

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  
Mark Summers, KE8OFV  
Deb Summers, KE8TSA

### ***Silent Keys***

Not a Silent Key as such, but Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O, lost his mother, Marlene Weinfurtner, recently. Marlene's obituary can be read here:  
<https://www.jagersfuneralhome.com/obituary/marlene-weinfurtner>

### ***Corrections/Additions to Minutes of Last Meeting***

Due to this being a teleconference-only meeting, no hard-copies of the January 2022 Minutes were distributed. Members had been instructed via email to read the January Minutes on-line prior to the meeting.

A motion to accept the January Minutes as published was made by Paul Shulz, WD8SCV. The motion was seconded by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The motion passed without dissent.

***Treasurer's Report***

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, being absent, the Treasurer's Report was presented by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

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\\_February\\_2022.pdf](http://www.ac-ara.org/minutes/2022/Treasurers_Report_February_2022.pdf)

The club treasury holds \$977.99 in unencumbered funds, reflecting an income of \$226 through membership dues received. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$386.52, reflecting a donation of \$20 from Carl Denbow, N8VZ.

Eric reminded those members who have not yet paid their dues it's time to do so

Via email, Drew reported that he has been offering a free one-year membership to all those who successfully test at an ACARA VE session and suggested the following letter he received in response to one such invitation be read to the membership:

Dear Drew,

I would like to thank you for your acknowledgement of our success at the FCC amateur radio license test earlier this month.

I started my Ham Radio quest back in March of 2020, at the testing session held at the Red Cross building in Athens. But with the onset of COVID 19 and with the Vinton County Amateur Radio Club being somewhat dormant/inactive, my quest was slowed down and put on the back burner. Now with my wife showing interest in Ham Radio, along with me obtaining a used Yaesu FT991 radio, I am now wanting to get into HF radio. I have had a hard time locating an "Elmer" to answer questions and give guidance, therefore your invitation to join the Athens County Amateur Radio Association is greatly appreciated. My wife and I have listened to the ACARA 2 Meter Net on Monday nights for over a year now and very much enjoy the content. However, not living in Athens County, we didn't know if we could join. So YES, we would like to take you up on your offer to join ACARA!

Thank you for the generous offer.

Mark E Summers KE8OFV

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 working well except for intermittent 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 with no desense issues.

## 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: Winter Field Day – January 29-30, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Winter Field Day 2022 (<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>) was held on the weekend of January 29-30. He further reported that thanks to the efforts of Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, the operation was able to take place at the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station in the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio despite continuing concerns about COVID-19.

Operating under the club callsign W8UKE, and using the ACARA's Elecraft K3 transceiver, 40m end-fed half-wave antenna, and Hustler 5-BTV antenna; an LDG automatic antenna tuner belonging to Paul Schulz, WD8SCV; and Bioenno LiFePO4 batteries belonging to Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, five operators participated for a total of eleven hours during the event and made 301 QSOs using SSB and CW, operating on the 80/75, 40, 20, and 15 meter bands, and earning a score of 8,102 points.

Participants and their QSO-counts were...

Nick Arnold, KD8FKB: 13 QSOs SSB  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF: 242 QSOs CW  
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC: 5 QSOs SSB  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV: 6 QSOs SSB  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ: 35 QSOs SSB

Paul attempted to make contacts using the digital mode JS8Call but equipment troubles prevented success.

Several other members visited the operation but didn't operate.

Nick Arnold, KE8FKB, brought his portable grill and provided Saturday dinner for those present.

A report can be found at <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=1647>

Eric thanked all members who participated in the event.

**Old Business (continued)**

## Club Building Projects

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that at and following the January meeting, several members stepped up with offers to lead group-builds of several interesting projects. Eric built and distributed an online survey ([https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0D0DjkR6L6dYM9U](https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0D0DjkR6L6dYM9U)) to gauge interest in each project. By the time of the meeting, sixteen responses had been received, with the following results:

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, 2m/70cm Folding Copper J-Pole  
Definite: 2    Maybe: 2

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, 2m/70cm Copper Fan Dipole  
Definite: 4    Maybe: 9

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, Portable Two-Band HF Trap Dipole  
Definite: 6    Maybe: 8

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, Portable HF End-Fed Halfwave Antenna  
Definite: 3    Maybe: 7

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, HANDI-Finder Foxhunt Antenna  
Definite: 1    Maybe: 2

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, Variable Offset Attenuator  
Definite: 3    Maybe: 6

Eric added that several respondents indicated a lack of interest in the copper j-pole, the HF trap dipole, or the HANDI-Finder only because they already had one from a previous group-build session.

