

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Attendance

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Ian Lawson
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

Corrections/Additions to Minutes of Last Meeting

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

A motion to accept the August Minutes as published was made by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ. 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 at http://www.ac-ara.org/minutes/2021/Treasurers_Report_September_2021.pdf.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1,347.38 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$355.43.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, 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.

After the vote, Jeff Slattery reported that he used the \$50 ARRL Gift Certificate he won at the ACARA's Trunkfest to purchase the six-volume ARRL Handbook 2021 and the Amateur Radio Map of the World for donation to the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station.

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 except it might be displaying low sensitivity in System Fusion mode, noting that while acting as net-control during the most recent System Fusion Net, he had had trouble hitting the repeater from outside the house of Carl Denbow, N8VZ.

Jeff 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:

- Weekly 2m FM Net, Monday, 7pm, 145.15 MHz
- Weekly 70cm FM Net, Monday, immediately following the 2m net, 442.100 MHz
- Weekly 10m SSB Ragchew Net, Tuesday, 5pm, 28.375 MHz
- Twice-weekly 6m AM Net, Sunday and Wednesday, 5pm, 50.4 MHz
- Weekly 2m System Fusion Net, Thursday, 5pm, 145.15 MHz
- Weekly 70cm System Fusion Net, Thursday, immediately following the 2m System Fusion net, 442.100 MHz
- Monthly 2m FM Simplex Net, first Thursday of the month, 7pm, 146.400 MHz

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

Operating Event – Foxhunt

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA held a foxhunt on Saturday, September 4 and asked Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, for a report. Kirk reported that the fox, Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, was crafty and hid well outside the Athens city limits. The winning hunter, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, needed an hour to find the fox and the runner-up, Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, took 90 minutes to find the fox.

Eric reported that the next ACARA foxhunt will be on Saturday, October 9, and that he will be the fox.

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.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Summer Trunkfest – Sunday, August 22, 2021

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Athens Trunkfest was small but went well. He thanked everyone who worked and everyone who attended, and gave special thanks to Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, for arranging the use of the Masonic Lodge.

Eric presented a slideshow of photos taken at the Trunkfest.

Jeff reported that at the Trunkfest VE session, there was one candidate, and that candidate successfully upgraded from Technician to General.

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA activated Strouds Run State Park for Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA). The weather was perfect for a field-radio operation but there was very poor participation. He added that one member and his son had hoped to participate but were forced to quarantine for the weekend following possible exposure to COVID-19.

Participants:

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Bob Moore, KC8KSM

The club made 33 QSOs and earned a score-multiplier for 24 Ohio State Parks.

Eric presented a slideshow of photographs taken at the Strouds Run State Park operation.

A complete report with photos can be viewed online at <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=1535>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported on his participation in OSPOTA as a Rover. Jeff activated Forked Run State Park (55 QSOs, 4 parks, 220 points), Jackson Lake State Park (30 QSOs, 20 parks, 600 points), and Lake Alma State Park (16 QSOs, 13 parks, 208 points). Jeff used his Icom IC-706Mk2G at 100 watts and a 40m end-fed Zepp arranged as a sloper on a telescoping mast and homemade drive-on base.

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event – Blue Blaze Festival

Event Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021; half-marathon start at 8:30am

Event Sponsor: [Buckeye Trail Association](#)

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he thinks he has enough operators lined up for this event, but additional operators are always welcome.

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.

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 he thinks he has enough operators for this event, but additional operators are always welcome.

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, requested that 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

Officer Nominations

Current officers:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, stated that a significant part of the Treasurer's duties is to serve as a Membership Coordinator and suggested that the name of the Treasurer position be changed to reflect that. President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, agreed and reported that the ballot this year will include "Treasurer / Membership Coordinator" and the re-write of the Constitution and Bylaws will formalize the change.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested that since most club communications now takes place with the website and Facebook page, the position of Newsletter Editor could be combined with that of Webmaster. Eric agreed and the ballot this year will include "Webmaster / Newsletter Editor" and the Constitution and Bylaws re-write will formalize the change.

Nominations:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Eric McFadden, WD8RIF |
| Vice-President | Paul Schulz, WD8SCV |
| Treasure / Membership Coordinator | Drew McDaniel, W8MHV |
| Secretary | Eric McFadden, WD8RIF |
| Webmaster / Newsletter Editor | Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ |
| Packet Node Trustee | Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ |
| Repeater Trustee | Eric McFadden, WD8RIF |

Eric reminded the membership that the Treasurer will mail paper ballots to members and, since it is likely we will be meeting in person in October, ballots will need to be returned in time to be counted at the October 19 meeting via Zoom.

Following a motion by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, and a second by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.