

Program:

Jeremy Duncan, KC8QDQ, made a thorough and well-received introduction to power amplifiers and amplifier vacuum tubes.



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Attendance:

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
John Biddle, W8PG
Josh Cash, KE8EAS
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Jeremy Duncan, KC8QDQ
Scott Green, KD8KZG
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Robert Moore, KC8KSM
Rob Rose, KE8JDA
Robin Rose, KE8JDB
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Joe Weber (awaiting callsign)

Silent Key

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, died on February 23, 2019. Jim was a long-time member and supporter of the Athens County Amateur Radio Association and, until very recently, had been the club's treasurer for many years.

Jim's obituary is included at the end of these minutes or it can be found online here:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/athensmessenger/obituary.aspx?n=jam-es-crouse&pid=191658414&fhid=16379>

Corrections/Additions to Minutes:

The minutes of the February, 2019 meeting were distributed. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, found his callsign to be incorrect in the list of February Potluck attendees. Jeff made a motion to accept the corrected minutes. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. His report showed the club has \$4,275.07 in unencumbered funds. This amount does not include \$275 in donations made to ACARA in memory of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB.

Drew proposed that because Jim Crouse had been a passionate supporter of the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio, the club should name the ACARA's radio station located at the Red Cross chapterhouse "The Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station" in memory of Jim and the money collected in his memory be used to upgrade and maintain the station. This suggestion was well received. Drew plans to make a formal motion at the April meeting. Those members wishing to make a donation to the ACARA in memory of Jim Crouse may send checks to the Athens County Amateur Radio Association at P.O. Box 72, Athens OH, 45701; please write "In Memory of Jim Crouse" in the memo field of the check.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Bob Moore, KC8KSM, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business

VHF Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the repeater continues to operate as expected. He further reported that he has not yet attempted to contact J&M Wireless for a climber to move the repeater from the ATC tower to the County 9-1-1 tower and will wait until after the Athens Marathon to do so.

UHF Repeater

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported no change with the status of the UHF repeater. Jeff plans to visit the repeater site prior to the Athens Marathon to test the UHF repeater and to install an APRS i-gate for use during the Marathon.

VHF DMR Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that his plans to build a VHF DMR repeater remain underway.

Red Cross Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he found an ICOM FL-53A 250Hz CW filter available from a private seller for \$115. This filter would enhance the station's IC-718 transceiver's CW capabilities. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, agreed and negotiated the purchase with the seller. Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, paid the seller and we are awaiting delivery of the filter.

ACARA Technician License Class & VE Session

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that two of students from the ACARA's License Class, Bob Betz and Joe Weber, passed both the Technician and General tests. In addition, three walk-ins from outside the area tested. David Coffey, KE8GWB, came in with a General class license and earned his Amateur Extra. Michael Bass earned his Technician license. The third, a Technician licensee, took the General exam but failed to pass it.

On behalf of the membership of the ACARA, President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, thanked Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ for organizing and leading the class and the test session. He further thanked instructors Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; Josh Cash, KE8EAS; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; and Carl Denbow, N8VZ. Finally, he thanked Scott Green, KD8KZG, from SCARF for serving as a VE at the test session.

(Post-meeting update: Joe Weber is KE8LRZ; Bob Betz is KE8LSA; Michael Bass is KE8LRY.)

Club Construction Project

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reminded the membership he will be offering a folding copper j-pole 2-meter antenna construction session but due to a busy March and April he has had to postpone the project until sometime in May. He estimates the cost of parts and consumables for this project to be around \$50 for each antenna. Interested members should contact Jeff or Eric McFadden.

Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 6, 2019

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has volunteers to cover all stations.

Members and volunteers should watch for further emails from Jeff about this event.

Athens Marathon 2019 – Sunday, April 14, 2019

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he attended the second Marathon Committee Meeting.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he still needs to confirm operators for several stations.

Members and volunteers should watch for additional emails from Jeff about this event.

Tour of Athens Gravel Bicycle Tour – Saturday, April 20, 2019

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reminded the membership that the ACARA has been asked to support this new event. He has determined that five operators would be needed to support this event: a net control, two operators for the 30-mile loop, and two operators for the 50-mile loop. Jeff will be unable to participate in this event himself this year and he has concerns about the ACARA being to provide sufficient volunteers to properly cover the event given the busy ACARA schedule in April.

Members should watch for an email from Jeff about this event.

