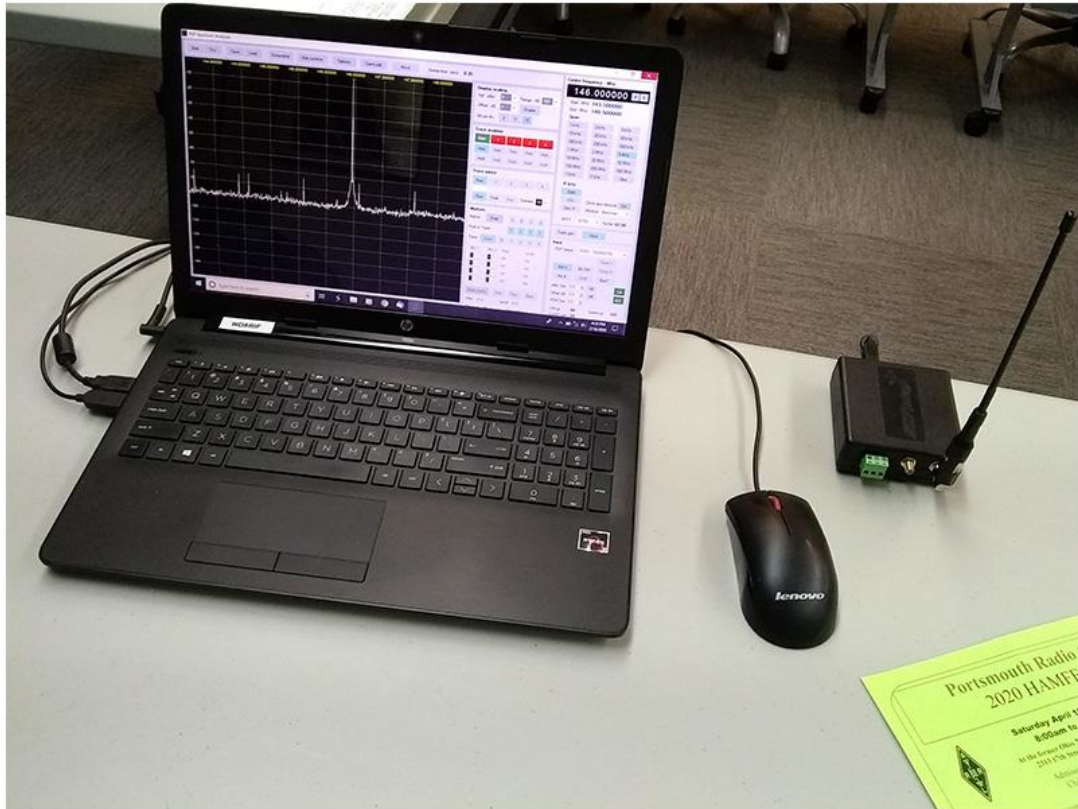


Pre-Meeting Show-and-Tell

A “show-and-tell” was held in the half-hour preceding the start of the business meeting. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, showed his SDRplay (<https://www.sdrplay.com/>) RSP2 software designed receiver (SDR) and spectrum analyzer software. In the photo, the spectrum analyzer software is looking at the entire 2m ham band; the tall spike is a signal on 146.400 MHz being generated by a nearby HT.



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Pre-Meeting Announcement

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced that an *Amateur Radio on the International Space Station* (ARISS, <https://www.ariss.org/>) QSO is scheduled with Maple Dale High School in Cincinnati on February 20, 2020. The QSO will start at 18:20:28 UTC and will last for about seven minutes. The transmissions from astronaut Drew Morgan on the ISS will be able to be heard over all of southeastern Ohio for most of the pass. The ISS's downlink frequency is 145.800 MHz; to account for Doppler Shift due to the ISS's high speed in Low Earth Orbit, begin listening on 145.805 MHz, switch to 145.800 MHz mid-way through the pass, and finally switch to 145.795 toward the end of the pass. The ISS will be at 314.5° as it initially climbs above the horizon, will be at 34.8° azimuth and 58.7° elevation at its highest point in the middle of the pass, and will be at 116.2° when it finally drops again below the horizon.

