

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Attendance

Nick Arnold, KD8FKB
Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
John Biddle, W8PG
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

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

A motion to accept the October Minutes as published was made by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. 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 had been distributed via email prior to the meeting. The Treasurer's Report is available online in PDF format here:

http://www.ac-ara.org/minutes/2020/Treasurers_Report_November_2020.pdf.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1,123.98 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$158.34.

Drew reported he has paid the annual insurance premium to ARRL Sponsored Insurance. Because payment can only be made by credit card, Drew used his personal credit card to make payment and then reimbursed himself from the treasury as was authorized by vote at the October meeting.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Nick Arnold, KD8FKB. 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 is building the required interface cables to connect the ARCOM RC-210 repeater controller to the Yaesu DR-2X repeaters through ADR Interface Devices. Jeff added that he has been learning how to program the RC-210 controller. Since the RC-210 can control and interlink three repeaters, Jeff plans to eventually move the UHF System Fusion repeater and a 220 MHz control link into the wooden 9-1-1 building that currently houses the ACARA's VHF System Fusion repeater.

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 current net schedule:

- 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, Thursdays, 5pm, 145.15 MHz
- 70cm System Fusion Net, Thursdays, immediately following the 2m net, 442.100 MHz
- 2m FM Simplex Net, occasional Thursdays as announced, 7pm, 146.400 MHz

Eric asked Joe Weber, KE8LRZ, to discuss his suggestion for the 2m FM Simplex Net. Joe explained he is willing to act as net control for a monthly 2m Simplex Net that will take place at 7pm on the first Thursday of each month, with the next such net to take place on December 3. Joe suggests other operators could occasionally act as net control.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported that he will host a weekly 10m SSB Net at 5pm each Tuesday starting on December 1. The net will be on 28.350 MHz, a frequency within the Technician Class sub-band, so all licensed hams will be able to participate regardless of their license class.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, asked for a volunteer to act as net-control for the November 23 editions of the 2m and 70cm FM nets. Eric volunteered to serve as net control on the 23rd. Jeff announced he will serve as net control on November 30.

Old Business (continued)

Report: ACARA Club Building Project – 2m Tape-Measure Yagi

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported on the club build of three-element 2m tape-measure yagis organized by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV. The build took place in the parking lot of the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio on Saturday, November 14.

Participants:

Nick Arnold, KD8FKB
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV (organizer)
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Brian Shapiro, KC8ZUF
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (support)

Instructions to build the 2m Tape-Measure Yagi can be viewed at <https://www.jpole-antenna.com/2017/02/07/build-it-2-meter-tape-measure-yagi-beam-antenna/>.

Nick Arnold, KD8FKB, announced he has tape-measure material available for anyone wishing to build a 2m tape-measure yagi.

Foxhunts

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported that the Hocking County Amateur Radio Club (HVARC) will be holding a foxhunt on Saturday, November 21. Registration via radio begins at 9:45 a.m. on the HVARC 147.345 MHz (PL 114.8) repeater and the hunt begins at 10 a.m. The frequency of the hidden transmitter is 147.495 simplex, with the 147.345 MHz repeater being reserved for the period.

Kirk has been discussing with members of HVARC the possibility of a joint HVARC/ACARA foxhunt but would ultimately like ACARA to sponsor its own foxhunt series.

ACARA Constitution and Bylaws

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the rewrite of the club's Constitution and Bylaws remains on hold during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Old Business (continued)

Results: ARRL Field Day – June 27-28, 2020

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Field Day 2020 scores have been published. The Field Day 2020 Aggregate Club Scores can be viewed in the December, 2020 issue of QST and online at <https://field-day.arrl.org/>. Unfortunately, the Aggregate Club Scores are not presented in a way amenable to comparison with other groups. The “Athens County ARA” earned 6,204 points with seven entries submitted.

Field Day 2020 Individual Scores can be viewed online in PDF format at <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestResults/2020/Field-Day-2020-FinalLineScores.pdf>.

The seven ACARA submissions were as follows:

WD8RIF: Class 1B-Battery 245 QSO, 5w, 3,000 points
W8MHV+N8MHV: Class 1E, 204 QSO, < 150w, 1,158 points
N8SUZ: Class 1B, 146 QSO, < 150w, 942 points
N8VZ: Class 1B, 117 QSO, < 150w, 718 points
KE8LRZ + Bob: Class 1E, 40 QSO, < 150w, 250 points
KB8TAD: Class 1D, 16 QSO, < 150w, 82 points
KD8FRQ: Class 1D 2 QSO, < 150w, 54 points

Results: Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) – September 11, 2020

<http://ospota.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the OSPOTA 2020 results have been posted: <http://ospota.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/OSPOTA-2020-Finals-Soaps-1Nov2020.pdf>.

