

Program

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, presented a well-received session on *Learning Morse Code*.

Attendance

John Biddle, W8PG
Josh Cash, KE8EAS
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl J. Denbow, N8VZ
Tyler Hooker, AK5HT
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Rob Rose, KE8JDA
Robin Rose, KE8JDB
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
John Thomas, KC8JWZ

Corrections/additions of Minutes

The minutes of the February 20, 2018 meeting were distributed. John Biddle, W8PG, identified one omission. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, moved to accept the minutes as amended. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Treasurer's Report was presented by the Chair.

As of March 20, the Repeater Relocation Fund is at \$780. Dues received for 2018 totals \$282. The Treasury has a balance of \$1,486.50 in unencumbered funds

Tyler Hooker, AK5HT, asked if the club might pursue some fund-raising activities to build up the Repeater Relocation Fund. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested we might do a Split-the-Pot at the Athens Hamfest.

The discussion turned to the station equipment of John "Andy" Andracki, KB8ER (SK) which has been donated by Andy's son to the ACARA. John Biddle currently has possession of the gear which includes an ICOM IC-718 transceiver, an Astron RS-20 power supply, an Ameritron AL-811 600-watt amplifier, and a Drake MN-2000 antenna tuner. This equipment is available for purchase by ACARA members and whatever hasn't been sold by April 29 will be sold at the Athens Hamfest. The proceeds from the sales will be applied to the Repeater Relocation Fund. Watch for an email and ACARA website post about availability of this equipment.

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business**VHF Repeater**

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he is trying to schedule a date for the repeater antenna move with climber George Fitz and 9-1-1 Center Coordinator Brian Davis.

UHF Repeater

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he has purchased connectors with which to build the required controller interface cables.

VHF DMR Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Clyde Baker, N8CCM, has a commercial-grade 100-watt VHF business band (154MHz) repeater available at no cost to the ACARA and asked Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, if this equipment would be useful for the proposed VHF DMR Repeater project. Jeff agreed that it would. Jeff will contact Clyde about the repeater and will arrange to take delivery of it for the club. Eric added that Clyde has other equipment, including antennas, available that Clyde may attempt to sell at the Athens Hamfest. Jeff will ask Clyde if he has a commercial-grade VHF repeater antenna available. Eric reminded Jeff that the club still has the retired repeater antenna that might be used for the DMR repeater.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the frequency 146.625MHz has been coordinated for the proposed VHF DMR Repeater.

In response to a question by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, Jeff explained that "DMR" stands for "Digital Mobile Radio". DMR is a digital voice-and-data mode that uses Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) multiplexing, internet-linking, and talk groups. TDMA allows for the simultaneous transmission of both voice and data on a single radio frequency.

APRS Digipeater

Packet-Node Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he is collecting necessary items for the move of the APRS digipeater to the 9-1-1 Center's building at the repeater site. Jeff plans to build and deploy an Arduino-based APRS IGate once the digipeater has been moved to the new building.

Red Cross Antenna Session

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he will soon install the antenna feedline entrance-head and once that's done he will schedule a work party to repair and install the rooftop antennas.

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, read the announcement Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had sent via email to the ACARA membership following the completion of the License Class:

We had a very successful VE test session this evening to complete the recent ACARA Technician license classes. The combined ACARA and SCARF VE team tested four candidates for two new Techs and two new Generals (all started with no license). Three were class participants and one came for the open test session. A total of ten elements were tested.

The two new Technicians are:

Nathan Bradley of Athens (class participant)
Scott B. Nelson of Vinton (open session participant)

The two new Generals who are husband and wife and class participants are:

Robin Rose and Rob Rose both of Amanda

Both Robin and Rob and perhaps Nathan hope to exercise their new licenses at the Athens Marathon.

Congratulations to these new licensees and now new ACARA club members. Congrats and thanks to our VE team of Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, Josh Cash, KE8EAS, Scott Green, KD8KZG, Jason Licht, KG8JL and Coordinator/Team Liaison Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ and to the instructors who taught sessions during the license class – Jeff, Eric, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ and Drew McDaniel, W8MHV

(Correction: while the above accurately reflects Jeff Slattery's communication, Rob and Robin Rose actually reside in Nelsonville, not in Amanda – WD8RIF)

Photos of all four of the the successful applicants are available for viewing at <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=413>.

ACARA Website & Email Changes

Tyler Hooker, AK5HT, reported he has identified a WordPress template to use in the ACARA website re-design and hopes to deploy it soon.

New Business

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

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the ACARA will be supporting the Iron Furnace Trail Run half-marathon in Zaleski State Forest on Saturday, April 7, 2018. Volunteers should watch for additional emails as the event approaches.

