

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

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

Attendance

Nick Arnold, KE8FKB
Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
John Biddle, W8PG
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Corrections/Additions to Minutes of Last Meeting

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

A motion to accept the April 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. The Treasurer's Report in PDF format is available online:

http://www.ac-ara.org/minutes/2021/Treasurers_Report_May_2021.pdf.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1,470.98 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$263.40.

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The motion passed without dissent.

Old Business**VHF and UHF Repeaters**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has noticed no significant decrease of the 2m repeater during any of the recent nets and that the repeater appears to be working well.

Jeff Slattery reported that the UHF repeater continues to work well, although the repeater's coverage area is still limited. Jeff suggested that the club might want to do some coverage-mapping of the repeater later this summer.

Jeff Slattery reported no recent progress on the Arcom ARC-210 repeater controller project.

Old Business (continued)

ACARA Nets

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA's weekly and monthly 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 System Fusion net, 442.100 MHz
- 2m FM Simplex Net, first Thursday, 7pm, 146.400 MHz

Eric extended thanks to all those serving as net-control and to all those participating in the club nets.

Old Business (continued)

Foxhunts

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported that the Hocking Valley Amateur Radio Club (HVARC) will not be holding a foxhunt in the month of June and announced June 13 as the date for the ACARA's first foxhunt. The foxhunt will commence at 10am, with registration and coordination taking place on the ACARA's 145.15 MHz repeater. The hunt itself will take place on a 2m simplex frequency. Kirk will serve as the fox for this first event and will use voice-transmissions instead of an automated beacon. Kirk will send an email to the membership with details and instructions.

Kirk reminded the membership that he has three kits available to build a 2m tape-measure yagi suitable for use in foxhunting. Those interested in building a yagi may contact Kirk at breathair@hotmail.com.

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.

ACARA/SCARF VE Session – Sunday, April 25

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that ACARA and SCARF held a combined VE session on Sunday, April 25, in the parking lot of the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Three candidates tested and all left with a new license or an upgrade.

Jeff said it was nice to have SCARF's Scott Green, KD8KZG, participating again.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Summer Hamfest

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that in response to an email he had sent earlier, Vanessa Scott at the Athens Community Center emailed on April 21 that the Community Center has been discussing opening the venue for small events but they don't know yet what July or August will bring. She also wrote that the Community Center is currently not open for Sunday events. In reply to a subsequent email asking if Governor DeWine's upcoming revocation of restrictions will allow the venue to be available, Vanessa Scott said that they do not yet know how or when availability will change.

Eric reported that he received an email on May 11 from SCARF President Robert Peoples, N8UVM, who had been experiencing email issues. Robert wrote that SCARF discussed the idea of an "All Athens County Hamfest" at their March meeting; though a couple of members liked the idea, most did not like the idea, and since there was not a quorum present, no vote was taken. SCARF did not meet in April. SCARF again discussed the "All Athens County Hamfest" at the May meeting. The members present were more open to the idea but wanted more detail. Several members were concerned about the finances and would be more interested in a simple tailgate-party type of event. No vote was taken because a quorum wasn't present. Robert concluded his email asking for more details about the proposed joint hamfest.

After presenting the above information, Eric asked the question, "Does the ACARA want to do a simple tailgate-type event or a full-fledged hamfest?" Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, thought the idea of a tailgate-type event is good if we are not able to use the Community Center. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, thought we can wait awhile for the Community Center to be available. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, suggested we do not have the luxury of waiting for the Community Center since there's significant up-front work involved in putting on the hamfest and that we should either give up entirely on the idea of putting on a hamfest this summer or do a simple tailgate-type of event. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested that we look into renting the Athens County Shrine Club facility in The Plains for a traditional hamfest. Jeff thinks the venue would be large enough and should cost less than what the ACARA has been spending for the Community Center. Jeff said he will contact the Shriners.

Eric suggested that the Executive Committee should meet this weekend and make a decision regarding the hamfest, after which he will notify SCARF of the decision.

Public Service Event – Lake Hope Bicycle Race

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he has no news yet on this event. He will reach out to Teams Athens Cycling to see if they have chosen a date for this event.

June Picnic – Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, contacted the city recreation department on March 21 about reserving the Southside Park shelterhouse and was told that the city is not currently taking reservations but that the city is also not kicking out groups who use shelterhouses on a first-come, first-served basis. Drew will contact the city recreation department in May to try again to reserve the venue.

