

***Program***

Instead of a formal program, a “show-and-tell” was held in the half-hour preceeding the start of the business meeting. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, showed the Elecraft K1 transceiver he purchased at the Parkersburg / Wood County Hamfest earlier in the month.

***Attendance***

Nick Arnold, KD8FKB  
Michael Baxla, KE8ICP  
John Biddle, W8PG  
Jeff Courtney, KE8MWE  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ  
John Thomas, KC8JWZ  
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

***Corrections/Additions to Minutes***

The minutes of September 17, 2019 meeting were distributed. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, moved that the minutes be accepted as distributed. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

***Treasurer's Report***

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, distributed the Treasurer's Report, which showed that the club treasury holds \$5,425.94 in unencumbered funds and that the Jim Crouse Memorial Fund holds \$20.27.

Drew explained that with the club's re-instated 501(c)(3) status, the club is required to file annually with the Ohio Attorney General as well as with the IRS. Drew reported that he has changed the ACARA fiscal calendar to match that of the federal government (October 1 through September 30) to simplify filings.

Drew reported that he is still working on the club's back-taxes with the assistance of FAAS. Melissa, the non-profit specialist at FAAS has unexpectedly gone incommunicado; Drew will keep trying to reach her or her replacement.

Drew reported that the club's equipment insurance policy premium through Mercer has increased from \$207 to \$320. Drew had filed an updated inventory along with payment of the premium but this was rejected due to a missing form. Drew will follow up with Mercer.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

***Addendum 2019-10-17:***

On October 16, Drew learned that we have two insurance policies through Mercer: a liability policy for which the premium is \$320 and an equipment policy for which the premium is \$207. Our liability policy is current through December 1, 2019. Due to the lapse in coverage of the equipment policy caused by the rejected payment, Drew will need to file a new application. The premium for the new equipment policy will be \$230.

Drew has been able to reach Melissa at FAAS; she is in the process of filing the IRS tax reports for the missing years.

**Old Business**

## VHF Repeater

Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the analog-FM repeater continues to function as expected. He has not yet been able to arrange a climber to move the antenna from the ATC tower. Eric suggests that the repeater be moved to the 9-1-1 Center radio building, even if we can't move the antenna at the same time, in order to take advantage of the climate-control and available internet.

Eric reminded the members present that at the September meeting there was discussion about a rumored program by Yaesu to swap out DR-1X System Fusion repeaters for the new, improved DR-2X System Fusion repeaters. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, researched and found that Yaesu does have such a program, the *System Fusion Repeater Installation and Upgrade Program*, which is effective from July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. The program provides for trade-in of a DR-1X repeater for a DR-2X for \$350 and for trade-in of a DR-1X repeater for a DR-2X-LAN for \$550.

Eric explained that the DR-2X fixes known issues with the DR-1X repeater. Most critically, the DR-2X provides for off-channel repeater control using the DR-2X's second receiver. A DR-2X repeater and a UHF antenna would allow the ACARA to legally operate a System Fusion 2m repeater without the use of our existing CAT-300DXL repeater controller and repeater-site telephone line. (Dropping the telephone line at the repeater site would save the club \$60.58 per month and would pay for a DR-2X in about six months.)

Eric mentioned that the DR-2X-LAN model of the repeater allows linking of up to ninety-nine System Fusion repeaters via the internet. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested that a pair of DR-2X-LAN repeaters would allow linking of the club's 2m and 70cm repeaters. Additionally, internet-linking would make possible the construction of remote linked-repeaters at sites such as Coolville if we were to arrange tower space on other county towers.

After discussion, Carl Denbow, N8VZ, made a motion that the club replace both existing DR-1X repeaters with DR-2X repeaters at a cost of \$350 each plus trade-in through Yaesu's *System Fusion Repeater Installation and Upgrade Program*. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

## VHF Repeater (continued)

Eric reported that the club most recently approached the Athens Marathon Committee for a donation in February of 2015 and asked if the membership would like him to approach the Marathon Committee with a request for a donation to help fund the replacement of both of the club's DR-1X repeaters. By assent, it was agreed that President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, would ask the Athens Marathon Committee for a donation to fund the purchase of one or two DR-2X-LAN repeaters.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reminded the members present that donations were made to the club to fund the relocation of the 2m repeater from the ATC tower to the 9-1-1 tower, and that he feels the repeater relocation should happen soon. Eric will again try to contact approved climbers to set a date for the move.

## UHF Repeater

The club will replace the existing DR-1X System Fusion repeater with a DR-2X or DR-2X-LAN repeater. (See above.)

## VHF DMR Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, provided no update on the proposed VHF DMR repeater.

## Fall Exam Session – Monday, October 21, 2019

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that a Volunteer Exam session is scheduled for Monday, October 21 at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Registration will open at 6:30pm and testing will commence at 7:00pm. Tests for all license classes will be available and walk-ins are encouraged.

*Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that on October 8, 2019, he spoke with Jane Patton of the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio about the placement of the plaque for the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*. Jane is flexible about where the plaque is to be placed, but her preference is that it go on the wooden panel above the door to the radio room. Jane does not mind that holes would need to be drilled in the wooden panel to mount the plaque.

The assembled members agreed that placing the panel low on the wooden panel above the door would work well.

