

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Attendance

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

Silent Keys

Joe Berman, W9AON

We lost Joe Berman, W9AON, to a fatal fall on December 12, 2021. Joe's obituary can be viewed at

<https://www.jagersfuneralhome.com/obituary/joe-berman>

ACARA has sent a card to Lynda and a donation of \$55 to Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Inc.

Bill Warthman, K8WJW, will be handling the distribution of Joe's amateur radio equipment.

Andy Riley, W8VKJ

We lost Carroll "Andy" Riley, W8VKJ, on December 28, 2021. Andy was 96. Andy's obituary can be viewed at

<https://www.legacy.com/amp/obituaries/batesville/200985476>

N8SUZ made a motion to send a donation to ARRL Foundation; WD8SCV second; motion passed w/o dissent.

Corrections/Additions to Minutes of Last Meeting

Due to this being a teleconference-only meeting, no hard-copies of the November 2021 Minutes were distributed. Members had been instructed via email to read the November Minutes on-line prior to the meeting.

A motion to accept the November Minutes as published was made by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV. The motion was seconded by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. 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/2022/Treasurers_Report_January_2022.pdf

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. The club treasury holds \$806.94 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$366.51. Drew noted that the current balance is the lowest in recent memory, although this isn't a large problem since we no longer pay for a repeater phone line. The low balance is due, in large part, to the cancellation of the Athens Hamfest in 2020 and 2021.

Drew reported he has submitted to the IRS the required annual Form 990-N. He has yet to submit a report to the Ohio AG but will do so prior to the deadline.

Drew reminded members it's time to pay annual dues. All members should have received a renewal reminder via post. Drew reported he also sent membership invitations to several new hams in the area.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, 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 except for occasional periods of reduced sensitivity which he attributes to desense from another strong signal at the repeater site.

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

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)**Operating Event – Foxhunt, Saturday, November 20, 2021**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA held a Fox Hunt on Saturday, November 2021, with Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, serving as the fox. Kirk was hiding on the Athens/Hocking County line and was actually serving as fox on two frequencies, one for Athens hunters and one for Hocking County hunters, with neither group knowing another group was also hunting the same fox. Unfortunately, transmitter troubles caused Kirk's output power to drop to almost nothing and several hunters failed to find him.

For Hocking County, the fox was first found by Phil Stanley, KB8NZB. For Athens County, the fox was first found by the team of Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, and Miles McFadden, KD8KNC.

It is anticipated that the next Athens County foxhunt will take place in the Spring, with either Eric or Miles serving as fox. Member are directed to watch their email for announcements.

NC8V Memorial Trophy / ARRL 10-Meter Contest – December 11-12, 2021

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the NC8V Memorial Trophy for the club member submitting the highest score in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest was awarded to Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, at the ACARA Holiday Dinner.

2021 NC8V Memorial Trophy

#1. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV	67 QSO SSB 16 multipliers	→ 2080 points
#2. John Biddle, W8PG	42 QSO SSB	
#3. Carl Denbow, N8VZ	35 QSO SSB 11 multipliers	→ 770 points
#4. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	17 QSO CW 9 multipliers	→ 612 points

2020 NC8V Memorial Trophy

#1. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	99 QSO CW 30 multipliers	→ 11,880 points
#2. Carl Denbow, N8VZ	68 QSO SSB 27 multipliers	→ 3,618 points
#3. John Biddle, W8PG	40 QSO SSB	
#4. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV	46 QSO SSB 19 multipliers	→ 1,748 points
#5. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ	1 QSO SSB 1 multiplier	→ 2 points

Old Business (continued)

ACARA Holiday Dinner – Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the annual ACARA Holiday Dinner was held on Tuesday, December 21,

2021, in the party room at Pizza Cottage on East State Street in Athens. Eric reported that the venue, while not ideal, served the purpose well enough and attendees seemed to have a good time.

