

Program

Vice-President Josh Cash, KE8EAS, screened a video by Dave Casler, KE0OG, entitled "SWR Demystified" (<https://youtu.be/QWmx1-V1-o>).

Attendance

John Biddle, W8PG
Josh Cash, KE8EAS
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Ty Smathers, KE8GSO
John Thomas, KC8JWZ
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

The minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting were distributed. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, moved that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. His report shows the club has \$4,656.22 in unencumbered funds. Drew reported that since the March meeting he has created a separate bank account for donations made to the club in memory of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB (SK). The Jim Crouse Memorial Fund contains \$275, which is not included in the club's unencumbered funds listed above.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by John Biddle, W8PG. The motion passed without dissent.

Old Business

VHF Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the 145.15 MHz repeater continues to operate as expected. He reported that he has not yet tried to contact J&M Wireless to schedule a climber to move the repeater antenna from its current location on the ATC tower to the adjacent County 9-1-1 tower. Eric stated he will contact J&M Wireless in May.

UHF Repeater

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that while visiting the repeater site to reconfigure the APRS digipeater following the Athens Marathon he found the Yaesu DR-1X 442.100 MHz (+) repeater to be in "remote mode, auto protocol". He restored the DR-1X to "normal mode" and analog FM to make the repeater functional again. Users of this repeater are reminded that the repeater controller built into the DR-1X does not produce a reset-beep.

APRS iGate

Digipeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he continues to configure an APRS iGate based on a TNC-X (<https://tnc-x.com/>) and a Windows 10 laptop running APRS-IS. Jeff thinks he will be ready to test soon. This iGate is located in the County 9-1-1 radio building at the repeater site.

Red Cross Radio Station / Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ICOM FL-53A 250Hz CW filter the club had purchased for the ACARA's IC-718 HF transceiver that is located at the Red Cross has arrived. This filter has not been installed.

As background, Eric reminded the membership that at the March meeting Drew McDaniel had begun discussion about the creation of a "Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station" at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio; at that meeting, Drew had announced he would make a formal motion at the April meeting.

Drew resumed the discussion at the April meeting, and started by asking Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, if he had received approval from the Red Cross for the creation of a Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station in the Red Cross facility. Jeff replied that Executive Director Jane Patton and the other members of the Red Cross board were pleased with idea and the ACARA has been given permission to pursue the project.

Drew made the following motion: The radio station at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio shall be named "The Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station" and any funds donated in the memory of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB (SK), be used to upgrade and maintain the station.

Carl Denbow seconded Drew's motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Drew stated that he will send "thank you" letters to all the donors and will inform them that their donations will be used to build and support The Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station. The president asked Drew to also notify Jim's son, Mark Crouse, WB8HMI, that the ACARA will be building a station in his father's name.

Drew followed his motion with two specific ideas on how to use the donated funds:

1. Replace the station's current HF transceiver, an IC-718, with a more capable transceiver that could be more effective during emergencies and during amateur radio events such as Field Day. Drew suggested that proceeds from the sale of the IC-718 and the recently-purchased FL-53A CW filter could be used to help pay for such a purchase.
2. Install the necessary infrastructure to power the station using solar power. Drew explained that such equipment would cost only a few hundred dollars.

The assembled members agreed that both ideas are good and should be pursued.

Eric McFadden will begin research on suitable HF rigs, will ask about the trade-in value of the IC-718 when he visits Universal Radio later this week, and will attempt to sell the IC-718 and FL-53A at the Athens Hamfest. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, announced he would deploy his IC-706Mk2G transceiver at the Red Cross if the IC-718 were to be sold before a suitable replacement was acquired.

Jeff confirmed that the Red Cross building does not currently have emergency power. Eric suggested that the Red Cross should be consulted before any solar-power hardware is purchased—their concerns about the building's roof might prevent installation of panels on the roof. Eric further suggested that if solar power at the building were to prove impossible, the club might instead install a transfer switch outside the building so a generator carried to the site could be used to power the station during an emergency.

