

Due to concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held via teleconference. There was no program and no show-and-tell.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

### ***Attendance***

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Marc Richards, KC8MCW  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

### ***Corrections/Additions to Minutes***

Due to this being a teleconference-only meeting, no hard-copies of the March Minutes were distributed.

Via email prior to the meeting, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, submitted two corrections to the minutes. No other corrections were identified during the meeting.

A motion to accept the March Minutes as amended was made by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV. The motion was seconded by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The motion passed without dissent.

***Treasurer's Report***

Due to this being a teleconference-only meeting, no hard-copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed. A PDF of the Treasurer's Report will be published on the ACARA website along with these Meeting Minutes.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$3,866.22 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$90.28. Drew reported that the club now has 30 paid members, up slightly from 2019.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, asked if the bill from Intelliwave for the repeater tower work has arrived yet. Neither Drew nor Eric have yet received the bill.

Marc Richards, KC8MCW asked if membership renewal reminders are annually sent via post. Drew explained that he typically emails renewal reminders but this year he also sent target reminders via post. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggests we include renewal reminders when officer election ballots are sent via post in the Fall.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as delivered. Marc Richards, KC8MCW, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

**Old Business****VHF System Fusion Repeater**

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Yaesu DR-2X repeater is working well in both analog FM and C4FM digital modes. He added that with the new DR-2X, we have seen no indications of loss of sensitivity or drop in transmit power as we had seen with the original DR-1X.

Eric reported that with the antenna re-located to the 9-1-1 tower, the repeater appears to have gained improved coverage to the south and west.

Eric reported that he has sent a formal letter of termination to American Tower Corporation now that the ACARA no longer has equipment installed on the ATC tower. He added that the ACARA owns a wooden building located at the base of the ATC tower; this building is currently still occupied by Athens Police Department.

#### UHF System Fusion Repeater

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the UHF System Fusion Repeaters is working well.

#### VHF DMR Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported no updates on this project.

#### *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station*

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the Hustler BTV antenna is still lying on the roof. An antenna party will be scheduled once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted to allow access to the Red Cross Chapterhouse.

#### Athens EMA Radio Station

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he was informed by Athens County EMA Director Don Gossel that the equipment purchased for the Athens EMA Radio Station arrived on April 21. Jeff will help Don identify and inventory these items. Once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, an antenna party will be organized to install the antennas at the station.

#### Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 26, 2020 – *CANCELED*

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that in accordance with the vote at the March meeting, the Executive Committee on April 1 chose to cancel the 2020 Athens Hamfest due to COVID-19 concerns and restrictions.

Eric has notified the ARRL of the cancelation. He has asked Carl Denbow, N8VZ, to reimburse those who had already paid for tables. He has canceled the Community Center reservation.

Eric reported that Elecraft requested the return of the DL1 kit door prize. Eric has returned the DL1 via post.

Drew McDaniel notified R&L Electronics of the cancelation; R&L told Drew that the ACARA should keep the HT door prize to be awarded at the 2021 hamfest.

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported this project is on-hold pending the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

#### Club Construction Project – nanoVNA

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that this project is on-hold pending the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

Eric informed the membership that a Product Review of the nanoVNA can be found in the May 2020 issue of QST magazine and that an in-depth article about the nanoVNA can be found in the January/February issue of QEX magazine.

#### Weekly 2m FM Net

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the now-weekly 2m FM net has been held five times thus far:

- March 23, N8SUZ net-control, 13 check-ins
- March 30, KC8WMY net-control, 21 check-ins
- April 6, N8SUZ net-control, 21 check-ins
- April 13, KC8WMY net-control, 15 check-ins
- April 20, WD8RIF net-control, 22 check-ins

Eric reported that check-ins have been received from the following counties:

- Athens County
- Fairfield County
- Hocking County
- Meigs County
- Morgan County
- Noble County
- Vinton County
- Mason County, WV
- Wood County, WV

### System Fusion 2m Net

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that a System Fusion 2m Net was held on April 16. Five stations participated, with three models of Yaesu System Fusion equipment represented:

- Carl Denbow, N8VZ, FTM-400XDR
- Eric McFadden, WD8RIF (net control), FT-70DR handheld
- Steve Norris, AD8BD, FTM-3200D
- Brian Shapiro, KC8ZUF, FTM-3200D
- Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, FT-70DR handheld

Eric reported that there is interest in making a System Fusion 2m Net a regular event.

