

Program:

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, presented "RF Grounding: Best Practices". The presentation was well received and produced several comments and questions.

Josh's PowerPoint presentation is available here:

<http://www.ac-ara.org/minutes/2018/RF-Grounding-Presentation-Nov2018.pptx>

Silent Keys

Russell Wilson, KD8RW, president of Morgan County ARC

"We are saddened to report that Russell Wilson, KE8BUP became a silent key last Friday at the age of 48. Russell was a driving force behind the resurrection of the Morgan County amateur radio club and was helping to recruit amateur radio volunteers for Red Cross of Southeast Ohio to serve the Morgan County area. Russell attended a few of our ACARA/SCARF VE sessions to assist. The link to his obituary is below. Please keep thoughts and prayers for the family." – Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, via email October 30, 2018

Russell Wilson Obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/zanesvilletimesrecorder/obituary.aspx?n=russell-a-wilson&pid=190600686&fhid=16527>

William M. Johnson, Jr., formerly licensed as KA8YMH

"Sadly, another local ham has become a Silent Key. William M. Johnson, Jr., former KA8YMH of The Plains passed away on Friday, November 16, 2018. Bill let his license expire as his health declined several years ago. He was a Navy veteran of The Korean War where he served as a ship-board radio operator. He later took over the Johnson's Upholstery family business from his father William M. Johnson, Sr. Older members of ACARA may speak to his activity with the club." – Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, via email on November 18, 2018

Obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/zanesvilletimesrecorder/obituary.aspx?n=russell-a-wilson&pid=190600686&fhid=16527>

Attendance:

Josh Cash, KE8EAS
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Rob Rose, KE8JDA
Robin Rose, KE8JDB
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

In the absence of President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, the meeting was chaired by Vice-President Josh Cash, KE8EAS.

Corrections/Additions to Minutes:

Following the distribution of the October 16, 2018 Minutes, one mistake was identified to be corrected. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made a motion to accept the corrected minutes. Rob Rose, KE8JDA, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, distributed the Treasurer's Report, which showed the club's treasury holds \$4,106.50 in unencumbered funds.

Drew has been unable to find complete information in the financial records to identify who donated to the Repeater Relocation Fund or what the donation amounts were. This information is needed before Drew can make his matching donation to the Repeater Relocation Fund. Drew would like to be able to reconstruct this information within the following two or three weeks. Drew will ask President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, if his PayPal account shows donations.

Drew has been working with Carl Denbow, N8VZ, on the renewal of the ACARA's 501(c)(3) status. Carl has suggested the ACARA work with a local attorney. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, volunteered to help; he has experience working with the Masons and their 501(c)(3) status.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business

VHF Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported via email that the 145.15 MHz repeater continues to work fine. He is working to schedule the climber, George Fitz, to move the repeater antenna and feedline from the tower now owned by American Tower to the 9-1-1 tower at the same site before winter hits.

UHF Repeater

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had nothing new to report on the club's UHF repeater.

VHF DMR Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had nothing new to report on the proposed VHF DMR repeater

APRS Digipeater

Digipeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had nothing new to report on the APRS Digipeater.

Red Cross Antenna Session

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the original Red Cross antenna session was rescheduled and that due to concerns the Red Cross had about the roof, the antenna work was done by the Red Cross's roofers.

Jeff reports the following work was performed:

- replaced 2-meter Ringo with a new dual-band antenna with better gain;
- replaced brackets, used new weighted bases, also used extra roofing fabric/plywood; Jeff has learned that sandbags don't work well on the roof because they will break down over time;
- installed Hustler 5-BTV vertical for HF use;
- installed 40m end fed Zepp antenna in NVIS configuration;
- installed a 2-meter Ringo for APRS;
- installed 6m vertical in a tripod base

Jeff reported that not all coax is in the building yet; he will finish up this weekend. The ACARA's Icom 718 is the current HF radio and Jeff has provided an LDG Autotuner to use with it.

Jeff reported that now the room can be used more reliably for emergency use.

Pictures of antennas are on the club's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AthensCountyARA>.

Bobcat Trail Marathon – Saturday, November 10, 2018

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that eight operators provided 46 hours of service, providing communications support to the Buckeye Trail Marathon (<http://www.buckeyetrail.org/run4blue.php>).

Participants:

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Jeremy Duncan, KC8QDQ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Rob Rose, KD8JDA
Robin Rose, KD9JDB
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (net control)

Jeff reported that the weather for the event was cold and windy. The event was free of major injuries but some runners collapsed and others fell in water; many runners needed SAG support.