40th Annual Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 28, 2019

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, read the following from a recent edition of the *Monday Morning Memo*, a weekly email newsletter from the Highland County ARC, which indicates the ACARA has been running the Athens Hamfest annually since 1980:

While inspecting some items from a deceased ham, a copy of the April 1988 Capital City Repeater Association newsletter was found. It announced the ninth annual Athens County ARA hamfest that year was to be held at the East State Street recreation center in Athens. Admission was \$4. John Cornwell, NC8V, was the contact for exams. The fee to take an exam was \$4.55. Carl Denbow, KA8JXG (now N8VZ), was the general information contact.

Eric ordered 1,000 hamfest tickets in bright yellow from Minuteman Press. Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, paid for the tickets and picked them up.

Drew is working on updating the postcard artwork and has been checking on the cost to have them printed. Eric and Drew are working on creating a mailing list for the postcards. they have been unable to find last year's filled-out tickets so the mailing list will be based on the list used for the 2018 event.

Eric took hamfest flyers to the MOVARC/Gallipolis Hamfest on March 16.

Eric will contact Carl Denbow, N8VZ, about the ticket-drum and Ron Chapman, Sr., N8HEK, about the PA system.

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, volunteered to contact the publisher of the N3FJP logging software to ask for a door prize.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, confirmed he will again provide an HT as a major door prize.

Thunderbunny 50K – Saturday, May 11, 2019

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced that the date for the Thunderbunny 50K running event around Strouds Run is Saturday, May 11. The club has annually been asked to support this event but as yet has been unable to do so.

Members should watch for an email from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about this event.

Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Sunday, June 2, 2019

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members of the event's new date: Sunday, June 2, 2019.

Members should watch for an email from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about this event.

Buckeye Trail Marathon – Saturday, October 5, 2019

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

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, reminded members that the *Buckeye Trail Marathon* will be on Saturday, October 5, 2019.

Bobcat Trail Marathon – Saturday, November 9, 2019

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership of the *Bobcat Trail Marathon* which will be on Saturday, November 9, 2019.

New Business

ARRL Field Day – June 22-23, 2019

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Field Day Packet is available on the ARRL website: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>. There have been no substantive changes in the rules from 2018.

Eric reported that Paula Carpenter of the Fair Board emailed him on February 20 to ask if we still desire to operate from within the large brick building on the Fairgrounds so she could present our case to the Fair Board. Eric told her we do wish to use the large brick building.

Paula emailed Eric on March 8 to report that our request to use the large brick building had been approved by the Fair Board and that we'll not pay a fee.

Following a motion by Josh Cash, KE8EAS, and a second by Bob Moore, KC8KSM, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Respectively submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Appendix

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB (SK) Obituary

ATHENS - James E. (Jim) Crouse, 72, of Athens, died late Saturday evening, Feb. 23, 2019, at The Laurels of Athens.

Born Feb. 28, 1946 in Dayton, he was the son of the late Burdette Rhoades Crouse and Inez Vance Crouse.

He was a 1964 graduate of Oakwood High School and a 1972 graduate of Ohio University; he received his bachelor's degree in Communications. He retired, after 30 years of service, from the O.U. Telecommunications Center, where he was Director of Photography and a TV Producer/Director.

He was involved in filming area news stories, including the 1967 Silver Bridge Disaster in Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia. His film was the first seen on national and international television news.

He was Past President of the Athens Jaycees and a past board member of Housing for Athens Senior Residents. He was a member of the Athens Co. Amateur Radio Association, call signal KC8OVB, serving as club Treasurer and working many Athens area events. He also volunteered with the American Red Cross, Athens Youth Hockey Association, and was a time keeper and penalty box attendant at Bird Arena with the OU Hockey Team.

Jim is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Elizabeth Crouse, and two grandchildren, Kelsey-Ann Crouse and Kielynn Crouse of Riverview, Florida; a brother and sister-in-law, John and Ann Crouse of Wilmington.

Funeral service will be conducted Thursday at 11 a.m. at Jagers & Sons Funeral Home, with Rev. Robert Martin officiating. Burial will be in Sugar Grove Cemetery, Wilmington. Friends may call Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Athens Co. Amateur Radio Association or the O.U. Hockey Club.

Please share a memory, a note of condolence, or sign the online register book at <http://www.jagersfuneralhome.com/>.

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