The survey remains open, and all members are encouraged to visit the survey and complete it.

**Old Business (continued)**

## ACARA March Potluck

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that at the January meeting the members had decided to postpone the traditional February Potluck and to discuss at the February meeting the possibility of holding the potluck in March.

Eric asked Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, if he thought the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio would let outside groups use their meeting room for group events such as the potluck. Jeff replied he thought it would be unlikely that the Red Cross would allow the ACARA to hold the potluck in their meeting room in March, suggesting that it might be available in April if COVID numbers continue to drop.

Eric asked the membership if an alternate venue might be found for a March potluck, suggesting the meeting room at the Athens branch of the Athens County Public Library. Jeff suggested he might be able to arrange for the club to use the large dining room of the Masonic Lodge. Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, asked if the potluck could be held outside, weather-permitting, and that the club might combine the potluck with a short, low-key presentation.

## 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 ARRL Ohio Section Manager Tom Sly, WB8LCD, plans to attend.

Eric reported that the Athens Community Center has been reserved for the hamfest. After changing the reservation to the hours of 6am to 1pm as suggested at the January meeting, the cost to rent the Community Center gymnasium and Multipurpose Room C will be \$490, the hourly rate reflecting the discount for “Nonprofit within City Limits”.

Eric reported that Carl Denbow, N8VZ, has already received door prizes from MFJ Enterprises and that Carl has asked Radioddity for door prizes but has not yet received a reply.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, reported he has contacted GigaParts for door prizes. He was told he will be contacted after the upcoming GigaParts board meeting.

Eric reported he has contacted QuickSilver Radio about door prizes but has not yet received a response.

**Old Business (continued)**

Upcoming 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, added that operators will need to be on-station from around 8am to about 2pm.

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

Upcoming Public Service Event: Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 10, 2022

Event Sponsor: Athens Marathon Committee / Lisa Simons

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.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, added that many operators are needed to properly support this event. The marathon runs from 8am until about 4pm, but not all stations are manned over this entire period.

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

Upcoming Public Service Event: Thunderbase 2022 – April 29 through May 1

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has confirmed that this event, sponsored by the Simon Kenton Council of the Boy Scouts of America, is still on the calendar and is to be held at the Ross County Fairgrounds. Jeff has been asked to set up a field station at the event to introduce amateur radio to the scouts and to help scouts earn merit badges.

Watch for emails from Jeff with more information about this event.

**Old Business (continued)**

Upcoming Public Service Event: Athens Gravel Challenge – Sunday, June 5

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that this event has been rescheduled to take place on Sunday, June 5, 2022, and that the event will be a single race this year, instead of two races as in previous years. The organizers are trying to include a portion of the Bailey's Trail system in the route. Jeff expects the race to run from noon until about 6pm.

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

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, contacted Lake Hope State Park about reserving the Group Camping Area for Field Day weekend but learned that it has already been reserved by another group on that weekend.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has reserved the use of the brick building and associated greenspace at the Athens Fairground for Field Day weekend. The Fair Board is allowing ACARA to use the facility without a fee.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, agreed to contact Athens County 9-1-1 to arrange the use of the 50' crank-up mobile tower. Jeff also mentioned there's a 2m all-mode transceiver at Athens County EMA if the club wishes to add 2m to the Field Day VHF/UHF station.



**Old Business (continued)**

## ARDC Grants

As background, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the members of the grants available from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) (<https://www.ampr.org/>) to amateur radio clubs.

Eric reported he has not yet scheduled a meeting of the ACARA Executive Committee to discuss possible projects for which the club might consider asking for grant-money.

## ARRL Foundation Grants

As background, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that the ARRL Foundation (<http://arrrl.org/news/arrrl-foundation-to-create-club-grants-program>), funded by a grant from the ARDC, will be making available \$500,000 to radio clubs. The program will provide up to \$25,000 for worthy club projects.

Eric reported he has not yet scheduled a meeting of the ACARA Executive Committee to discuss possible projects for which the club might consider asking for grant-money.

**New Business**

## Upcoming Operating Event: Ohio State Parks on the Air – September 10, 2022

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the annual Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA, <https://ospota.org/>) field operating event has had some rule changes. Jeff suggested that members look over the new rules and begin planning the ACARA's participation.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, added that ACARA traditionally operates at Strouds Run State Park for OSPOTA.

Following a motion by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, and a second by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm. Informal discussion continued after the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.