

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

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
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 July Minutes were distributed. Members had been instructed via email to read the July Minutes on-line prior to the meeting.

A motion to accept the July Minutes as published was made by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The motion was seconded by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ. 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_August_2021.pdf.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1,302.38 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$298.44.

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, 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 de-sense of the 2m repeater during any of the recent nets and that the repeater appears to be working well.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the UHF repeater continues to work well.

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

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, 28.375 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)

Operating Event – Foxhunt

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported that the ACARA held a foxhunt on Saturday, August 14. The fox for this event was Phil Stanley, KB8NZB, from Logan, Ohio. The foxhunt was won by the team of Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, and Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, who have been given the opportunity to be the next fox.

The date of Saturday, September 4, 2021 was tentatively selected as the date of the September ACARA foxhunt.

Watch for updates via email from Kirk.

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.

VE Sessions

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that two candidates tested at the Monday, August 16, ACARA/SCARF VE session. James Reed, KE8SIQ, and Mary Moffat, KE8SIR, both passed their General Class exams. Both had earned their Technician Class licenses at the ACARA/SCARF VE session in June. VEs participating were Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Scott Green, KD8KZG; and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Jeff reported that the ARRL somehow changed the published time of the August 16 test session from 7pm to 10am. He speculated that this happened when he had asked ARRL to change the location of the August 16 session and the August 22 Trunkfest session to the Masonic Lodge.

Jeff reported that he has scheduled all the 2022 VE sessions with the ARRL: Monday, March 21; Sunday, April 24; Monday, June 20; Monday, August 22; and Monday, October 17. The April 24 session will take place at the Athens Community Center as part of the Athens Hamfest. The other sessions will take place at the Masonic Lodge.

Jeff reported that SCARF is moving their hamfest from Tri-County JVS to the Shade Community Center. The next SCARF hamfest will be on Sunday, January 16, 2022.

Jeff said he anticipated a Technician Class licensing class will start in January, 2022. At this point, he is unsure what form this class will take.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Summer Trunkfest – Sunday, August 22, 2021

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Athens Trunkfest has been registered with the ARRL and has received ARRL sanction.

Eric reported that Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, designed the flyer for Trunkfest.

Eric reported he had asked Drew to look into securing new banners from the Pepsi distributor and asked Drew for an update. Drew reported that the Pepsi distributor requires a four-week lead-time and his request came too late to have banners in time for the Trunkfest. Eric reported that the club's old banners have become brittle but can be pressed into service one last year.

Eric reported that the ARRL \$50 and \$25 gift certificates have been received. He asked what other door prizes the club has. Drew reported he has a handheld transceiver donated by R&L Electronics for the 2020 hamfest. Eric reported that Carl Denbow, N8VZ, had told him via email that he has some door prizes donated by MFJ but he can't do an inventory until Friday the 20th.

Eric asked if the club wanted to give away the traditional \$100 cash and two \$50 cash prizes at the Trunkfest. After discussion, it was decided that the club would not give away the cash prizes at the Trunkfest.

Drew reported he has enough large hamfest tickets that can be used as raffle tickets; these tickets have space for full contact information which can be used to update the club's hamfest database. After discussion, it was decided to sell the raffle tickets for \$1 each. Eric reported that Carl Denbow has the ticket drum and he will bring it to the Trunkfest.

Drew suggested we might ask Trunkfest attendees to donate toward the costs of putting on the event since we won't be charging admission.

Eric listed some of the volunteer positions that will need to be filled for the Trunkfest: some to sell raffle tickets, someone to control flea-market parking and set-up, and someone to control parking outside the flea-market.

Drew asked if there would be a club table in the flea-market—he has items from the estate of Rodney Holley, KA8NDC (SK), that he is selling for Rodney's widow. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, said he can get tables from inside the Masonic Lodge for this purpose.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Summer Trunkfest (continued)

Jeff Slattery reported that the Masonic Lodge will have coffee and doughnuts available in the morning and will have hotdogs and sloppy joes available around lunchtime.

Jeff reported that Lodge members will open the Lodge at 6:30am.

Special Event Station W8V – The Wall That Heals National Tour 2021

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

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that band conditions were poor over the period of the W8V special event operation and that the majority of the QSOs made by W8V operators were CW and digital. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, hasn't yet provided a final count of QSOs but Jeff thinks something over 400 QSOs were made.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported that QSL cards are arriving at the ACARA post office box. He said many of them including touching comments on the importance of the Vietnam Wall to the operator and expressions of gratitude to ACARA for doing the special event station. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, suggested the cards be kept and displayed somehow, perhaps in an album in a way that allows both sides of the cards to be seen. Drew suggested that it might be appropriate to display them in the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station.

Eric thanked Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and Carl Denbow, N8VZ, for organizing the W8V special event station, and he thanked all those who operated as W8V.

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event – Run Baileys

Event Dates: August 7-8, 2021

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

Event Website: <https://www.seotrevents.com/runbaileysdetails>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that other than some confusion about aid-station locations and the number of operators needed on Sunday, the event went very well. The 145.15 MHz repeater had good coverage of the event course except for one aid-station that was in an RF hole. He reported that he has received a note of appreciation from organizer Michael Owen.

Participants were Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; Michael Baxla, KE8ICP; Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV; and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Public Service Event – Blue Blaze Festival / Buckeye Trail Marathon

Event Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021; race-start at 9am

Event Sponsor: [Buckeye Trail Association](#)

Event website: <https://www.buckeyetrail.org/blueblazefest.php>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the event is still on. Jeff has been studying the map to determine operator-count and locations. Those interested in working this event should notify Jeff via email.

Jeff suggested he might set up a cross-band repeater atop the hill in New Straitsville for this event. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, said he would help Jeff test this idea before the event.

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

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event – Athens Gravel Challenge

Event Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021; race-start at noon

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the course is like last year's, with the start at Athens High School in The Plains and the finish at Eclipse.

Members are asked to note that the date of this event is the same date as that of the Blue Blaze Festival / Buckeye Trail Marathon. Because the Blue Blaze Festival starts at 9am and Athens Gravel Challenge starts at noon, Jeff thinks some operators could work both events if they're willing to do so.

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

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the event is on. Those interested in working the event should contact Jeff via email with their requested location.

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

New Business

Operating Event – Ohio State Parks on the Air – Saturday, September 11

Event website: <https://ospota.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA will be activating Strouds Run State Park for Ohio St Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) and that he has reserved the Bulldog Shelter for the operation. The club will use the Elecraft K3 transceiver from the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station and the antenna will be a dipole.

Eric invited anyone who is interested to visit the site and operate.

Watch for emails from Eric as the date of the event approaches.

Following a motion by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and a second by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.