

Due to the continuing 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
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 October Minutes were distributed. Members had been instructed via email to read the October Minutes on-line prior to the meeting.

A motion to accept the October Minutes as published was made by Paul Shulz, WD8SCV. The motion was seconded by Joe Weber, KE8LRZ. 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_November_2021.pdf

In the Treasurer's absence, the Treasurer's Report was presented by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. The club treasury holds \$1,357.17 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$366.46.

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV. The motion passed without dissent.

Old Business**VHF and UHF Repeaters**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the 2m repeater appears to be continuing to work well.

No report on the 70cm repeater was given.

ACARA Nets

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA's weekly and monthly nets continue to do well. He reminded members of the current net schedule:

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

Old Business (continued)

Results: Field Day 2021

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Field Day 2021 results have been published in the December 2021 issue of QST magazine.

ACARA placed 22nd out of 153 in Class 1A, which places us in the top 14%.

Within Class 1A, ACARA placed 2nd in Ohio, 2nd in the 8th call-district, and 3rd in the ARRL Great Lakes Subdivision.

Results: Ohio State Parks on the Air 2021

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) 2021 results have been published at <https://ospota.org>.

With 825 points, ACARA placed 6th out of 10 in class *Multi-Op, Single-Radio, Low Power*.

ACARA operating as W8UKE was the only park-activator to earn a "Golden Log" distinction for no errors in log.

N8SUZ/R placed 3rd out of 5 in class *Rover* with 768 points.

OSPOTA 2022 will be on September 10, 2022.

Club Building Project: HANDI-Finder Direction-Finding Antenna

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, organized a group-buy and a group-build of the HANDI-Finder Time Difference of Arrival (TDOA) direction-finding bowtie antenna (<http://www.handi-finder.com/>).

The group-build took place on October 24 outside the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. HANDI-Finders were purchased by Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; Miles McFadden, KC8KNC; Paul Schulz, WD8SCV; Mary Moffat, KE8SIR; James Reed, KE8SIQ; Nick Arnold, KD8FKB; and Brian Shapiro, KC8ZUF. Eric McFadden built his HANDI-Finder prior to the group-build; neither Miles McFadden nor Nick Arnold was able to attend the build-session.

Old Business (continued)

Operating Event – Foxhunt

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA held a Fox Hunt on Sunday, November 7, 2021 with Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, serving as the fox. The hunters were Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV; Carl Denbow, N8VZ; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; the team of James Reed, KE8SIQ, and Jeramy Duncan, KC8QDQ; and Jim Korenz, N8PXW.

First to find the fox was Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, who used a three-element 2m yagi and a HANDI-Finder TDOA bowtie antenna. Second to find the fox was Carl Denbow, N8VZ, who used a vintage non-functioning loop antenna. Third to find the fox was Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, who used a three-element 2m yagi and a HANDI-Finder TDOA bowtie antenna.

Eric reported that the next ACARA foxhunt will be on Saturday, November 20 with Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, serving as fox. Registration opens at 9:45 a.m. on the ACARA's 145.15 (-) repeater. The hunt begins at 10 a.m. on a frequency to be announced by the fox at the time of registration.

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/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, thanked all those who helped support the Bobcat Trail Marathon on a cold Saturday, November 13. Eric reported that the event organizers expressed their appreciation for our support of their event, adding that the Bobcat Trail Marathon is the only event they organize that doesn't have cell-phone coverage.

ARDC Grant

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the members of the grants available from the Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) (<https://www.ampr.org/>) and asked members to think about possible projects that might be eligible for grant-money. This discussion will be taken up again at the January 2022 meeting.

Old Business (continued)

Upcoming Operating Event: ARRL 10-Meter Contest – December 11-12, 2021

<https://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the ARRL 10-Meter Contest is to be held on the weekend of December 11-12, 2021, and that the club competes in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest in two ways.

First, the ACARA competes in the Affiliated Clubs Competition in the *Local* category. Members will submit individual scores to ARRL with their club identified as “Athens County ARA”. In 2020, four members submitted their logs for a total of 15,600 points and 9th place out of 15 in Category *Local*.

Second, within the ACARA, the ACARA member submitting the highest score to ARRL wins the right to hold the coveted NC8V Memorial Trophy for a year.

ACARA Holiday Dinner

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that we traditionally, hold the ACARA Holiday Dinner on the evening of the third Tuesday in December. This year, the 3rd Tuesday in December is the 21st.

Eric reminded the membership that last year, due to COVID-19, the club held the Holiday Dinner remotely, via Zoom, instead of meeting in person.

Eric asked two questions: 1.) Is the club comfortable holding an in-person event this year? 2.) If so, is December 21 too close to Christmas and should the event be held on an earlier date?

Eric’s questions prompted only one response: Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, suggested the club should hold the Holiday Dinner remotely.

In the absence of other opinions, Eric reported he will build and distribute an online survey to gauge members’ opinions on the questions.

New Business

Upcoming Operating Event: Winter Field Day – January 29-30, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Winter Field Day 2022 (<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>) is to be held on the weekend of January 29-30 and asked if the club has interest in participating and, if so, where should the club participate.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had suggested during a previous 2m FM Net that the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station in the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio might be available for a small group to use.

Paul Shulz, WD8SCV, suggested the club could investigate renting a cabin at Lake Hope State Park for a combined Winter Field Day and Parks on the Air activation of Lake Hope State Park, adding that he knows the park manager very well, and that the cabins near Keeton Cemetery have both elevation and good trees. Paul said he will speak to the park manager about ACARA use of a cabin.

ACARA License Class 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership of the upcoming ACARA License Class which will begin meeting weekly in January and will last for ten weeks. Watch for emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

Upcoming Public Service Event: Iron Furnace Trail Run

Event Sponsor: SE Ohio Trail Runners

Event Date: Saturday, April 2, 2022

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Iron Furnace Trail Run will be held on April 2, 2022, and that the ACARA has been asked to provide communications support.

Watch for emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, as the date of the event nears.

New Business (continued)

Upcoming Public Service Event: Athens Marathon

Event Sponsor: Athens Marathon Committee / Lisa Simons

Event Date: Sunday, April 10, 2022

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Athens Marathon will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2022, and that that ACARA has been asked to provide communications support.

Watch for emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, as the date of the event nears.

Athens Hamfest

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded membership that the Athens Hamfest has traditionally been held on the last Sunday in April, which in 2022 would be Sunday, April 24.

Eric reminded the membership that the Athens Hamfest was not held in 2020 or 2021 due to COVID-19 and that in 2018 the club had begun discussions about choosing a different date in order to increase participation.

Eric suggested that due to the very small number of hamfests that have been held since COVID-19 started in early 2020, participation at the Athens Hamfest should be good on the traditional last Sunday in April.

The question was asked if Jackson will be holding their hamfest on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Eric said he will try to find out.

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, moved that the club should hold the Athens Hamfest on Sunday April 24 at the Athens Community Center. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Eric said he will reserve the Athens Community Center for use on Sunday, April 24, and that he will register the event with ARRL.

Following a motion by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, and a second by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm. Informal discussion continued after the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.