

***Program***

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, presented a photographic tour of Universal Radio's new facility at 651-B Lakeview Plaza Blvd, Worthington.

***Death in the Family***

Nancy McDaniel, wife of Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, died on December 8, 2017 from complications of Parkinson's disease. Nancy's obituary can be viewed here:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/athensmessenger/obituary.aspx?n=nancy-mcdaniel&pid=187481569&fhid=16379>.

***Attendance***

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP  
John Biddle, W8PG (arrived after end of business meeting)  
Josh Cash, KE8EAS (had to leave before start of business meeting)  
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
John Thomas, KC8JWZ

***Corrections/additions of Minutes***

The minutes of the November 21, 2017 meeting were distributed. No errors were noted. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, moved to accept the minutes as distributed. John Thomas, KC8JWZ, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

***Treasurer's Report***

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, presented the Treasurer's Report. Exclusive of dues and donations collected at the meeting, the treasury has \$1,520.05 in unencumbered funds. John Thomas, KC8JWZ, moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Michael Baxla, KE8ICP, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Old Business**

## VHF Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that on November 22, 2017 he learned that Keith Fearon is no longer at American Tower and that we are now to work with Jonathan Crafts at American Tower. Eric has sent two emails to Jonathan Crafts, repeating questions asked earlier of Keith Fearon and asking for a list of approved climbers, but no replies or other communications have been received.

Eric had previously asked Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, to confirm with the climber we used last time, George Fitz, that he (Mr. Fitz) is willing to remove our antenna and feedline from the tower owned by American Tower and mount same on the 9-1-1 tower. Jim has done so and now Eric needs to coordinate with Mr. Fitz and 9-1-1 on a date.

Jim asked Eric for a copy of the signed, notarized agreement with 9-1-1. Eric will get this for him.

Eric reminded the membership that on December 12, 2017, he had established the Repeater Relocation Fund and notified the membership via email and the ACARA website ([http://www.ac-ara.org/?page\\_id=285](http://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=285)). Eric also reminded the membership that at the December 20, 2017 ACARA Holiday Dinner, Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, had announced that he will match member donations to this fund up to a total of \$1,500.

## UHF Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, was not present at the meeting and there was no report on the UHF repeater.

## VHF DMR Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he has formally requested of the Ohio Area Repeater Council (<http://www.oarc.com/>) a coordinated 2-meter frequency pair for an ACARA DMR repeater to be located at the 9-1-1 tower.

Jeff was not present at the meeting and no other information about this project was available.

### APRS Digipeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Packet Node Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has contacted him about the need to relocate the ACARA APRS digipeater to the 9-1-1 building well before the Athens Marathon so Jeff can configure the digipeater as an iGate using the internet connection available in the 9-1-1 building. The digipeater move will involve mounting a mast to the outside of the 9-1-1 building and running a coaxial feedline through the wall. Eric reported that he will ask Jeff to coordinate with 9-1-1 so Jeff and Eric can move the digipeater the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Club Construction Project

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club construction project wherein club members were to build 20m/40m trap dipole antennas finally happened on Sunday, January 21, 2018. Eric reported that ten participants made antennas and four additional members attended the session to watch and/or assist the builders.

The Chair wishes to thank Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, for organizing this project and for providing the materials at no cost to the participants.

More information about this project can be found here:  
<http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=369>.

### Red Cross Antenna Session

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, was not present at the meeting and there was no report on the Red Cross chapterhouse antenna project.

## Ohio State Parks on the Air

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the results have been posted for the September 9, 2017 running of Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) event. The full results can be seen here:

<http://www.ospota.org/ospota/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/OSPOTA2017-Results-25Nov17.pdf>.

Eric reported that the ACARA's activation of Strouds Run State Park again placed 1<sup>st</sup> in "multi-op single-radio low power" class; the framed certificate for this achievement was received by Eric on December 11, 2017.

Eric wishes to extend thanks to Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, for reserving the Bulldog Shelter at Strouds Run; to Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, for serving as OSPOTA Captain and for providing the HF rig; to Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, Josh Cash, KE8EAS, Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT, Kevin Croissant, KE8HRK, and Brynn Riordan, KD8JDH, for operating the station; to Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, for cooking; and to everyone who helped with set-up and tear-down.

Eric further reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had activated Jackson Lake State Park for OSPOTA using his own callsign, placing 8<sup>th</sup> in "single-op low-power" class.

