saying we aren't using it for public service.

“It was a great turnout today including two fairly new hams getting their feet wet doing public service events.”

Participants:

Kevin Croissant, KE8HRK
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Lance Groeneveld, KD8KMZ
Jan Slattery, KC8PUJ
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Bob Moore, KC8KSM
Ty Smathers, KE8GSO

Bobcat Trail Marathon – Saturday, November 4, 2017

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, submitted 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.

“(T)he marathon will start, as usual, from Burr Oak Lodge, but at 8:00AM instead of 7:00. The half marathon will start at 8:30AM from the shelter house at Dock 4. The assignment list is attached with names from last year.”

New Business

New Officer Nominations

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Nominations</u>
President –	WD8RIF	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Vice-President –	W8MHV	Josh Cash, KE8EAS
Treasurer –	KC8OVB	Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Secretary –	KD8FRQ	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Newsletter Editor –	KD8WVX	Andy Young, KD8WVX
Webmaster –	N8SUZ	Tyler Hooker, AK5HT
Packet Node Trustee –	N8SUZ	Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Repeater Trustee –	WD8RIF	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, moved to close nominations. Bob Moore, KC8KSM, seconded. The motion passed. Then, Jim moved to vote on the uncontested slate of officers immediately. John Biddle, W8PG, seconded. The officers were voted in by acclimation.

ACARA / SCARF VE Session – Monday, October 23, 2017

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, submitted via email that there is an ACARA / SCARF VE session scheduled for 7pm Monday, October 23 at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio, 100 South May Avenue. Those with the proper certification should come.

ACARA License Class – Mondays January 8 – March 12, 2018

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, submitted via email that he has reserved the Red Cross Chapterhouse for the License Class which begins on Monday, January 8, 2018 and will continue on each Monday for ten weeks. The VE test session will be on Monday, March 12, 2018. Jeff also reserved the Red Cross Chapterhouse for additional test sessions on August 20, 2018 and October 15, 2018.

Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio Centennial Special Event Station K8R – Nov. 1 to 15, 2017

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ submitted via email on 2017-10-16:

“We are running the special event station K8R November 1-15 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio (Athens County Red Cross). Information on the event has been posted to QST magazine and the QRZ contests, DXpeditions and special events forum and a special page on the ACARA web site. The information copy is pasted below:

“I would like to coordinate operators who would like to work the event. Operators may work from your home QTH and use the information below or refer them to QRZ or the ACARA website for QSL requirements. I can also send out an eQSL if the contact prefers that will go out after I confirm logs. There will be a special event QSL card available. I will need electronic logs in ADIF or Cabrillo format ASAP after November 15 for batch uploading to Logbook of the World.

“If you will work the event, please send me the days, hours (UTC), bands, modes and probable starting frequencies you would like to operate. I will create a table or calendar to insert on the website and to link from the QRZ forum.”

ACARA Holiday Dinner

Eric Mc Fadden, WD8RIF, asked about Tuesday, December 19 as the best date for the ACARA's annual Holiday Dinner. The group agreed. Eric will try for December 12 if the 19th does not work. He will try to make a reservation at Stephens on Court St. (<http://www.stephens66.com/>) for the room upstairs. Lui-Lui's will be a second choice. The restaurant at Eclipse is another possibility.

February Potluck – February 17, 2018

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, submitted via email that he has reserved the Red Cross Chapterhouse for February 17, 2018 for the ACARA February Potluck.

Eric Mc Fadden, WD8RIF, noted that an OU basketball home game starts at 3:30pm on this date. In order to allow those attending the game to participate in the Pot Luck, the members present decided that members and guests should gather at 6:00PM and eat at 6:30PM.

Members should bring their own plates, utensils, and beverages in addition to a dish to share.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, will be asked if he will be able to bring an appropriate film to show.

Eric Mc Fadden, WD8RIF, promised to bring a Twilight Zone episode to show.

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 15, 2018

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

Eric Mc Fadden, WD8RIF, explained to newcomers that this is the big event we support every year. The Marathon Committee are always very grateful for our help, and have donated funds in the past to assist our efforts.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 29, 2018

Eric Mc Fadden, WD8RIF noted that Easter is April 1, 2018. We don't want a conflict there. The members present agreed April 29, 2018 will work well for the Athens Hamfest. Eric will apply for ARRL Sanction for the hamfest and will contact the Athens Community Center to reserve the use thereof for the hamfest.

Club Building Project? – MF/HF Arduino-Based Antenna Analyzer

<http://qrpguys.apps-1and1.com/w8tee-k2zia-antenna-analyzer>

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggests “Build Your Own Arduino-Based Antenna Analyzer”, by Jack Purdum (W8TEE) and Farrukh Zia (K2ZIA), in the November, 2017 QST, pp 40-44, as a club building project.

The questions were asked: Is there interest in the club to do this build as a group? Who is willing and able to source/acquire the parts for a build? Several members present are interested in building the antenna analyzer but there were no volunteers at the meeting willing to order parts and lead the build.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, will watch the QRPGuys website (<http://www.qrpguys.com/>) to see if at some point they offer a complete kit for this antenna analyzer. (At the time of this meeting, QRPGuys offers only the printed circuit board for the antenna analyzer.)

10 Meter Contest.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, explained that the NC8V Memorial Trophy is annually awarded to the ACARA member achieving the highest score in the ARRL's annual 10 Meter Contest and that the trophy is awarded at the ACARA's annual Holiday Dinner. Currently, Josh Cash, KE8EAS, holds the NC8V Memorial Trophy. Eric also explained that the ACARA competes as a club in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Eric will advise us by email of the date of ARRL 10 Meter Contest.

Meeting adjourned 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ.