

**Program**

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, gave a short presentation to introduce the ACARA's recently purchased Elecraft K3 HF+6m transceiver. Drew described the design architecture and the main features of the transceiver.



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**Attendance**

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP  
Josh Cash, KE8EAS  
Jeff Courtney, KE8MWE  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Bob Moore, KC8KSM  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ  
Ty Smathers, KE8GSO

**Note on the order of discussion:** Because at least one member announced the need to leave the meeting early, and because of two important issues that needed to be discussed, the Chair arranged the order of discussion differently than usual. These minutes will reflect the order in which items were actually discussed.

***Corrections/Additions to Minutes***

The minutes of the May 21, 2019 meeting were distributed. Josh Cash, KE8EAS, moved that the minutes be accepted as distributed. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

***Treasurer's Report***

President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that on May 28, 2019, the ACARA's 501(c)(3) status was reinstated retroactively thanks to the efforts of ACARA Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. The Treasurer added that he has also filed the necessary forms with the Ohio Secretary of State and that the ACARA has received a current *Certificate of Continued Existence*.

The President announced that since the last ACARA in May, the club has received the \$250 grant from the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau for hamfest promotion.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, announced that he is still working on the ACARA's back-taxes. He has been unable to find any indication that the ACARA filed tax returns more recently than 2015. He has been working on this with Financial Accounting and Advisory Services (FAAS), the same company that helped with the reinstatement of 501(c)(3) status. Drew emphasized the importance of getting the back-taxes straightened out, stating that the ACARA risks losing 501(c)(3) status if we don't.

The Treasurer distributed the Financial Report for September. He explained he is maintaining the Jim Crouse Memorial Fund as a separate bank account so that the ACARA can more easily identify funds for the maintenance and updating of the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Following the purchase of the Elecraft K3 transceiver, the Jim Crouse Memorial Fund contains \$20.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as distributed. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, seconded the motion. The vote passed without dissent.

**Old Business – VHF Repeater**

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club's 145.15 MHz repeater continues to operate as expected. He has not yet been able to arrange a climber to move the repeater antenna and feedline to the 9-1-1 tower but will continue attempting to do so. He suggested that the club might wish to move the repeater equipment into the climate-controlled 9-1-1 even before the antenna is moved to the 9-1-1 tower.

The Repeater Trustee responded to the question posed at the May meeting by Carl Denbow, N8VZ: why is the Yaesu DR-1X System Fusion repeater not yet deployed? The Trustee explained there are two reasons why the DR-1X is not yet in service.

1. The Yaesu DR-1X repeater lacks any provision for off-site control—there's no DTMF decoding for control and no provision for a telephone line. The ACARA purchased an Arcom ADR Interface to allow the club's existing CAT-300DXL to be used with the DR-1X to provide off-site control, and the DR-1X with CAT-300DXL and ADR Interface was deployed in early 2017, but issues arose with reset-beeps and repeater CW-ID.
2. The DR-1X suffered very significant failures during the ACARA's support of the 2017 Athens Marathon due to either loss of repeater sensitivity or loss of repeater transmit power. The Trustee suspects the former possibility but has not been able to confirm this. Immediately following the 2017 Athens Marathon, the Trustee restored the analog-FM repeater into service and it has been working well since.

The Trustee suggested that once the repeater equipment has been moved into the 9-1-1 building, the building available internet connection might be used to provide a means of off-site control and the DR-1X can be deployed for testing without the added complexity of the CAT-300DXL controller and Arcom ADR Interface.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggested that the Yaesu DR-2X System Fusion repeater solves all of the problems with the DR-1X repeater and he thinks Yaesu might have a quiet "swap-out" program in place for owners of DR-1X repeaters. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, follows System Fusion discussions online and hasn't heard of such a thing. The Trustee will investigate the possibility of a swap-out.

**Old Business – UHF Repeater**

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the club's 442.100 MHz repeater continues to operate properly. He added this repeater is a Yaesu DR-1X System Fusion repeater and it has no reset beep, making it difficult for an individual to determine if the repeater is functioning unless a contact can be made; i.e., "kerchunking" the repeater won't make it transmit a reset beep. He added that if enough time has elapsed since the repeater last transmitted, an attempt to bring the repeater up will result in the transmission of the repeater's CW-ID.

**Old Business – VHF DMR Repeater**

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, gave no report on the proposed VHF DMR repeater.

**New Business – Athens Hamfest 2020**

The Chair reminded the assembled members that at the May meeting, there was some discussion about changing the date of the Athens Hamfest away from the traditional last Sunday in April. Josh Cash, KE8EAS, had suggested that the hamfest occurring on a Sunday might be hurting attendance. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, had related a conversation he had had with Roy Moore, KB8ZSG, who had noticed that hamfests occurring on the first two weekends of a month are more profitable than hamfests occurring on one of the last two weekends of a month. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, had suggested the club might consider changing the date of the Athens Hamfest from the traditional last Sunday in April to the first weekend in May.

At the September meeting, there was discussion about the possibility of moving the hamfest to a date early in April or to a date in early May. After no consensus was found, Drew McDaniel made a motion that the topic be tabled until the October meeting. This motion was seconded by Josh Cash, KE8EAS. The motion passed without dissent.

**New Business – New Officer Nominations**

The Chair displayed the list of current officers and asked for nominations for the offices. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, moved that the entire slate of current officers be re-nominated. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, said it would be a nice change to see some contested offices on the ballot but no other nominations were made by anyone present. Josh Cash, KE8EAS, seconded Jeff's earlier motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

The following table reflects these nominations:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Nominations</u>
<b>President</b>	WD8RIF	WD8RIF
<b>Vice-President</b>	KE8EAS	KE8EAS
<b>Treasurer</b>	W8MHV	W8MHV
<b>Secretary</b>	WD8RIF	WD8RIF
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	KE8EAS	KE8EAS
<b>Webmaster</b>	N8SUZ	N8SUZ
<b>Packet Node Trustee</b>	N8SUZ	N8SUZ
<b>Repeater Trustee</b>	WD8RIF	WD8RIF

Ballots reflecting these nominations will be posted to members prior to the October meeting. Members are asked to return their completed ballots prior to the October meeting or to hand-deliver their ballots to the October meeting. The ballots will be opened and counted during the October meeting.

**New Business – ACARA Constitution and By-Laws**

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggested it is time to update the ACARA Constitution and By-Laws and he volunteered to make a first effort at doing so. President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, will forward to Carl copies of the Constitution and By-Laws.

**Old Business – Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station**

The Chair reported that in late May he had distributed a Qualtrics survey to the club membership in order to receive authorization to purchase a used Elecraft K3 transceiver for the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station. Eric sent the survey to nineteen members. The survey was completed by nine members. All of the responses received voted “yes” on the question of purchasing the transceiver.

The Chair also reported that Mark Crouse, WB8MHI, the son of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB (SK), donated an additional \$300 to the club toward the purchase of the K3 transceiver.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, negotiated the purchase of the used K3 transceiver, which he received on June 10, 2019. Drew tested the transceiver and Josh Cash, KE8EAS, used the transceiver for a contest. The only issue found was an intermittent VFO-B encoder. In June, the K3 was used in the ACARA’s Field Day HF station and performed well. Following Field Day, Drew McDaniel restored proper operation of the VFO-B encoder by reseating the encoder in its connector.

The Chair suggested that the club might eventually wish to purchase an automatic antenna tuner for use with the K3. The Elecraft KAT3A internal antenna tuner module is available from Elecraft at a cost of about \$400. An external automatic antenna tuner such as the LDG AT-100Pro II is available for \$210.

The Chair suggested the club might wish to consider the purchase of the Elecraft KDVR3 Digital Voice Recorder module for use during Field Day, Ohio State Parks on the Air, or other voice-mode contests or events. The KDVR3 is available from Elecraft for \$170.

President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, will speak with Jane Patton at the Red Cross about the plaque for the radio room, to find out what the Red Cross would find acceptable or desirable. The wording for the plaque will be as follows:

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.

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, suggested it would be nice to include a photo of Jim Crouse on the plaque. Eric will contact Jim’s son Mark to ask about getting a suitable portrait of Jim to use for this purpose.

**Old Business – Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station (cont'd)**

President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, will get a small brass or gold-tone plate engraved with the following for the Vibroplex single-lever paddle that was donated to the club by Jim's son, Mark from Jim's estate: "This key is a gift from the estate of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB".

**Old Business – Club Construction Project: Copper 2-meter J-Pole Antenna**

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will try to identify a date in November for this group build.

The cost-per-builder of this antenna is expected to be approximately \$50.

Watch for emails from Jeff on this topic.

**Old Business – Lake Hope Bicycle Race: Sunday, June 2, 2019**

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that club's communications-support of this event went well and that all the important points were covered. The only significant issues were a motorcycle event that somehow was approved by Vinton County for the same day and the same roads as the bicycle race, and the belligerent farmer who lives near the top of Mine Hollow Road who causes trouble every year for the volunteers working that intersection.

To help prevent problems like the motorcycle event from happening again, Jeff has volunteered to notify Vinton County EMA of the date of the bicycle race date once the date is known.

Old Business – **June Picnic:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019

The Chair reported that the June Picnic was well attended.

Attendees:

John Biddle, W8PG  
Josh Cash, KE8EAS  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ + Kathy  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ + Jane  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF + Theo-dog  
Kate McFadden, KD8KNB  
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Bob Moore, KC8KSM + Esther  
Rich Post, KB8TAD  
Jeff Tikkanen, KE8DNN + Stephanie + Kat  
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ + Bob



Old Business – **ARRL Field Day**: June 22-23, 2019

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

The Chair reported that the club again participated in Class 1A at the Athens County Fairgrounds. For 2019, the club used the recently-purchased Elecraft K3 transceiver from the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station as the transceiver at the HF CW/SSB station. The club finished the weekend with 631 QSOs including four QSOs on 6-meters, up from a total of 561 QSOs last year. The club earned 1,170 bonus points for a final score of 2,766 points.

The chair extends thanks to the participants:

Stephanie Archer  
Josh Cash, KE8EAS  
Paula Carpenter (Athens County Fair Board Treasurer)  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Brian Davis (Athens County 9-1-1 Coordinator)  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO (VHF Captain)  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF (Field Day Chairman )  
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC (Cook)  
Robert Moore, KC8KSM  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ  
Bobby Weber  
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ  
Andy Young, KD8WVX (Safety Officer / Social Media Captain)

A full report with photos is available here: [http://wd8rif.com/fd\\_2019.htm](http://wd8rif.com/fd_2019.htm)

Old Business – **VE Session**: August 19, 2019

The Chair reported that three tested and all three earned Technician Licenses:

Jeffery Courtney, KE8MWE of Middleport  
Sharon Troyer, KE8MWF of McArthur  
Douglas Jenkins, KE8MWG of Athens

Old Business – **Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA)**: September 7, 2019

<http://ospota.org/>

The Chair reported that ten members of the ACARA participated in the activation of Strouds Run State Park in the “Ohio State Parks on the Air” event at the park’s Bulldog Picnic Shelter.

The chair extends thanks to the participants:

Josh Cash, KE8EAS  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Chalisa Magpanthong, E23RFM  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC  
Bob Moore, KC8KSM  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Using the club’s recently-purchased Elecraft K3 transceiver and an 80m/40m fan-dipole, the group made 111 QSOs and worked stations in 44 Ohio State Parks, for a score of 4,909 points including a bonus for submission in Cabrillo format. These numbers are up significantly from last year’s 86 QSOs, 28 parks, and 2,433 points.

Sixty-five contacts were made on 75m and forty-six contacts were made on 40m. Contacts were made by KE8EAS, N8SUZ, WD8RIF, and KD8FRQ.

As of the meeting date, results for OSPOTA 2019 were not yet available.

A report with photographs is available here: <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=892>

#### Old Business – **All Athens Special Event**

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported that he has contacted clubs or groups in several of the American cities and town called “Athens”.

Carl asked the assembled members for assistance in selecting the length of time the event should run and what time of year might be best. Josh Cash, KE8EAS, suggested winter might be a good time of the year. Others suggested that successful similar events such as the Route 66 event and the Thirteen Colonies event do well in the summer.

Carl will keep the club informed as this special event is developed.

**New Business – Run for the Blue Blazes / Buckeye Trail Marathon**

Event Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019

Event Sponsor: [Buckeye Trail Association](#) / Herb Hullis

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

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reminded the membership of this upcoming event which the club has supported for several years.

Jeff has confirmed that the course for 2019 is the same as the 2018 course.

Due to poor repeater coverage in the area, a 2-meter simplex net on 146.400 MHz will be used.

Jeff needs more volunteers to work this event.

Watch for emails on this event from Jeff.

**New Business – Komen Southeast Ohio MORE THAN PINK Walk**

Event Date: Sunday, October 6, 2019

Event Sponsor: [Susan G. Komen, Columbus Affiliate](#) / Kaki Scala

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reminded the membership of this upcoming event which the club has supported for several years

Jeff reported he needs more volunteers to work this event.

The walk starts at Peden Stadium at noon and most communicators should expect to be released by 1:30pm. A 2-meter net on 146.400 MHz will be used for this event.

Watch for emails on this event from Jeff.

New Business – **Bobcat Trail Marathon**

Event Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019

Event Sponsor: [Western Reserve Racing](http://www.westernreserveracing.com) / Joe Jurczyk

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reminded the membership of this upcoming event which the club has supported for many years.

Watch for emails on this event from Jeff.

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

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.