Drew stated that he intends to make a substantial donation to the Jim Crouse Memorial Fund to help fund the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station. Eric asked Drew to email the membership announcing the formation of the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station and ask for donations to the fund.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, asked if the station's name should include Jim's callsign, KC8OVB. After discussion, it was decided that the name should remain "The Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station" but the plaque above the station door should say something like the following:

The Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

This station was built and is maintained in memory of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, passionate volunteer and supporter of the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio and longtime active member of the Athens County Amateur Radio Association.

Club Construction Project – Copper 2m J-Pole Antenna

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that several people have expressed interest in the antenna-building project. Jeff has selected the date Thursday, May 23 as the tentative date of the build. Jeff will confirm that this date works for those who have expressed interest and will inform the rest of the membership of the chosen date.

Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 6, 2019

Organizer: Southeastern Ohio Trail Runners / Michael Owen

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that six operators supported this event, a trail run over the trails in Zaleski State Forest near Lake Hope. Jeff reported that the communications-support went well and there were no incidents.

Athens Marathon 2019 – Sunday, April 14, 2019

Organizer: Athens Marathon Committee / Lisa Simons

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that nineteen operators supported the event, a number significantly smaller than that seen in previous years. The Armitage Road aid station and the Half-Marathon Turn-around each had no radio operators. The Lower River Road Aid Station, which sees heavy runner-traffic in both directions simultaneously and needs several operators, had only one operator. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, suggested we are losing volunteers to attrition and it is time for the club to begin a campaign to interest new members in volunteering for public service events.

Athens Gravel Challenge – Saturday, April 20, 2019

Organizer: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

<https://www.ohiogravelgrinders.com/events/2019/4/20/the-athens-gravel-challenge>

<https://www.bikereq.com/41236>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, pointed out this event, one the club has not supported previously, seems to have a new name. Until recently, we have been calling it the “Tour of Athens Gravel Bicycle Tour”.

Jeff reported that four ACARA members will support this event: Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; and Miles McFadden, KD8KNC.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 28, 2019

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported on door prizes:

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, arranged for N3FJP logging software, the certificate for which has arrived.

Eric contacted Elecraft about a door prize; Elecraft has sent a DL-1 dummy load kit.

Eric will pick up door prizes from Universal Radio on Friday, April 19.

The ARRL gift certificates—two each \$25 and \$50—have arrived; this year they were sent electronically and Eric has printed them.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, confirmed he will provide a dual-band HT door prize.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, will provide a Baofeng UV-5R dual-band HT door prize.

Eric reported that he has contacted Ron Chapman, Sr., N8HEK, about use of his public-address system. Eric will pick up the PA before the hamfest.

Eric has contacted Ron Lucas, Jr., of Athens City about the use of 30 highway cones. Eric will pick up the highway cones on Friday, April 26.

Carl Denbow verified he has the ticket drum and will bring it to the hamfest.

Drew McDaniel reported he mailed hamfest postcards on April 9.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he sent hamfest emails on April 16.

Jeff Slattery confirmed the VE session is arranged; it has been listed with the ARRL and a sufficient number of Volunteer Examiners will be present.

Jeff Slattery confirmed that the Athens Masons will be providing the food-vending.

Eric reported he will schedule a venue walk-through at the Community Center for 3pm on Wednesday the 24th or Thursday the 25th and will notify the club membership of the date.

Eric stressed that volunteers are needed to work the event, particularly at the East Gate (Steak and Shake Gate).

Eric asked Carl to assign the club a better location inside for the club table. Carl suggested that the club table and the mobile check-in table locations be swapped. This seemed a reasonable solution.

Eric reported that the club will be placing some Jim Crouse estate items on the club table, with the proceeds from these to go to Jim's family. These items include an IC-756 Proll transceiver, an IC-746 transceiver, an IC-7000 transceiver, a Vibroplex bug, and a Vibroplex single-lever keyer paddle. The IC-756 Proll has been tested and is in working order. Drew McDaniel agreed to test the IC-746 and the IC-7000.

