

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Attendance

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Rich Post, KB8TAD
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

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

A motion to accept the November Minutes as published was made by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The motion was seconded by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. 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 in PDF format is available online:

http://www.ac-ara.org/minutes/2021/Treasurers_Report_January_2021.pdf.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1,164.98 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$158.38.

Drew reminded the membership that it is time to pay dues for 2021. Dues can be sent to Athens County Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 72, Athens OH 45701.

Rich Post, KB8TAD, made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV. The motion passed without dissent.

Old Business**VHF and UHF Repeaters**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the VHF repeater seems to have an intermittent sensitivity issue—it acts like the receiver is being desensed by another signal. Eric asked that we watch for patterns during the weekly 2m Net and, perhaps, use a spectrum analyzer or broadband receiver to identify the signal.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the Athens County EMA EMS VHF alerting frequency has been changed to 154.1675 MHz and suggested this might be the signal causing the desense. He will monitor the VHF alerting frequency during the 2m Nets to see if transmissions correspond with periods of desense. (Correction: "EMS", not "EMA".)

Jeff Slattery reported that the UHF repeater appears to be working properly in both FM and System Fusion modes.

Jeff Slattery reported that he is continuing to work with the Arcom RC-210 Repeater Controller. He has been working with the manufacturer to identify internal switches and configurations to complete the interface to a Yaesu DR-2X repeater. Jeff has found the owner of Arcom, Ken Arc, to be very helpful and he has been impressed with the support he has received.

Old Business (continued)

ACARA Nets

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA's weekly nets continue to do 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
- 10m SSB Ragchew Net, Tuesdays, 5pm, 28.350 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, first Thursday, 7pm, 146.400 MHz

Foxhunts

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported that he continues to gather equipment and information to use in for ACARA foxhunts later in the year. He also reported that the Hocking County events have been suspended until Spring.

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)

ACARA Holiday Virtual Party – Tuesday, December 15, 2020 via Zoom

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that in place of the traditional annual Holiday Dinner, the ACARA sponsored a Holiday Virtual Party via Zoom.

Attendees:

Nick Arnold, KD8FKB
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Vickie McFadden, KA8MAJ
Rich Post, KB8TAD
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

2020-12-15 - NC8V Memorial Trophy Awarded

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported the results of the annual NC8V Memorial Trophy, which is awarded to the ACARA member who earns the highest score in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest:

#1. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	99 QSO CW	30 multipliers	11,880 points
#2. Carl Denbow, N8VZ	68 QSO SSB	27 multipliers	3,618 points
#3. John Biddle, W8PG	40 QSO SSB		
#4. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV	46 QSO SSB	19 multipliers	1,748 points
#5. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ	1 QSO SSB	1 multiplier	2 points

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.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has not yet learned whether the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio and the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station will be available but he will continue discussions with the Red Cross staff.

Watch for an email with details.

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.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, thinks the event will draw too large a crowd for the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio to accept in their building.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, made a motion that the event be postponed until September 2021. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

ACARA Technician License Class

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he has gained permission to use the Masonic Lodge for a VE testing session on Monday, March 15, 2021.

Jeff reported that any licensing class will need to remain delayed due to the continuing COVID-19 crisis. He said it is unlikely we be able to hold a class during the first half of 2021.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 25, 2021

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the event has been registered with the ARRL and the Athens Community Center has been reserved.

Eric reminded the membership that at the November meeting Carl Denbow, N8VZ, had suggested we might invite SCARF to jointly hold the hamfest. Eric reported that he has not yet reached out to the SCARF president.

Carl Denbow stated that he thinks we will have trouble holding the event in April. He suggested we postpone the hamfest until later in the summer and hold it as an “All Athens County” hamfest in conjunction with SCARF. Discussion ensued about possible dates and conflicting events including Ohio University graduation and the August 7 Columbus Hamfest. The question was brought up, would we be able to use the Joint Vocational School instead of the Community Center if we hold the hamfest jointly with SCARF?

Carl made a motion that we take his suggestion under advisement and make a decision about the April 25 hamfest and a summer “All Athens County” hamfest at the February meeting. Rich Post, KB8TAD, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Eric reminded members that Universal Radio has closed their showroom but the website indicates they’re still selling equipment. Eric said is unsure if Universal is still getting new stock or is selling down existing inventory and asked if it would proper to ask Universal for hamfest doorprizes. After some discussion, it was decided it would appropriate to contact Fred Osterman at Universal Radio.

Carl stated he will contact MFJ about doorprizes once a firm date is established. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported that he still has the doorprize handheld transceiver from R&L that they provided for the canceled 2020 hamfest.

New Business

Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 3, 2021 (?)

Event Sponsor: Southeastern Ohio Trail Runners / Michael Owen

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Iron Furnace Trail website has announced the date of April 3, 2021 for the 13.1 mile / 4.5 mile event but that the organizers are unsure the event can be held.

Eric read the announcement from the IFTR website:

We typically open registration for the Iron Furnace Trail Run in October, but at this time we are holding off on opening registration for 2021. We are continuing to seek information from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) about how they will be issuing permits going forward during the COVID Pandemic. We hope to host IFTR on April 3 and once we can be confident we can carry through with the event on that day we'll open registration and update everyone through social media, emails, and this website. If changes are needed to be made we'll announce them in the same fashion.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he has not yet been contacted by the organizers. He will reach out to them.

Athens Gravel Challenge – Saturday, April 11, 2021 (?)

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that if it is held on its usual date, the Athens Gravel Challenge will be held on April 11, 2021.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he has not yet been contacted by the organizers. He will reach out to them.

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 18, 2021

Event Sponsor: Athens Marathon Committee / Lisa Simons

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the website of the Athens Marathon has announced the date of April 18, 2021 for the event.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, said he will contact Lisa Simons of the Marathon Committee.

Following a motion by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, and a second by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.