The organizers were happy for our participation, stating they could not put on the event without amateur radio support. They are counting on us for next year's event. Jeff will update the club's calendar when he learns of the event date. He thinks it will be likely to occur on the second Saturday of November in 2019.

ACARA Holiday Dinner

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported via email that he visited Lui Lui (<http://luiluirestaurant.com/>) and reserved the big room for the evening of Tuesday, December 18. Eric will work with Lui Lui management on the punch and appetizer menu.

The assembled members discussed the time of the Holiday Dinner. It was decided to meet at Lui Lui at 5:30pm for punch and appetizers and dinners will be ordered from the menu at 6pm.

ACARA Technician License Class 2019

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the 2019 ACARA Technician License Class is set to begin on Monday, January 7, 2019. Classes will meet 7pm through 9pm Mondays starting on January 7 and continuing through March 11, 2019.

Jeff asks members to spread the word about the class.

Jeff has reserved the Red Cross meeting room for class sessions and the VE testing session. He has scheduled instructors and will be ordering six to eight copies of the newest ARRL book.

Jeff has registered the VE session with ARRL.

ACARA February Potluck – Saturday, February 16, 2019

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has reserved the Red Cross meeting room for the date of the potluck.

Eric reported via email that he has asked John McCutcheon, N8XWO, if he will be able to bring a film projector and a short film to share; John is working to find a suitable short film.

Athens Marathon 2019 – Sunday, April 14, 2019

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported via email that 2019 running of the Athens Marathon is to be on Sunday, April 14, 2019.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 28, 2019

WD8RIF reported via email that he has registered the hamfest with ARRL. He also contacted Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau on October 22 to ask when we might apply for the tourism grant; the application will appear on the ACCVB website in mid-January.

New Business

Iron Furnace Trail Run – April 6, 2019?

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the 2019 Iron Furnace Trail Run is usually the first Saturday in April so we should anticipate the event being held on April 6, 2019. Jeff will provide an update when more information is available.

ARRL 10-Meter Contest & NC8V Memorial Trophy – December 8-9, 2019

WD8RIF reported via email that ACARA members are reminded to participate in this year's ARRL 10-Meter Contest on the weekend of December 8-9, 2019. The club competes in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest as a club and all member submissions count toward the ACARA's score.

The ACARA member submitting the highest score in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest will earn the "NC8V Memorial Trophy", a trophy that is presented annually in recognition of the life and accomplishments of past-member John Cornwell, NC8V (SK).

More details are available at <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=718>.

ARRL Special Service Club

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he feels the ACARA can qualify for ARRL Special Service Club (<http://www.arrl.org/ssc-application>) status given the public service events the club supports, the annual licensing class, and the multiple VE testing sessions the club sponsors each year.

Jeff added that the Ironton club has qualified for Special Service Club status.

Jeff suggested the ACARA might consider selecting a Public Information Officer (PIO).

ARES Connect

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, described the new ARES Connect system (<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-emergency-service-transitioning-to-new-online-reporting-system>).

ARES Connect is a volunteer management system that covers event signup, reporting, and roster management. Each ARES member needs to register themselves within ARES Connect system and then register for events that are posted to their group, district, or state. ARES Connect will eventually take the place of the reports that Emergency Coordinators (ECs) and District Emergency Coordinators (DECs) currently submit to ARES monthly. Volunteer hours tracked within ARES Connect will be used to qualify for grants and matching-grants and to show in-kind contributions to the community.

Jeff provided instructions for registering within ARES Connect; these instructions are available here: <http://www.ac-ara.org/minutes/2018/ARES-Connect.pdf>.

Jeff mentioned that Athens County plans to move the Athens EMS station and headquarters, Athens EMA, and 9-1-1 Communications Center to the former TS Trim property near the UPS depot. Hours accounted for in ARES Connect will be used to document in-kind contributions when applying for grants to improve amateur radio backup communication. ACARA will have an interest in specifying and installing new equipment to make sure it is done properly.

Winter Field Day – January 26-27, 2019

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, announced that the Winter Field Day operating event is the weekend of January 26-27, 2019. Jeff suggested the club participate in Winter Field Day at the new Red Cross station. This idea will be discussed further at the ACARA Holiday Dinner and at the January meeting.

Following a motion by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, and a second by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, the meeting as adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectively submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, from notes taken by Vice-President Josh Cash, KE8EAS.