### ACARA Constitution & Bylaws

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that this issue has been tabled until Summer, when the Executive Committee will perform a re-write of the Constitution & Bylaws for presentation to the membership in September or October.

### Communications Drill/Event:

Meigs County LEPC Drill – April 1, 2020 – *CANCELED*

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that this event was canceled.

### Communications Drill/Event:

Athens County Functional Drill for the EOC – June 30, 2020

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that this event has been rescheduled for June 30, 2020. Members are to watch for email on this from Jeff.

### Public Service Event:

Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 4, 2020 – *CANCELED*

Event Sponsor: Southeastern Ohio Trail Runners / Michael Owen

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced that this event was canceled

Public Service Event:

Athens Gravel Challenge – Saturday, August 1, 2020

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that this event has been rescheduled for August 1, 2020 if state COVID-19 restrictions are lifted sufficiently to allow the race to be held.

Watch for emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

Public Service Event:

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 19, 2020 – *CANCELED*

Event Sponsor: Athens Marathon Committee / Lisa Simons

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that this event was canceled. The date for next year's event is April 18, 2021.

Public Service Event:

Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Sunday, May 31, 2020 – *CANCELED*

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that this event has been canceled.

Red Cross Volunteers

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reminded the membership that the Red Cross still needs volunteers: blood mobiles, blood ambassadors, communications volunteers for shelters, etc.

Watch for a follow-up email from Jeff.

## ACARA Meetings via Teleconference

<http://freeconferencecall.com/>

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported that Carl Denbow, N8VZ, was unable to connect to the club meeting teleconference via telephone due to a consistent busy signal.

Members in the teleconference reported that the web-connection being used by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, seemed glitchy and intermittent. Eric suggested he and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, should test Eric's connection before the May meeting.

Jeff Slattery reported he is considering signing up for his own "One Number" service through FreeConferenceCall; this might prevent members attempting to connect via telephone from receiving a busy signal.

***New Business***

Upcoming Event:

ARRL Field Day – June 27-28, 2020

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Joe Weber, KE8LRZ, contacted Ranson Calloway of the Athens County Fairboard and successfully reserved the use of the brick building at the Athens County Fairgrounds for ACARA's Field Day operation.

Eric reported that while the ARRL has not canceled Field Day due to COVID-19 concerns, they have published a letter addressing group operations this year: <http://www.arrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt>.

Eric suggested that the ACARA will need to remain flexible as far as Field Day plans are concerned during this COVID-19 crisis. If a group operation at the Fairgrounds turns out to be not possible, the club might consider encouraging members to participate individually or as family units, at home or in the field, perhaps with a club competition based on score, number of contacts made, or number of hours participated.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested that if the club can do a group operation at the Fairgrounds, the club should consider hosting a VE testing session during Field Day at the Fairgrounds if an appropriate space can be identified.

### ACARA Domain-Name Registration

Jeff Slattery reported it is time for the ACARA to renew the registration for the domain-name "ac-ara.org". From an email sent prior to the meeting:

...our ac-ara.org domain comes up for renewal on May 22. The cost is \$12.99/year.

The last time I think we renewed for at least five years and I think closer to ten. I don't have a ten year option in the renewal drop down but nine years would be \$116.91. Five years would be \$64.95.

Would probably be in our interest to renew for as long as we can at the lower price since it certainly will go up some as each year passes.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, agreed that a multi-year renewal is a good idea.

Marc Richards, KC8MCW, made a motion that the ACARA authorize Jeff Slattery to renew the domain-name for a period of nine years at a cost of \$116.91. Drew McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

### 70m FM Net

Brian Shapiro, KC8ZUF, had asked via email prior to the meeting if the ACARA should hold an occasional UHF FM net to gauge the UHF repeater's footprint.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested such a net could immediately follow the now-weekly Monday 2m FM net.



### Future Meetings

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, informed the membership that we should anticipate the need to meet remotely for the May meeting. Members are advised to watch email, the ACARA website, and the ACARA Facebook for updates.

Members are reminded that there are now two options for participating in the meetings-via-teleconference. Members can dial into the teleconference on a telephone and members can connect via the web from a microphone-equipped computer, tablet, or smartphone. Details are available here: <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=1033>

Following a motion by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and a second by Marc Richards, KC8MCW, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.