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that as of the morning of the 19th, there were 326 Full Marathon registrations, 749 Half Marathon registrations, and 23 Half Marathon Competitive Walk registrations, for a total of 1,098 registrations. This is up from last year's total of 838 registrations, and there are 26 days left to register. Most of the increase is in the Half Marathon.

Eric also reported that with the move of Tim Creamer, KD8YBE, away from Southeast Ohio, we've lost our Full Marathon Female Lead bicycle-mobile station. Debbie Brewer, Athens Marathon Volunteer Coordinator, will contact the Athens bicycle club to try to find a bicyclist to ride with the Full Marathon Female Lead while carrying an ACARA MicroTrak AIO APRS tracker. Eric reported Debbie has already found a non-ham bicyclist to ride with the Half Marathon Lead; this rider will not carry APRS.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he needs one additional operator to work the first shift at West State Street Park. Any interested parties should contact Jeff at N8SUZ@yahoo.com.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 29, 2018

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that on February 27 he submitted an application for the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism Grant.

Eric reported the ARRL hamfest sanction package was received on March 1.

Eric reported he requested door prizes from Universal radio on March 19 and has already received confirmation of availability of same.

Eric reported he requested a door prize from DX Engineering on March 19 but has not yet received a reply. He explained that he had seen that MOVARC gave away a \$50 gift certificate from DX Engineering at their Gallipolis Hamfest.

Eric reported that he has received a door prize gift certificate from RF Adapter Guy.

Eric stated he will ask Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, to contact R&L Electronics to ask for door prizes.

Via a text to Carl Denbow, N8VZ, during the meeting, Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, confirmed that he will again donate a Yaesu dual-band HT as a major prize. (Drew was not able to attend this month's meeting.)

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, volunteered to contact Glenn Davis, N3FJP, to ask for the donation of a copy of his N3FJP logging software (<http://www.n3fjp.com/>) for a door prize. Josh explained that N3FJP has been donating to SCARF's hamfest for several years.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, volunteered to contact MFJ for door prizes.

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, suggested the club might wish buy advertising for the Athens Hamfest on Facebook. After discussion, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made a motion that Josh be authorized to spend \$20 for a Facebook advertisement to run the first week of April. The motion was seconded by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, and the motion passed by acclamation. We will look next month at running another advertisement in late April.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, announced he will post about the hamfest on QRZ.com, something he has done annually for several years.

Eric announced he will give copies of the hamfest flyer to someone to deliver to the March 24 Charleston Hamfest. He will contact via email those members who he thinks will be attending the Charleston Hamfest.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, confirmed he will again handle the hamfest email announcement but he needs an updated email list from Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. Eric will contact Jim about this and will also ask Jim what help he needs to prepare hamfest postcards for mailing.

Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Sunday, May 6

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported 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.

Jeff still needs a few more operators for this event. Interested parties should contact Jeff at N8SUZ@yahoo.com.

Thunderbunny 50K – Saturday, May 12

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the ACARA has been asked to support the Thunderbunny 50K, a 50 kilometer trail run on the trails in Strouds Run State Park. The organizer is expecting 350 runners.

Discussion followed and the consensus was that the club's heavy schedule of events in April and May will make finding volunteers to work this event challenging.

Watch for emails from Jeff about this event. Interested parties should contact Jeff at N8SUZ@yahoo.com.

ARRL Field Day – June 23-24, 2018

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Field Day 2018 rules are available on the ARRL website. There are no substantive rules changes for 2018.

Eric reported that he has been contacted by Paula Carpenter, Secretary of the Fairboard and our contact on the Fairboard. Paula explained that the Fairboard has a new system in place for reserving use of the Fairgrounds facilities and that all users are now being charged for use of the Fairgrounds. Paula will submit our request for the use of the Fairgrounds Field Day weekend and will make a case for our continued fee-free use of the Fairgrounds using justification provide by Eric. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported that he knows another member of the Fairboard and volunteered to speak with him about our use of the Fairgrounds for Field Day. Should the Fairboard vote not go our way, the fee to use the Fairgrounds may be as high as \$125. Eric suggested we start thinking of alternate Field Day locations, just in case.

Eric reported that he has verified the availability of the 9-1-1 Center's mobile tower.

Eric reported that the ACARA might not have solar power for Field Day 2018. Last year, the new owner of the solar-demonstration trailer formerly owned by Third Sun Solar required Eric to sign a contract on behalf of the ACARA agreeing to pay for any repairs to

the trailer, including damage to the tires, that might occur while the ACARA was using the trailer. Eric's concern is the trailer has probably been parked all year, and the tires and brakes may not be in a trustworthy state. Eric emailed Third Sun Solar and confirmed that they no longer have a new solar-demonstration trailer the club could use. Eric will contact Dovetail Solar to ask they have a solar-demonstration trailer the club can use for Field Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43pm following a motion by Rob Rose, KE8JDA; a second by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; and a vote.

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