Drew McDaniel suggested we might have a donation-box at the hamfest for those wishing to make donations to the Jim Crouse Memorial Fund.

Thunderbunny 50k – Saturday, May 11, 2019

Organizer: Southeastern Ohio Trail Runners / Michael Owen

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will email the membership about this upcoming event. With the Lake Hope Bicycle Race re-scheduled for June, it might be possible for the ACARA to support the Thunderbunny 50k.

Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Sunday, June 2, 2019

Organizer: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that event has a new date.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, asked for volunteers to work this event and will email the membership to ask for volunteers.

ARRL Field Day – Saturday-Sunday, June 22-23, 2019

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the brick building on the Athens County Fairgrounds has been reserved at no cost for Field Day.

Joe Weber, KE8LRZ, asked if the club has ever considered doing Field Day at Lake Snowden. Joe feels the venue might work well and will investigate the possibilities.

Eric will contact John McCutcheon, N8XWO, to ask if he will again serve as VHF Captain and provide the VHF station.

Eric reminded the membership we will need a competition-grade transceiver for the HF station. He hopes the replacement transceiver for the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station will be available by Field Day weekend.

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, volunteered to generate press releases for the Media Publicity Bonus.

Eric will contact Andy Young, KD8WVX, to ask if he will serve as Social Media Captain for the Social Media Bonus.

Eric asked for a volunteer to develop and present an educational activity for the Educational Activity Bonus. No member present volunteered.

Eric will contact Andy Young, KD8WVX, to ask if will serve as Safety Captain.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, volunteered to invite the Athens Mayor to our operation for the Site Visitation by an Elected Official Bonus.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, volunteered to ask the Athens Mayor and the Athens County Commissioners to make Amateur Radio Appreciation Days proclamations and invite them to visit our operation for the Site Visitation by an Elected Official Bonus.

Jeff Slattery volunteered to invite Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio Executive Director Jane Patton and Disaster Program Specialist David Bradley to visit the operation for the Site Visitation by a Representative of an Agency Bonus.

Eric pointed out we need young people to participate in order for us to earn the Youth Participation Bonus points. He asked Joe Weber,

KE8LRZ, to bring his son. Eric will contact Tyler Hooker, AK5HT, and Andy Young, KD8WVX, and ask them to bring their daughters.

Buckeye Trail Marathon / Run for the Blue Blazes – Saturday, October 5

Organizer: Buckeye Trail Association / Herb Hullis

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

<https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Shawnee/RunForBlueBlazes>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership the date of this event.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will email the membership as the date of the event nears.

Komen Southeast Ohio MORE THAN PINK Walk – Sunday, October 6

Organizer: Susan G. Komen, Columbus Affiliate / Kaki Scala

<https://ww5.komen.org/RaceForTheCure/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced the date of this event.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, remarked that this event and the Run for the Blue Blazes are on the same weekend.

Jeff will email the membership as the date of this event nears.

Bobcat Trail Marathon – Saturday, November 9, 2019

Organizer: Western Reserve Racing / Joe Jurczyk

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership of the date of this event.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will email the membership as the date of the event approaches.

New Business

ACARA June Picnic – Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced the date of this event, Tuesday, June 18, the usual third-Tuesday of the month.

Eric asked Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, to reserve the Dairy Lane picnic shelter for the picnic.

Athens Marathon 2020 – Sunday, April 19, 2020

Organizer: Athens Marathon Committee / Lisa Simons

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced the date of the 2020 running of the Athens Marathon: Sunday, April 19, 2020.

“Producing for the Community” at the School of Media Arts and Studies

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported on a program at the School of Media Arts and Studies called “Producing for the Community” wherein students produce promotional videos for local non-profit organizations. Drew asked if the club were interested in taking advantage of this program. The consensus was that the club is interested and gave Drew the go-ahead to arrange our participation.

Following a motion by Josh Cash, KE8EAS, and a second by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.