

Due to concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held via Zoom teleconference.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Attendance

Nick Arnold, KD8FKB
Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KD8JRV
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Marc Richards, KC8MCW
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

Silent Key

Jim Eblin, K8DHW, former resident of Athens

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/athensmessenger/obituary.aspx?n=james-eblin&pid=196435033>

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

Due to this being a teleconference-only meeting, no hard-copies of the June Minutes were distributed. Members had been requested via email to read the June Minutes on-line prior to the meeting.

A motion to accept the June Minutes as published was made by Marc Richards, KC8MCW. 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. Prior to the meeting, a PDF of the Treasurer's Report had been distributed via email.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1,499.36 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$95.33.

Marc Richards, KC8MCW, made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Old Business

ACARA Nets

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA's weekly nets are doing well during this time of COVID-19. He reminded members of the dates and times of the nets:

- 2m FM Net, Mondays, 7pm, 145.15 MHz
- 70cm FM Net, Mondays, immediately following the 2m net, 442.100 MHz
- 6m AM Net, Sundays and Wednesdays, 5pm, 50.4 MHz
- 2m System Fusion Net, Thursday, 5pm, 145.15 MHz
- 70cm System Fusion Net, Thursday, immediately following the 2m net, 442.100 MHz

Eric also announced the first ACARA 2m Simplex Net is to take place at 7pm on Thursday, July 23, on 146.400 MHz. Mike Cooper, KC8WMY, is to be net control.

Communications Drill/Event:

Athens County Functional Drill for the EOC

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that this event has been postponed until October.

ARRL Field Day – June 27-28, 2020

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA members participated in individual Field Day efforts:

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ – class 1-D

Carl Denbow, N8VZ – class 1-B (1B1)

John McCutcheon, N8XWO – class 1-D

Drew McDaniel W8MHV + Chalisa Magpanthong N8MHV – class 1-E

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF – class 1B (Battery) (1B1B)

Rich Post, KB8TAD – class 1-D

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ – class 1-B (1B1)

Joe Weber, KS8LRZ + Bob Weber – class 1-E

Eric reported that a gallery of photos from several of the individual Field Day efforts can be view on the ACARA website at http://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=1131.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, announced the winner of the ACARA-sponsored \$25 DX Engineering gift certificate to be awarded to the member making the most QSOs during Field Day. The winner was Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, with 245 QSOs. Drew McDaniel, With 201 QSOs, W8MHZ was second place in terms of the number of QSOs.

Drew McDaniel announced the winner of the \$25 DX Engineering gift certificate to be awarded by random draw to a member who participated in Field Day and submitted to the ARRL with “Athens County ARA” listed as the club affiliation. The winner was John McCutcheon, N8XWO. Drew McDaniel was the sponsor of this award.

Update 2020-07-24: John McCutcheon declined to accept his award on the grounds that he was unable to submit to ARRL due to a logging PC failure, rendering him ineligible to win. Drew redrew and the winner of this second drawing was Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

ACARA Club Building Project – Copper J-Pole Antenna

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that due to the Red Cross building being unavailable due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, this project is still on hold.

ACARA Project – nanoVNA

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the nanoVNA is an inexpensive yet feature-rich vector network analyser and that Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, had agreed to do a presentation on the uses of the nanoVNA. Eric asked Drew if this presentation could be done via Zoom during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Drew agreed that a presentation could easily be done via Zoom and announced that he will make his presentation during the August ACARA meeting on August 18, 2020.

New Business

Buckeye Trail Marathon / Run for the Blue Blazes – Saturday, October 3, 2020

Organizer: Buckeye Trail Association / Herb Hullis

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

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he thinks this event is still on.

UPDATE 2020-07-24: The event website now shows that this event has been canceled.

Bobcat Trail Marathon – Saturday, November 7, 2020

Organizer: Western Reserve Racing / Joe Jurczyk

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that this event is still on. Jeff will start recruiting operators in September and asks those who have worked the event in previous years to send him an email if they can work the event this year at the same location.

Ohio State Parks on the Air – Saturday, September 12, 2020

<http://ospota.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he hopes the COVID-19 situation will have improved enough that the ACARA can compete in this event as a group at Strouds Run State Park.

ACARA Summer VE Session – Monday, August 17, 2020

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reminded the members of the scheduled VE session to be held on Monday, August 17, at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Jeff reported he has received inquiries from several seeking a testing opportunity. Jeff conceded that the club might have to cancel the test session if Athens County COVID-19 case numbers remain high. He also stated that due to COVID-19 and the possible unavailability of the meeting room within the Red Cross chapterhouse, the club might have to consider alternate testing protocols, suggesting that the club might need to administer the tests in the parking lot, with test takers remaining in their vehicles.

Following a motion by Marc Richards, KC8MCW, and a second by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Following the adjournment, several members remained on the Zoom call for informal discussion.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.