

***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, brought his portable HF station he has been using for his Parks on the Air (POTA) activations.

***Attendance***

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP  
John Biddle, W8PG  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

***Corrections/Additions to Minutes***

The minutes of October 15, 2019 meeting were distributed. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, moved that the minutes be accepted as distributed. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

***Treasurer's Report***

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, distributed the Treasurer's Report. The report showed that the club treasury holds \$4,768.03 (*correction*) in unencumbered funds and that the Jim Crouse Memorial Fund holds \$50.28.

Drew reported that he has completed payment of federal back-taxes.

Drew reported that he has filed the Ohio Attorney General report for 2018. The filing of this report triggered an investigation which disclosed that ACARA hadn't filed reports for 2016 or 2017. Drew has subsequently filed reports for 2016 and 2017.

Drew reported he has paid the ACARA's equipment insurance policy premium. Drew further reported he had to re-apply for liability insurance, explaining that the policy had lapsed because reminder-emails from the insurance company had been going to inbox of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB (SK), the club's former treasurer.

At Drew's request, President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that on October 16 he had contacted Lisa Simons of the Athens Marathon Committee to ask that the Marathon Committee consider making a donation to the ACARA which would be applied toward the trade-in/purchase of two Yaesu DR-2X System Fusion repeaters. On October 17, the Marathon Committee made a donation to the club in the amount of \$1,100. Drew subsequently filed applications with Yaesu for two DR-2X repeaters with LAN Units at a cost of \$1,100 with trade-in of two DR-1X repeaters. The two DR-2X repeaters shipped on November 14 and arrived in Athens on November 19.

At Drew's request, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he contacted Andrew Chiki at the Athens Community Center to reserve space for the 2020 Athens Hamfest but Mr. Chiki found that the club's account was frozen due to failure to pay in 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2019. Eric and Drew were able to find a receipt for payment of the 2015 bill and Mr. Chiki waived the 2016 bill. Drew paid the outstanding bill for 2018 and 2019. Drew explained that since the Community Center does not send invoices, the club will have to remember to pay the bills going forward.

Jeff Slattery moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ. The motion passed without dissent.

**Old Business**

## VHF Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported he has winterized the repeater.

Eric reported that the new DR-2X System Fusion Repeater with LAN Unit arrived on November 19. He plans to have it deployed at the repeater site within a few weeks.

Eric reported that he has communicated via email with Chris Cooper of Athens-based Intellwave (<http://www.intellwave.com/>) about moving the VHF repeater antenna and feedline from the tower owned by American Tower to the 9-1-1 tower. Mr. Cooper said Intellwave can probably do the job after the start of the New Year. (Intellwave is authorized to perform work on towers owned by American Tower.)

## UHF Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the DR-2X System Fusion Repeater with LAN Unit has arrived and that it has been delivered to UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

## VHF DMR Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has spoken with Bill Warthman, K8WJW, about methods of building a DMR repeater controller using Arduino or Raspberry Pi processors.

*Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, have thus far been unable to coordinate a time to begin building out the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*.

Eric reported he has not yet ordered the plaque for the station. He added that he now thinks two plaques are desired, one stating "The Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station" to be placed directly above the door to the room, and a larger one with the full description of the station to be placed to the left of the door. The assembled members thought this is a good idea. Eric will contact Jane Patton at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio for permission to display two plaques instead of a single plaque.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported that the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station Sustainable Funding Task Force* has not yet met. The task force members are Drew; Carl Denbow, N8VZ; and Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ.

## Technician License Class – Mondays, January 13 through March 16, 2020

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the upcoming Technician License Class will be held at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio on Mondays starting January 13, 2020 and ending March 16, 2020. The test session will be March 16, and tests for all license classes will be available.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported that he has found a useful online study guide that he feels is a better tool than the ARRL book currently being used for the class. He will send the information to Jeff.

(Visit the ACARA website (<http://www.ac-ara.org/>) for details on the Technician License Class.)

## Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 26, 2020

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported he has reserved the use of the Athens Community Center for the hamfest and he has registered the event with the ARRL.

## Results: ARRL Field Day 2019

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that final results for ARRL Field Day 2019 have been published online ([http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event\\_id=113112](http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event_id=113112)) and in the December issue of QST.

The ACARA placed 17<sup>th</sup> in Class 1A with 631 QSOs and 2,766 points. The ACARA placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in-class within the ARRL Great Lakes Subdivision and 2<sup>nd</sup> in-class within Ohio.

## Results: PCARS Ohio State Parks on the Air 2019

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that final results for PCARS Ohio State Parks on the Air 2019 have been published: <http://ospota.org>

The ACARA activation of Strouds Run State Park took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in “Multi-Op, Single Radio, Low Power, in a Park” class with 4,909 points. N8TUW’s operation at Tar Hollow State Park took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in-class with 6,361 points. K8IYO’s operation at Pike Lake State Park took 1<sup>st</sup> place in-class with 8,015 points.