Visit <https://www.ariss.org/upcoming-contacts.html> to read more about this upcoming QSO and to read the questions the students will ask the astronaut.

Attendance

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
John Biddle, W8PG
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Robert Moore, KC8KSM
Marc Richards, KC8MCW

Following the social gathering at 6:30 pm, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

The minutes of January 21, 2020 meeting were distributed. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, moved that the minutes be accepted as distributed. Marc Richards, KC8MCW, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Silent Key

ACARA member Ed Thomas, NV5Z, died January 30, 2020 of a massive stroke.

Read Ed's obituary here:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/athensmessenger/obituary.aspx?n=edwin-thomas&pid=195238289>

The club will be making a donation in Ed's name following the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, distributed the Treasurer's Report. The report showed that the club treasury holds \$3999.22 in unencumbered funds and that the *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$50.30.

Drew reported that he has sent out membership renewal reminders via post using club membership rosters going back to 2016. As of the meeting date, Drew's postal campaign has netted four membership renewals.

Drew reported he has been analyzing the club's membership. The club had 35 paid members in 2015, and 25 paid members in 2019. Currently, the club has 24 paid members but this number is expected to grow as a result of Drew's postal campaign.

Drew reported that he has paid the club's liability insurance but, as with the club's equipment insurance, Mercer failed to process the renewal in a timely fashion and Drew was forced to submit an application for a new policy. As decided during the January meeting, next cycle, Drew will purchase insurance through the ARRL's program.

Drew reported that the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station Sustainable Funding Task Force* consisting of himself; Carl Denbow, N8VZ; and Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, has not yet been able to meet because of scheduling conflicts. Drew hopes the Task Force can meet this coming Saturday.

Bob Moore, KC8KSM, 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 System Fusion Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the 2m DR-2X System Fusion Repeater continues to function properly.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that the 9-1-1 Center's Brian Davis will be leaving the area in April and suggested the ACARA should move the repeater antenna to the 9-1-1 tower prior to the departure of Mr. Davis.

UHF System Fusion Repeater

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that the 70cm DR-2X System Fusion Repeater appears to be functioning properly and that the repeater coordination with the Ohio Area Repeater Council (OARC) has been updated.

VHF DMR Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that frequency coordination for the proposed VHF DMR repeater is complete.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, expressed surprise that the proposed DMR repeater will be on 2m since the majority of ACARA members who own DMR equipment have UHF-only DMR equipment.

Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the station's Hustler 5-BTV antenna is still lying on the roof.

Eric reported on an email he received from the son of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB (SK). Monday marked the one-year anniversary of Jim Crouse's death. On the occasion of this anniversary, Mark Crouse, WB8HMI, expressed his appreciation for the work that has been put into building this station in memory of his father.

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the class now has five students,

Report: WFDA Winter Field Day – January 25-26, 2020

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA participated in the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) Winter Field Day operating event at the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station* on the Saturday of the 24-hour weekend event using the club's Elecraft K3 transceiver and a Maple Leaf Designs / QSO King 59' multi-band end-fed wire antenna and Spiderbeam 40' telescoping fiberglass mast provided by Josh Cash, KE8EAS.

Under the direction of Dave Bradley, N8DWB, the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio used the Winter Field Day operation as a training exercise in mass-care and feeding and provided dinner to ACARA members present.

Participants:

Dave Bradley, N8DWB
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ
Bob Moore, KC8KSM
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Bob Weber (as-yet unlicensed)
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

Results:

80m CW 11
80m SSB 3
40m CW 46
40m SSB 12
20m CW 3
20m CW 0

View a complete report with photos at <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=995>.

Upcoming Event:

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 26, 2020

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has arranged for door prizes from Universal Radio and from Elecraft. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, has arranged for a door prize from DX Engineering and is waiting to hear back from R&L Electronics. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, has arranged for door prizes from MFJ Enterprises.

Eric reported that Drew has updated the hamfest flyer. Eric and Drew each took flyers to the Mansfield Mid*Winter Hamfest on February 16. Eric has asked Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, to publish the hamfest flyer on the club website and has asked Josh Cash, KE8EAS, to publish the flyer on the club's Facebook page.