Attendees:

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Jane Denbow
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Chalisa Magpanthong, N8MHV
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ
Edi Post
Rich Post, KB8TAD
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Sheila Wurtsbaugh

Eric suggested we have time before next year's Holiday Dinner to identify a better venue.

ACARA Technician License Class & VE Session

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had notified the ACARA via email that, with high COVID numbers that are still rising, we should cancel the scheduled Technician license class and revisit later in spring.

Jeff confirmed that we will still have a VE session on the date that would have been the end of the license class, Thursday, March 24, 2022.

Old Business (continued)

SCARF Hamfest VE Session – Sunday, January 16, 2022

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had reported to the ACARA via email the results of the SCARF Hamfest VE session:

We had a successful VE session at SCARFfest today. We had four candidates. Each earned a new license or upgrade. The paperwork has been submitted electronically so new calls should be issued by Tuesday (considering ARRL and FCC should both be closed tomorrow.).

Congratulations to the following:

Mark E. Summers, KE8OFV of McArthur, Ohio upgraded to General

New Technicians:

Deborah Summers of McArthur, Ohio (KE8TSA)

Yancey B Jones of Bethel, Ohio (KE8TSB)

Testing New Technician to General:

Josiah Harrison of Bidwell, Ohio (KE8TSC)

Thanks to the following session VEs: Scott Green, KD8KZG; John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Walter Jones, WT8E; Curt Duncan, KD8QDP; and coordinator Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

The new Shade Community Center location seemed to work well with good attendance in consideration of the anticipated snow and rising COVID numbers. Several vendors called off due to the anticipated snowfall. The food prepared by the community center was well received and the donations will help their group's activities. Word is that SCARFfest will be back in Shade again next year.

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. He further reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has secured permission from the Red Cross for us to operate Winter Field Day in the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station in the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio chapterhouse. The Red Cross is requiring us to mask, maintain social distance, and sanitize surfaces when we are done.

Eric asked Joe Weber, KE8LRZ, about his inquiry into operating at the CCC building in Zaleski State Forest. Joe reported that he learned we could use the building, but that the building is only available on weekdays, so it won't work for Winter Field Day.

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event: Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 2, 2022

Event Sponsor: SE Ohio Trail Runners

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

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, stated that we will at least six operators to support the event and that operators will need to be on-station from around 9am to about 3pm.

Members are asked to watch for emails from Jeff as the date of the event approaches.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 24, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the event is registered with, and has received sanction from, the ARRL. He further reported that he has invited ARRL Ohio Section Manager Tom Sly, WB8LCD, to attend.

Eric reported that the Athens Community Center has been reserved for the hamfest. The cost has risen this year to \$560 for the gymnasium and Multipurpose Room C from 6am until 2pm. This figure reflects a new hourly rate with a discount for “non-profit within city limits”.

Eric suggested that with this increased fee, we might want to look at another venue for subsequent hamfests.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, suggested we change our reservation to end at 1pm and save one hour’s worth of fee. Eric agreed and will contact the Community Center to change the reservation.

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, suggested we contact the Community Center to ask them why the fee has risen so much and to let them know that the ACARA is sensitive to the price increase. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, speculated that the fee-increase might be related to the increased costs associated with running the city swimming pool.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported via text that he will again handle indoor table sales.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest (continued)

Eric mentioned that with Universal Radio no longer in business, we will need to find other sources for door prizes. He reported he still has the UV-5R handheld and two HT antennas that were donated for the previous, subsequently canceled, hamfests. Drew agreed to contact R&L Electronics and DX Engineering. Michael Baxla, KE8ICP, agreed to contact Ham Radio Outlet. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, agreed to contact Newark Electronics. Eric will contact Quicksilver Radio. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, agreed to contact Gigaparts. Eric will ask Carl if he can contact MFJ Enterprises and Radioddity. Eric will contact Steak & Shake, Donatos, and Plus One Pizza for gift certificates. Drew agreed to contact IHOP for gift certificates.

Jeff volunteered to invite the Masonic Lodge to provide food at the hamfest.

Eric reminded members that the PA system the club has used in the past belonged to Ron Chapman, Sr, N8HEK, who became a Silent Key in July of 2021. He will contact Ron Chapman, Jr., to ask if the PA system is still available for the club to use.

When discussion turned to a PA system for the outdoor flea-market, Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, suggested after the COVID-19 crisis ends we look for a used FM transmitter from a church that no longer needs it. Drew mentioned that he already has a Part-15 FM transmitter that might serve.

Old Business (continued)

ARDC Grant + ARRL Foundation Grants

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the members of the grants available from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) (<https://www.ampr.org/>) and asked members to think about possible projects that might be eligible for grant-money. He reported that he and Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, have not yet gotten together to start a list of possible projects.

Eric reported that the ARRL Foundation (<http://www.arrl.org/the-arrl-foundation>), funded by a grant from ARDC, will be making available \$500,000 to radio clubs. The program will provide up to \$25,000 for worthy club projects. Beginning in April 2022, clubs will be able to apply for this grant money by completing a simple form on the ARRL website. A key criterion for determining awards will be how the project will advance amateur radio in the grantee's community. In most cases, this process should take no longer than 90 days. (<http://arrl.org/news/arrl-foundation-to-create-club-grants-program>)

Eric asked if the membership preferred the ACARA Executive Committee meet to discuss projects or if a blue-ribbon panel should be appointed to discuss projects. The consensus was that the Executive Committee should meet to discuss projects. Eric will schedule a series of Executive Committee meetings with himself (President, Secretary, and Repeater Trustee); Vice-president Paul Schulz, WD8SCV; Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV; and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, and Packet Node Trustee) to discuss possible grant-funded projects to present to the club at a later date.

New Business

ACARA February Potluck

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the club traditionally holds a potluck in mid-February. Eric asked Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, if he thought the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio would be available for a potluck this year and Jeff answered that he thinks it unlikely that the Red Cross would permit such a gathering in their facility at this point.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHZ, made a motion to postpone the potluck until March with further discussion in February. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Upcoming Public Service Event: Athens Gravel Challenge

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Event Date: Saturday, June 4 **or** Sunday, June 5, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Team Athens Cycling has rescheduled the 2022 Athens Gravel Challenge to Saturday, June 4, 2022, to better fit within the Ohio Gravel Race Series schedule and that the ACARA has been asked to provide communications support.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that a further conflict might cause Team Athens Cycling to move the event to Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Jeff reported he will need at least eight operators for this event.

Members are asked to watch for emails from Jeff as the date of the event approaches.

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 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)

Club Building Projects

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, asked if the club has any club building projects on the schedule.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, volunteered to lead another two-band HF trap-dipole build if there's interest. He will need a headcount before he can order parts.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, asked if there's interest in another copper J-Pole build.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, recommended the QRP Guys End-Fed Halfwave Antenna (<https://qrpguys.com/qrpguys-end-fed-wire-antenna>) as an easy, \$20 build and agreed to lead a build if there's interest.

Eric asked members to email with additional ideas. He will build and distribute a survey to gauge interest in possible building projects.

Operating Event: ARRL Field Day – June 25-26, 2022

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

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, asked about club plans for ARRL Field Day in June.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, agreed it's not too early to begin discussions. He will contact the Athens County Fairboard to reserve the brick building on the fairgrounds.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, agreed to contact Athens 9-1-1 about the mobile crank-up tower.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, suggested the Bailey's Trailhead in Chauncey might work well for Field Day; a covered picnic shelter is available. Paul replied that we might have to pay as much as \$200 to reserve the site.

Paul suggested the Long Ridge Group Campsite at Lake Hope State Park might work well. The site has pit toilets, elevation, good trees, and it's accessible via automobile. The site does lack shelter, so we would have to provide our own shelter in the form of campers or tents. Paul will check to see if the Group Campsite is available on Field Day weekend.

Following a motion by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, and a second by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm. Informal discussion continued after the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.