## ACARA Parks on the Air (POTA)

<https://parksontheair.com/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Carl Denbow, N8VZ, has registered the club callsign W8UKE within the Parks on the Air (POTA) program. Eric has submitted the club’s Ohio State Parks on the Air logs for 2017, 2018, and 2019 to POTA. The ACARA as W8UKE now has Activator-credit within POTA for Strouds Run State Park (three times) as well as Hunter-credit within POTA for some of the parks worked during Ohio State Parks on the Air. Individuals who operated as W8UKE at the Strouds Run operations will also receive Activator and Hunter credit within the POTA program.

## Results: VE Session, October 21, 2019

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that one person tested at the October 21 VE session. Perry Rupe, WD8IFR, of Meigs County, who came in as a Technician, earned his Extra Class license. Volunteer Examiners who participated in the test session were Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Bill Warthman, K8WJW; Scott Green, KD8KZG; and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he has not yet been able to set a date for this group-build. He may try to schedule it to follow the end of the Technician License class so any interested students can participate.

#### ACARA Monthly 2-Meter Net

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that with the passing of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, who often served as net control for the monthly 2-meter net, the net has become inactive. Eric asked the assembled members if there is interest in reviving the 2-meter net. The consensus was that the net should be revived.

Eric asked for a volunteer to spearhead the monthly 2-meter, someone who can identify and train a cadre of net-control stations and make sure someone runs the net each month. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, volunteered to take on this responsibility and added that he might also start a monthly ARES net to immediately follow the general-purpose 2-meter net.

John Biddle, W8PG, suggested the club might contact all hams in Athens County via email to invite them to participate in the revived net. The assembled members felt this is a good idea and the club will do this once the net is again active.

Members are asked to watch for emails with details about the revived monthly 2-meter net.

#### All Athens Special Event

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, was not present and no report was made.

#### ACARA Constitution and Bylaws

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, was not present and no report was made.

## Bobcat Trail Marathon 2019 – 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, reported that seven operators participated in the ACARA support of the Bobcat Trail Marathon. Jeff reported that the event organizers were very appreciative of the club's support. For next year's event, Jeff will provide the event organizers with t-shirt sizes and the organizers will have event shirts for the operators.

## ACARA Holiday Dinner – Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has reserved the large room at Lui Lui (<http://luluirestaurant.com/>) for this event.

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. Members and guests are asked to arrive at 5:30pm for hors d'oeuvres and punch; Dinner orders will be taken about 6:00pm

Via email, Carl Denbow, N8VZ, had expressed concern that the OHIO vs. Purdue basketball game on the 17<sup>th</sup> would conflict with the Holiday Dinner. Tip-off for the basketball game is 9:00pm and an extra-cost pre-game reception starts at 8:30pm. The assembled members felt that with the Holiday Dinner starting at 5:30pm, the dinner would be over early enough that anyone wishing to attend the basketball game could get to the stadium in time, so the date and/or time for the Holiday Dinner were not changed.

## New Business

## Keep Your Fork 5k Run – Saturday, November 30

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that Meigs County EC Robin Kinney, KG6DI, has requested some help in the Meigs County ARES support of the “Keep Your Fork 5k Run” in Pomeroy on Saturday, November 30, the Sunday following Thanksgiving Day. This run benefits the Brandi Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund at Meigs High School. This is the first such event supported by the Meigs County ARES and Robin needs three additional operators. Operators are expected be needed from 9:30am until around noon.

Operators available to help are asked to contact Robin directly at [robinkinney@core.com](mailto:robinkinney@core.com).

## ARRL 10-Meter Contest – December 14-15, 2019

John Biddle, W8PG, reminded members of the upcoming ARRL 10-Meter Contest which falls on December 14 and 15 this year.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, explained that the ACARA participates in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest in two ways. First, the ACARA member earning the highest score in the contest wins the right to hold the *NC8V Memorial Trophy* for a year. Second, the ACARA competes in the Club Competition aspect of the 10-Meter Contest.

Eric will send an email and will publish a post on the ACARA website (<http://www.ac-ara.org/>) with details about the 10-Meter Contest.



WFDA Winter Field Day – January 25-26, 2020

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Winter Field Day Association's annual Winter Field Day will be held on January 25 and 26, 2020, and asked if there is interest in the club in participating and, if so, is there interest in participating in the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*.

Eric reminded the assembled members that in 2018 the club participated at the farm of Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, and in 2019 the club participated at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio, in the station that is now the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*.

The assembled members did express interest in participating in Winter Field Day at the *Jim Cross Memorial Radio Station*. Eric will appoint an event chairman.

Members are asked to watch for emails and postings on the ACARA website (<http://www.ac-ara.org/>) for details about this event.

Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 4, 2020

Event Sponsor: Southeastern Ohio Trail Runners / Michael Owen

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the ACARA has again been asked to provide communications support to the Iron Furnace Trail Run which is to be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020.

Members are asked to watch for emails from Jeff about this event.

Athens Gravel Challenge – Saturday, April 11, 2020

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the date of this event has changed to Saturday, April 11, 2020.

Members are asked to watch for emails from Jeff about this event.

Following a motion by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.