The ACARA placed 2nd in “Multi-Op, Single Transmitter, Low Power, in a Park” class with 171 QSOs, 37 parks, and 6,903 points.

The ACARA’s certificate for 2nd place in class has arrived.

Old Business (continued)

ACARA Holiday Dinner

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that at the October meeting the members had decided to delay until the November meeting the question of whether to have an ACARA Holiday Dinner during the continuing COVID-19 situation.

Discussion ensued, with Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, pointing out that Governor DeWine has ordered a 21-day curfew, and with Nick Arnold, KD8FKB, asking if a virtual Holiday Dinner could be held instead of an in-person gathering. Jeff confirmed that his Zoom channel would be available for such a virtual Holiday Dinner.

The decision was made to cancel the physical get-together in favor of a virtual ACARA Holiday Dinner via Zoom on December 15, the third Tuesday in December. Eric will send an email to the membership and will ensure that the ACARA website is updated to reflect the change in plans.

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the ACARA participates in the annual ARRL 10-Meter Contest in two ways. First, the ACARA member earning the highest score in the contest wins the right to hold the coveted NC8V Memorial Trophy for a year. Second, the ACARA competes in the Club Competition aspect of the 10-Meter Contest. Participating members should list their club affiliation as “Athens County ARA”.

Eric asked Treasurer Drew McDaniel to send him a current membership roster which he will use to provide the ARRL with a current list of eligible ACARA members.

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.

Old Business (continued)

Winter Field Day – January 30-31, 2021

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that at the October meeting the members had decided to delay until a later meeting the question of whether to participate as a group in the upcoming Winter Field Day.

Eric further reminded the membership that in 2019 and 2020 the ACARA participated in Winter Field Day as a group in what is now known as the *Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station* at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Eric suggested that the decision about whether to participate as a group be postponed until the January meeting.

ACARA February Potluck

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that at the October meeting the members had decided to delay until a later meeting the question about whether to hold an ACARA February.

Eric suggested that the decision be postponed until the January meeting,

ACARA Technician License Class

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about the possibility of holding a Technician License Class in 2021. Jeff replied that he does not think an in-person class starting in January will be feasible given the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic. Jeff suggested that a class could be held via Zoom if the instructors were willing. He added that an in-person test-session following the classes could be safely administered in the Masonic Lodge.

Discussion ensued, with Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggesting that perhaps the class should be postponed until a time later in the year when the COVID-19 situation is under control.

Jeff agreed to postpone the classes until later in the year and will choose a starting date based on the COVID-19 situation. Jeff will update the ACARA website to reflect the change.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 25, 2021

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that at the October meeting it had been decided that planning for the Athens Hamfest must continue with the assumption that the COVID-19 situation in late April will allow the hamfest to be held. Toward that end, Eric has applied for and has received ARRL-sanction for the event, and he has reserved the use of the Athens Community Center through the new point-of-contact, Vanessa Scott.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggested that since the Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation (SCARF) has already announced the cancelation of their hamfest in January, perhaps the ACARA should invite them to jointly hold an ACARA/SCARF event on April 25. It was agreed this is an idea worth pursuing. Eric will contact the SCARF President and make the overture.

New Business

New Officer Elections

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, counted the paper ballots that had been received prior to this meeting. He reported that a total of seventeen (17) ballots had been received and that the slate of candidates, all of which were uncontested, were re-elected.

The new 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

New Business (cont'd)

New Officer Elections (continued)

Drew reported the following vote-counts for each position:

- For Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, for President, 17 ballots.
- For Josh Cash, KE8EAS, for Vice-President, 16 ballots.
- For Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, for Treasurer, 17 ballots.
- For Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, for Secretary, 16 ballots, with one write-in for Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ.
- For Josh Cash, KE8EAS, for Newsletter Editor, 15 ballots, with one write-in for Carl Denbow, N8VZ.
- For Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, for Repeater Trustee, 16 ballots, with one write-in for Josh Cash, KE8EAS.
- For Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, for Packet Node Trustee, 16 ballots.
- For Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, for Webmaster, 16 ballots.

Three of the ballots contained suggestions:

- Ballot #1
 - Foxhunts
 - More club building projects
 - Presentations on electronic theory
 - Transistor theory (semiconductor)
 - Simple amp circuits
 - Oscillators
 - SDR theory (stages)
 - Software in the shack (Linux)
 - Logging
 - Digital modes
 - CAT control
- Ballot #2
 - Antenna Basics 101
 - 70cm Tips and Techniques
- Ballot #3
 - In the warm months, simple and practical projects to assist the new ham develop skills and build their “shack”.
 - Foxhunts held semi-regularly to keep us involved and still allow some social distancing
 - Regular radio nets each week to keep contact and foster a sense of community

Following a motion by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, and a second by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.