Drew announced that he would like to return to postcards sent via post for hamfest promotion, adding that Minuteman Press in Athens is both significantly less expensive and delivers quicker turn-around than printer we used previously. Drew requests help updating the club's hamfest database using the admission tickets from Hamfest 2019.

Club Construction Project – Copper 2m J-Pole Antenna

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he is looking at dates in April and May for this project. Given the number of events the club will be supporting in in April, it seems likely a date in May will be chosen. The cost for materials will be approximately \$50 for each antenna.

The question was asked, with the closing of ReUse Industries, will the Athens MakerSpace still be available for this build?

ACARA Monthly 2-Meter Net

In the absence of Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, no report was given.

All Athens Special Event

In the absence of Carl Denbow, N8VZ, no report was given.

ACARA Constitution and Bylaws

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members this topic has been tabled until summer. During the summer, the Executive Committee will meet to re-write the Constitution and Bylaws. The re-written documents will be presented to the membership for a vote in September or October. (The current Constitution and Bylaws documents were attached to the minutes of the January 21, 2020 ACARA meeting, which can be viewed here: http://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=37.)

Upcoming Public Service Event:

Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 4, 2020

Event Sponsor: Southeastern Ohio Trail Runners / Michael Owen
<https://www.ironfurnacetrailrun.com/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members of this upcoming public service event.

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

Upcoming Public Service Event:

Athens Gravel Challenge – Saturday, April 11, 2020

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members of this upcoming special service event which has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2020.

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

Upcoming Public Service Event:
Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 19, 2020

Event Sponsor: Athens Marathon Committee / Lisa Simons
<https://www.athensohiomarathon.com/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members of this upcoming special service event.

Eric reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK; Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, are working to install a portable APRS digipeater at the home of Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV. This digipeater will serve the same function as the digipeater that had previously been deployed at the house of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB (SK).

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

Upcoming Social Event:
ACARA February Potluck – Saturday, February 22, 2020

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership of the upcoming potluck.

Eric reported that John McCutcheon, N8XWO, will bring two animated shorts on 16mm film. Eric will bring an episode of *The Twilight Zone* on DVD.

All club members, their families, and their guests are invited. We will gather at 5pm and eat at 5:30pm. Club members, their families, and their guests are asked to bring a dish to share and their own beverage and serving-ware.

New Business

Upcoming Event:
Meigs County LEPC Drill – Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that the club might be asked to provide operators for the Meigs County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) exercise.

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

Upcoming Event:

Athens County LEPC Drill – Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that the club is being asked to provide operators for the Athens County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) exercise. Operators will be needed at the Athens County EOC and at the Red Cross. The exercise is expected to run from 8am to 2pm, including a provided lunch and a hotwash. after-action discussion.

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

Athens EMA Radio Station

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he began discussions with Athens EMA Director Don Gossell about upgrades to the radio station at the Athens County EMA. Jeff presented a wish-list and quote from GigaParts to Mr Gossell for an ICOM IC-7300 HF transceiver, a Hustler 6-BTV vertical HF antenna, an HF multi-band fan-dipole, an LDG AT-100Proll antenna tuner with ICOM-specific interface cable; an Alinco DR-735T 2m/70cm FM transceiver, a 2m/70cm base-station antenna, Polyphaser lightning arrestors, and feedlines. Mr Gossell approved the purchase of all these items through an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). We may need to come up with a side-arm mount for the fan dipole but there are existing mounts for everything else.

Jeff believes Mr Gossell will be ordering prior to March 1. The equipment will belong to EMA and will be insured by the county. We will be under an MOU for operating drills and declarations.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, asked if the Athens County EMA has emergency back-up power. No one present knew the answer to this question.

Upcoming Event:
ARRL Field Day – June 27-28, 2020

<https://field-day.arrl.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members of this upcoming annual operating event and reported that he will reserve the use of the Athens County Fairgrounds brick building and grounds for the club's use.

Eric further reported that Josh Cash, KE8EAS, had previously expressed interest in the club participating in the two-transmitter (2A) class this year, with one HF station for CW and one HF station for SSB. There was discussion about whether the club could provide enough operators for a competitive Class 2A effort. With Josh not present, no decision was made.

Following a motion by Marc Richards, KC8MCW, and a second by Bob Moore, KC8KSM, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.