Eric reported that on September 20, 2019, he had emailed Jim Crouse's son, Mark Crouse, WB8HMI, to get a photo of Jim for the plaque. Eric has not yet received a reply from Mark. Eric suggested that instead of engraving a photo of Jim on the plaque, a framed photo of Jim with a smaller engraved plate could be displayed inside the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station* room. The assembled members found this solution to be acceptable. Eric will pursue the purchase of a plaque with the following wording:

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.

Eric reported that Dave Bradley, N8DWB, of the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio is interested in having an EchoLink node at the Chapterhouse. The club already owns a suitable EchoLink interface device as well as a spare 2m transceiver. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that a suitable VHF antenna is available on the building roof. Jeff will explore the feasibility of incorporating an EchoLink node in the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*.

Eric asked if the members would like him to approach the Athens Marathon Committee for a donation to be used for upgrades to the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*. After some discussion, the consensus was that Eric should *not* seek a donation from the Committee for this purpose.

*Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station (continued)*

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, advised that he would like to find a sustainable funding stream for the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*, funding that will allow the functionality of the station to grow and that will allow repairs and other maintenance to be performed. Towards this end, Drew volunteered to chair the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station Sustainable Funding Task Force*, which will be tasked with finding sustainable funding streams to support the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, and Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, volunteered to serve on the Task Force.

## Athens Hamfest

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the assembled members that at the September 17 meeting a discussion on whether to choose a new date for the Athens Hamfest was tabled until the October meeting.

Eric asked again if the club would like to move the 2020 Athens Hamfest from the traditional fourth Sunday in April to a different date. He reported that the ARRL lists no hamfests in the region scheduled for the weekends of April 25-26, May 2-3, or May 9-10. He advised that Hamvention is on May 15-17, 2020. Other members advised that Easter falls on April 12, 2020, the Athens Marathon falls on April 19, 2020, and Ohio University Graduation falls on Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, 2020.

After discussion, Carl Denbow, N8VZ, made a motion that the Athens Hamfest remain on the fourth Sunday in April for 2020 and that the President will appoint a Task Force to investigate changing the hamfest annual date. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, suggested that the Task Force should use surveys and other tools to aid in their research; perhaps attendees to the hamfest could be given a survey card to complete and all those sent postcards or emails could be directed to an online form to determine what dates would work best.

## ACARA Parks on the Air (POTA)

<https://parksontheair.com/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that due to interest displayed during the September 7 "Ohio State Parks on the Air" (OSPOTA) event, Carl Denbow, N8VZ, is working to register the ACARA and the club callsign W8UKE within the Parks on the Air (POTA) program. Once registration is complete, Eric will submit the OSPOTA log in ADIF format to POTA so that stations who worked the ACARA's Strouds Run State Park OSPOTA station can get POTA Hunter credit. Similarly, ACARA/W8UKE will get POTA Activator credit for having activated Strouds Run State Park. Additionally, all those who operated as W8UKE at Strouds Run State Park will get POTA Activator credit for having activated Strouds Run State Park.

## Club Construction Project – Copper 2m J-Pole Antenna

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has not yet been able to set a date for the group-build of collapsible copper J-Pole antennas. He thinks he can find a date for the group-build during the winter months. Jeff expressed some reservations about doing the build in the carpeted rooms in the Red Cross Chapterhouse. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, suggested that Jeff might approach the Re-Use Industries Maker Space on West Union Street to see if that facility could be used for the build.

Run for the Blue Blazes / Buckeye Trail Marathon – Saturday, October 5, 2019

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

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, who acted as net-control for this event, reported that all the important locations were covered.

Participants:

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Eric reported that severe electrical noise in Shawnee, Ohio, forced operations to move from the 2m simplex frequency to the Logan repeater and that the repeater itself was very hard to copy in Shawnee. Severe electrical noise has been a recurring problem in the ACARA's support of the Buckeye Trail Marathon. Eric suggested that he and Jeff might need to visit Shawnee, try to localize the noise source, and, if appropriate, contact AEP about a remedy.

Komen Southeast Ohio MORE THAN PINK Walk – Sunday, October 6, 2019

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

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that all locations for this year's shortened course were covered.

Participants:

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ  
Tyler Smathers, KE8GSO



## All Athens Special Event

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, provided no report.

## New Business

## New Officer Elections

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, received and counted the ballots. Nine ballots had been received. There being no contested positions, all nominees were elected. One ballot contained write-in votes for the positions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Elected</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

Drew apologized for the late mailing of the ballots. Sickness prevented him from mailing the ballots during the first week in October as he had intended.

### ACARA Constitution and By-Laws

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the assembled members that at the September 17 meeting Carl Denbow, N8VZ, had volunteered to begin a study of the ACARA Constitution and By-Laws as a prelude to updating the documents. Eric sent scans of the Constitution and By-Laws to Carl and to Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

Carl reported that he has already performed a quick read-through of the documents.

### Bobcat Trail Marathon

Event Date: Saturday, November 9, 2019

Event Sponsor: [Western Reserve Racing](#) / 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.

### ACARA Holiday Dinner

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the third Tuesday in December is the 17<sup>th</sup> and asked if this date is suitable for the ACARA Holiday Dinner. The consensus was that December 17 is a good date for the Holiday Dinner.

Eric asked if Lui Lui is an acceptable venue for the gathering. The consensus was that Lui Lui is an acceptable venue.

Eric will make arrangements with Lui Lui for the ACARA Holiday Dinner to be held there the evening of Tuesday, December 17, 2019. As has become the tradition, the ACARA will provide hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic punch. Members and their guests will order their dinner and alcohol from the menu.

Following a motion by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, and a second by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.