

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Attendance

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
John Biddle, W8PG
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Jim Korenz, N8PXW
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Corrections/Additions to Minutes of Last Meeting

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

A motion to accept the September 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 at

http://www.ac-ara.org/minutes/2021/Treasurers_Report_October_2021.pdf

In the Treasurer's absence, the Treasurer's Report was presented by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. The club treasury holds \$1,356.17 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$366.45.

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 decrease of the 2m repeater during any of the recent nets or during the Athens Gravel Challenge public-service event 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.

Old Business (continued)

ACARA Nets

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Carl Denbow, N8VZ, had asked if the Wednesday edition of the 6m AM net could be dropped now that ACARA has so many other weekly nets. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, agreed that the Wednesday edition could be dropped, as did Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. John Biddle, W8PG, said he enjoys having the 6m net twice a week. Eric said he would contact John McCutcheon, N8XWO, about returning the 6m AM net to once-weekly on Sundays.

Eric reminded the membership of the schedule of nets:

- 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
- 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
- Weekly 6m AM Net, Sunday, 5pm, 50.4 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.

Post-meeting update: During the Wednesday, October 20, edition of the 6m AM net, John McCutcheon, N8XWO, agreed that the 6m AM no longer needs to be a twice-weekly net and declared the October 20 edition to be the final Wednesday running of the net. The above listed schedule reflects this change.

VE Session – Monday, October 18, 2021

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that no candidates came to test at the session.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, thanked the VEs who attended the session:

Scott Green, KD8KZG
Jay Licht, KG8JL
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Old Business (continued)

Operating Event – Foxhunt

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA held a Fox Hunt on Saturday, October 9, and that he was the Fox. The Hunters were Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV; Miles McFadden, KD8KNC; and Paul Schulz, WD8SCV. The first to find the Fox was Paul, who used an IC-705 transceiver and a three-element 2m yagi. Paul attributed part of his success to the IC-705's waterfall display which made it easy to see the signal-peak.

Eric reported that the next ACARA foxhunt will be on Sunday, November 7 at 2pm, with Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, as Fox. Registration on the 145.15 MHz repeater will begin at 1:45pm and the hunt will begin at 2pm on 146.400 MHz simplex.

Watch for updates via email from Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, or Paul Schulz.

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)

Public Service Event – Blue Blaze Festival

Event Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021

Event Sponsor: [Buckeye Trail Association](#) (BTA)

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that at least one aid station location was hard to find due to poor maps provided by the BTA but that the club provided good support to this event.

Jeff Slattery reported that the cross-band repeater he deployed at the water tower was successfully used by himself as net-control in Shawnee and by several others who had trouble working through the Logan repeater.

Eric and Jeff thanked the operators who participated:

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Public Service Event – Athens Gravel Challenge

Event Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club provided good support to this event and thanked the operators who participated:

Nick Arnold, KD8FKB
Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested we might want to recruit more operators for next year's event.

Old Business (continued)

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, displayed his spreadsheet of operator-assignments and noted some of the positions that need to be filled. Jeff noted that the full marathon starts at 8am at the Lodge, the half-marathon starts at 8:30am at Dock 4, and that most operators will need to be on-station about 7:30am.

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

New Business

Club Building Project: Handi-Finder TDOA Direction-Finding Antenna

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, has organized a group-buy and a group-build of the Handi-Finder Time Delay of Arrival (TDOA) direction finding antenna kit (<http://www.handi-finder.com/>). After identifying nine members wishing to build the Handi-Finder, Kirk ordered ten kits to get a volume-discount price. The group-build will take place at 1pm on Sunday, October 24, in the parking lot of the Red Cross of Southeast Ohio, 100 South May Avenue, Athens.

New Business (continued)

Officer Elections

The ballots were counted by Vickie McFadden, KD8MAJ.

Seventeen ballots were received.

Office	Candidate	Count
President	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	13
Vice-President	Paul Schulz, WD8SCV	13
Treasure / Membership Coordinator	Drew McDaniel, W8MHV	15
Secretary	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	13
Webmaster / Newsletter Editor	Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ	15
Packet Node Trustee	Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ	17
Repeater Trustee	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	15

Write-ins:

For President: Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, 3 ballots

For Vice-President: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, 3 ballots

For Secretary: Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, 3 ballots

For Repeater Trustee: John McCutcheon, 1 ballot

(Post-meeting update: the above count of write-ins includes a correction to the number of votes for John McCutcheon for Repeater Trustee; the President had mis-read the count-tabulation during the meeting and had reported two write-ins for John as Repeater Trustee.)

One ballot included comments on the back:

1. Better promotion of club events for greater turnout and participation
2. More simple build workshops for simple ham components: e.g., tape measure yagi, loop antennas, attenuators, etc.
3. Simple on-going classes on the basics for refresher and to bring others in the club up to speed

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, made a motion to accept the count of ballots as performed by Vickie McFadden and presented by Eric McFadden. The motion was seconded by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The vote passed without dissent.

New Business (continued)

ARDC Grant

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has learned that Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), <https://www.ampr.org/>, is making grant money available to amateur radio groups. From the ARDC website:

ARDC makes grants that support amateur radio, funds scholarships and worthy educational programs, and financially supports technically innovative amateur radio and digital communications projects.

The ARDC grant money comes from the 2019 sale of a portion of amateur radio's TCP/IP address subnet. The grant money is being made available in the following categories:

- Support and Growth of Amateur Radio
- Education
- Technical Innovation

Eric asked the question, "Does ACARA wish to apply for ARDC grant money?" and suggested that the answer to this question will come after further discussion.

Eric put forward ideas for possible ways ARDC grant money could be used by ACARA:

- Enhancements to the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station
 - Purchase of internal ATU for the existing K3 transceiver, or replacement of K3 with a newer high-performance transceiver
 - Antennas for HF, VHF, UHF
 - A modern PC
- Build shack-in-a-box stations for HF and VHF/UHF
 - HF station + PC for ARRL Field Day, Ohio State Parks on the Air, Winter Field Day, emcomm
 - VHF/UHF station(s) + PC for public service, emcomm
- Enhancements to ACARA repeaters
 - New antenna and feedline + climber fees for UHF repeater
 - Repeater controller for VHF and UHF repeaters
 - WIRES-X functionality and internet-connection
 - Additional linked repeaters (e.g., 2m repeater in Coolville)
- Additional APRS trackers for Athens Marathon, etc.
- Communications van or trailer; on-going costs to maintain a van might be prohibitive

New Business (continued)

ARDC Grant (continued)

- A new exterior door into the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station to provide club-member access without needing to unlock main doors or disarm the alarm

After some discussion, the idea of a club-station in donated space was added to the list of ideas.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, stated that he wholeheartedly supports the idea of applying for ARDC grant money. Carl has some experience writing grant-proposals. Eric mentioned that his wife Vickie, KC8MAJ, has volunteered her services as a writer, too.

Carl suggested we might wish to coordinate with the Ohio University Amateur Radio Club on some proposals.

During the discussion about space for a club station, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, asked about the property on The Ridges the university is expected to sell. Carl reported the City of Athens is exploring the option to purchase the former Haning Hall from Ohio University and suggested that building might have space suitable for a club station. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, asked about the former Ohio Highway Patrol headquarters on Columbus Road which he said is currently being used for records storage. The tower remains atop the ridge on Columbia Road and the feedlines to the tower from the former headquarters probably also remain.

Paul asked about erecting a tower for beam antennas at the Red Cross for the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station. Jeff says this might be possible, but we need to remain aware of the power lines that cross the property.

Following a motion by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, and a second by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm. Informal discussion continued after the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.