

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

Program

Prior to the start of the meeting, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, gave a short presentation on his Elecraft K1 field station (http://wd8rif.com/k1_travel_kit.htm).

The meeting was called to order at 7:21 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Attendance

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Jason Licht, KG8JL
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Rich Post, KB8TAD
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

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

A motion to accept the September Minutes as published was made by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ. 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. (The Treasurer's Report is available in PDF format here: http://www.ac-ara.org/minutes/2020/Treasurers_Report_October_2020.pdf.)

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1,579.36 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$137.34.

Drew reported he has switched the club's insurance policies from Mercer to ARRL and that the premiums for the two policies are due next month. The new combined annual liability/equipment premium is \$474. This combined premium is about \$138 less than the amount the club was paying Mercer. Drew had to make payment to the ARRL's underwriter with his own credit card and will reimburse himself. Drew recommends ARRL insurance to those of us with extensive equipment.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented and that the Treasurer be authorized reimburse himself for payment made for ARRL insurance. The motion was seconded by Rich Post, KB8TAD. The motion passed without dissent.

Old Business**VHF and UHF Repeaters**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the 2m and 70m repeaters continue to work well in both analog FM and System Fusion modes.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he has done research on connecting an ADR repeater controller to the Yaesu DR-2X repeaters. Jeff has found we will need to modify our existing ADR Interface devices to work with the Yaesu DR-2X repeaters.

Old Business (continued)

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:

1. 2m FM Net, Mondays, 7pm, 145.15 MHz
2. 70cm FM Net, Mondays, immediately following the 2m net, 442.100 MHz
3. 6m AM Net, Sundays and Wednesdays, 5pm, 50.4 MHz
4. 2m System Fusion Net, Thursday, 5pm, 145.15 MHz
5. 70cm System Fusion Net, Thursday, immediately following the 2m net, 442.100 MHz
6. 2m FM Simplex Net, 7pm, occasional Thursdays as announced

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, asked if the club should continue having the occasional 2m simplex net, or should this be made a regular net. The club will revisit this question in November. Eric will ask Joe Weber, KE8LRZ, if he would be willing to run a simplex net sometime soon.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reminded members of the upcoming Ohio ARES VHF Simplex Contest in January. He will email the members with details.

Old Business (continued)

Report: ACARA Club Building Project – Copper J-Pole Antenna

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the club build of collapsible copper J-Pole antennas took place on Saturday, September 26 in the parking lot of the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Jeff provided tools and full kits of everything needed to build the antennas and was assisted by Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Builders:

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
Marc Richards, KC8MCW
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Nick Arnold, KD8KFB
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

Due to difficulties encountered while trying to adjust the completed antennas for resonance, perhaps due to proximity to a car and a bad coaxial cable, a separate antenna tuning session was held on Saturday, October 17 in the parking lot of the Red Cross. This session was attended by Nick Arnold and Kirk Groeneveld. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, joined Jeff and Eric to assist the builders in adjusting their antennas. Builders who were not able to attend are directed to contact Jeff or Eric to schedule an individual session to tune their antennas.

Jeff reported he still has some J-Pole kits available. Interested members should contact Jeff.

New Business

New Officer Nominations

Nominations of officers for the coming year, which had been postponed at the September meeting, were made.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that following the September meeting, he spoke with current Vice-President Josh Cash, KE8EAS, and Josh confirmed he is interested in serving another term as Vice-President. Eric also sent a request for nominations via email to the membership. Only one nomination was received via email. This came from Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, who nominated the current slate of officers to another term.

The current officers are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Eric McFadden, WD8RIF |
| Vice-President | Josh Cash, KE8EAS |
| Treasurer | Drew McDaniel, W8MHV |
| Secretary | Eric McFadden, WD8RIF |
| Newsletter Editor | Josh Cash, KE8EAS |
| Webmaster | Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ |
| Packet Node Trustee | Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ |
| Repeater Trustee | Eric McFadden, WD8RIF |

After some discussion, Carl Denbow, N8VZ, also nominated the current slate of officers to serve another term. This was seconded by Rich Post, KB8TAD. No other nominations were made. The motion to accept the nominations passed without dissent.

Nominations:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Eric McFadden, WD8RIF |
| Vice-President | Josh Cash, KE8EAS |
| Treasurer | Drew McDaniel, W8MHV |
| Secretary | Eric McFadden, WD8RIF |
| Newsletter Editor | Josh Cash, KE8EAS |
| Webmaster | Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ |
| Packet Node Trustee | Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ |
| Repeater Trustee | Eric McFadden, WD8RIF |

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, agreed to send paper ballots to members via post with self-addressed, stamped return envelopes. These ballots are to be returned prior to the November meeting. Because the November meeting will be held via teleconference, no ballots will be accepted at the meeting.

New Business (continued)

ARRL 10-Meter Contest – December 12-13, 2020

<http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that the ACARA participates in the upcoming 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.

ACARA Holiday Dinner

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced that the third Tuesday in December is the 15th and asked if the club wants to hold the annual Holiday Dinner this year given the continuing coronavirus situation. Will a venue be available to hold a group gathering indoors, and does the club want to risk such a gathering?

Following the suggestion by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, the club will postpone a decision until the November meeting.

Winter Field Day – January 30-31, 2021

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked if there's interest in participating in Winter Field Day as a group operation given the continuing coronavirus situation. Will the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station in the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio even be available on the event date?

Following the suggestion by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, the club will postpone a decision until a later meeting.

February Potluck

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked if there's interest in holding the annual February Potluck in 2021 given the continuing coronavirus situation. If so, on which date should the Potluck be held?

The club will revisit this question at a later meeting.

New Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, stated that, despite the continuing coronavirus situation, the club should act under the assumption that ACARA will be able to hold a hamfest in April of 2021. The assembled members agreed and, acting under that assumption, Eric will register the event with the ARRL and will contact the Athens Community Center and attempt to reserve the venue.

Eric reminded the membership that last year there was a discussion about changing the annual date of the hamfest and asked if the club wants to hold the hamfest on the traditional last Sunday of April, which would be April 25, 2021, or choose a new date. He suggested that since nearly all hamfests in 2020 have been canceled due to coronavirus, the Athens Hamfest should have good attendance regardless of date on which it is held.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, made a motion that the club keep the traditional last Sunday in April for 2021 and revisit the question of a new date for 2022. The motion was seconded by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. The motion passed without dissent.

Foxhunts

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported that Hocking County Amateur Radio Club (HVARC) holds a 2m foxhunt one Saturday each month and that HVARC is interested in increasing participation in these foxhunts by Athens County Amateurs. The fox is always hidden in Hocking County, at a location accessible by motor-vehicle. Registration starts at 9:45am on the HVARC 147.345 MHz repeater (114.8 Hz PL) and the foxhunt starts at 10am. Hunters start the hunt wherever they happen to be in Hocking County. The fox is a live voice, with transmissions being made at two- to five-minute intervals. HVARC has a website but it currently includes no information about these foxhunts.

Kirk is interested in starting foxhunts in Athens County. Toward that end, he has built an automated fox transmitter but now thinks a live-voice fox is more fun.

Kirk suggests ACARA might approach HVARC to arrange a joint ACARA/HVARC foxhunt.

Following a motion by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, and a second by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.