### Winter Field Day – January 27-28, 2018

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that for the first time the ACARA participated in Winter Field Day (<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>). The operation took place Saturday, January 27 on the Riordan farm near Coolville. A total of 119 QSOs were made, the majority of which were 40m SSB. Josh Cash, KE8EAS, made 95 of the QSOs.

Eric wishes to extend thanks to Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, and Brynn Riordan, KB8JDH, for the use of their farm and cottage.

The following members participated:

Josh Cash, KE8EAS

Tyler Hooker, AK5HT, and his young daughter, Zelda

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Miles McFadden, KD8KNC

Bryn Riordan, KB8JDH

Robert Riordan, KA4VNK

Andy Young, KD8WVX

More information about the ACARA's participation in Winter Field Day 2018 can be found at <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=389>.

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA Technician License Class is underway. Five students have attended at least some of the sessions. Eric is confident that at least three of the students are serious enough to pass their test at the end of the class.

## February Potluck – February 17, 2018

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA's February Potluck took place as scheduled on Saturday 17, 2018. The potluck started later in the evening than is usual due to an afternoon OU home basketball game. Eric reported that a sudden afternoon snowstorm resulting in a Level 2 Snow Emergency led to reduced participation in the Potluck.

The following members and guests attended the potluck:

John Biddle, W8PG (added)  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Jane Denbow  
Tyler Hooker, AK5HT  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC  
Brynn Riordan, KB8JDH  
Robert Riordan, KA4VNK  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Eric reported that John McCutcheon again brought one of his 16mm film projectors and this year John screened a 1938 Disney animated film, "Donald's Nephews", which featured Donald Duck and his three nephews, Huey, Dewey, and Louie. Eric screened two Twilight Zone episodes from 1961: "Will the Real Martian Please Stand Up" and "Once Upon a Time" on DVD.

(Corrections: added Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, in participant list; changed "One Upon a Time" to "Once Upon a Time".)

**New Business**

Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 7, 2018, 0800-1300

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA will be supporting the Iron Furnace Trail Run half-marathon on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Members are asked to watch for emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about this event.

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 15, 2018, 0800-1500

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA will be supporting the 51<sup>st</sup> running of the Athens Marathon on Sunday, April 15, 2018.

Members are asked to watch for emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about this event.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 29, 2018

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he applied for and received ARRL sanctioning for the Athens Hamfest on October 19, 2017. He also reserved the Athens Community Center for the hamfest on the same date.

Eric reported that Rich Campitelli no longer works at the Community Center. The club's new point-of-contact at the Community Center is Andrew Chiki, who confirmed our reservation with the same arrangement and cost as last year.

Eric reported that he has confirmed that the Jackson Hamfest is to be held on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>, the day prior to the Athens Hamfest.

Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Sunday, May 6

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that the ACARA will be supporting the Lake Hope Bicycle Race on Sunday, May 6, 2018 from 9am until 5pm. This race is sponsored by the Ohio University Cycling Club.

Communications support for this event will be conducted on the Vinton County repeater on 147.105 MHz (+) (PL 88.5 Hz). Backup will be 146.400 MHz simplex. Most stations will be able to reach the repeater using an HT on high power. A mag mount antenna mounted on a vehicle will give additional gain into the repeater from an HT or a mobile rig running low to medium power.

Members are asked to watch for emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about this event.

## All Athens Special Event Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Carl Denbow, N8VZ, continues to work on his idea of a "Worked All Athens" operating event wherein participants earn a certificate by working hams in places called "Athens" around the United States. On January 15, 2018, Carl asked Eric via email that the following be mentioned at the meeting:

...I have some folks in Athens, Alabama, who are very interested in this special event project. My first contact there is Byron Romine, KM4QCX, who likes the idea and has talked to a few ham friends who have said they would like to participate and would put stations on the air for such an event.

I have not yet sent out my letter using the ARRL labels of hams in or near cities named Athens. I wanted to get some feedback from the folks in Alabama first. I should have a further report latter this evening or tomorrow morning as they are having a club meeting in Athens, AL, tonight and will be officially discussing this project at their meeting.

I hope to send the general letter out sometime within the next week. If other Athenses are as excited by this idea as the Alabamians, we may just have a viable project.

Carl reported the following via email on January 16, 2018:

Byron in Athens, Alabama reported that the idea was well received at the meeting and members felt their club could cover the event without a problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm following a motion by Jim Crouse, KC8OVB; a second by John Thomas, KC8JWZ; and a vote.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, President and Secretary.