Eric said that whether the Southside Park shelterhouse can be reserved, members should plan on meeting there at 5:30pm on Tuesday, June 15 for the picnic. This picnic will take the place of the third-Tuesday ACARA meeting for the month of June.

ACARA VE Session – Monday, June 21, 2021

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has scheduled a VE session for 7pm at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Registration will open at 6:30pm. Testing will take place in the parking lot if the building is not yet open for groups.

Old Business (continued)

Operating Event – ARRL Field Day

Event Date: June 27-28, 2021

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that the ARRL has extended the special COVID-19 rules for 2021:

Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.

An aggregate club score will be published — just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

Eric reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has received confirmation from Teresa Savage at Athens County 9-1-1 that the 50' mobile crank-up tower will be available for our use.

Eric reported that Jeff has also asked both Athens Mayor Steve Patterson and the Athens County Board of Commissioners to make "Amateur Radio Operators Appreciation Days" proclamations. Jeff reported that he has already received confirmation from the County that they will make such a proclamation.

Eric reported that he has received confirmation from Ranson Callaway that the ACARA has permission to use the fairgrounds for Field Day.

Eric reported that he has received confirmation from John McCutcheon, N8XWO, that John will provide a VHF station and serve as VHF Captain at an ACARA group Field Day operation.

Eric asked the question, "Does ACARA want to perform a group operation for Field Day this year?" Jeff Slattery gave an enthusiastic "thumbs up". Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, is concerned that concern about COVID-19 might keep some otherwise-interested operators away. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, is hesitant about a group operation in part because he enjoyed the learning experience of doing a solo effort in 2020. Jeff suggested the club membership be sent a survey to determine what the members prefer to do. Eric agreed to build and distribute such a survey.

Old Business (continued)

Special Event Station – The Wall That Heals National Tour 2021

Event Date: July 29, 2021 – August 1, 2021

<https://www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals/2021-Tour-Schedule/>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reports he has heard nothing new about this event. He will reach out again to the OU Radio Club advisor to ask about a combined ACARA / OU Radio Club special event operation at or near the site of the exhibit.

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported that he had just heard that the Parkersburg-area showing of the traveling wall has been canceled. A visit to the “The Wall that Heals National Tour” website failed to find a Parkersburg-area showing so either the listing has been removed or the canceled show was that of a different traveling wall. The website still shows the Athens as hosting the wall July 29 through August 1.

Public Service Event – Run Baileys

Event Dates: August 6-8, 2021

Event Sponsor: [Southeast Ohio Trail Runners](#) / Michael Owen

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, had notified the club of this new event that the ACARA might be asked to support.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has not yet been contacted by the event organizers. Jeff will reach out to Michael Owen to see if the ACARA will be needed to support this event.

Watch for emails from Jeff if we are asked to support this event.

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event – Run for the Blue Blazes / Buckeye Trail Marathon

Event Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021

Event Sponsor: [Buckeye Trail Association](#)

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the ACARA has been asked to support this event. Jeff said he is considering the deployment of a cross-band repeater atop the hill in Shawnee to solve some of the coverage issues we had in previous years.

Watch for emails from Jeff as the date of the event grows nearer.

Public Service Event – Athens Gravel Challenge

Event Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the ACARA has been asked to support this event.

Jeff reminded the membership that the date of this event is the same date as that of the Buckeye Trail Marathon. Jeff is confident the club can provide enough operators to support both events.

Watch for emails from Jeff as the date of the event grows nearer.

Public Service Event – Bobcat Trail Marathon

Event Sponsor: Western Reserve Racing / Joe Jurczyk

Event Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reports that the ACARA has not yet been formally invited to participate in this event, but Jeff anticipates we will be. Jeff will reach out to the organizers.

Watch for emails from Jeff as the date of the event grows nearer.

New Business

Summer Meetings

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked if the club wants to keep meeting throughout the summer as we did in 2020. Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, said he thinks summer meetings are helpful and appreciates that he can participate remotely from his office in Parkersburg. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, agrees that summer meetings are useful. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, is ambivalent about meeting in July and August. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested that if we can return to in-person meetings, we can meet in a hybrid fashion, with some meeting in-person and some meeting via Zoom. He has the computer and cameras to allow this and has been doing something similar for the Masons.

No vote was taken on this question, but the comments indicate at least some members appreciate meeting during the summer.

Following a motion by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, and a second by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.