

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

This meeting was rescheduled to March 29 following technical issues with the Zoom teleconference on March 15.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Attendance

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Mark Summers, KE8OFV
Deb Summers, KE8TSA

Corrections/Additions to Minutes of Last Meeting

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

A motion to accept the February Minutes as published was made by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The motion was seconded by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

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_March_2022.pdf

The club treasury holds \$997.99 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$386.53.

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**Meetings**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that effective April 2, 2022 we can resume in-person meetings at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has reserved the use of the facility for the remainder of the meetings in 2022.

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.

Old Business (continued)

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.

Club Building Projects

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the survey to gauge interest in the proposed club-build projects was closed on Friday, February 25 with eighteen responses. The build-leaders will contact those who expressed interest in their projects with specific details on the builds and to schedule the build sessions.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported he will wait until late summer or early fall to hold his HF two-band trap-dipole group build.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he will wait until after the April crush of public-service events and the Athens Hamfest to hold his copper J-pole antenna group-build.

Old Business (continued)

ACARA Potluck – Saturday, May 14, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio will allow the ACARA to use the building starting April 1 and suggested that an April or May date be chosen for the potluck. Because April is heavy with public-service events, the Athens Hamfest, and Easter, the assembled members chose to hold the potluck at 5pm on Saturday, May 14. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, agreed to schedule the use of the Red Cross meeting room for the potluck.

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, announced he will bring a low-power foxhunt transmitter to the potluck so members can test their HANDI-Finders, attenuators, and directional antennas.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 24, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the event is registered with, and has received sanction from, the ARRL; that ARRL Ohio Section Manager Tom Sly, WB8LCD, plans to attend; and that the Athens Community Center has been reserved for the hamfest.

Eric reported that Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, has updated the hamfest postcard and flyer and that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, supplied addresses for new hams in Athens County and surrounding counties for the postcard mailing. Drew and Chalisa Magpanthong, N8MHV, will handle the postcard mailing.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he is updating the email address list which will be used for the email announcements. He plans to be able to send the emails the weekend of the April 2-3.

Eric reported he has applied for the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACCVB) Tourism Grant to help with hamfest promotional costs.

Drew reported that we have enough tickets for this year's hamfest.

Eric reported he has contacted Ron Chapman, Jr., KA8YMG, about the use of the PA system from the estate of his father, Ron Chapman, Sr., N8HEK (SK). Ron Jr. said the equipment is available and we are welcome to use it.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, confirmed he has the ticket drum.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest (continued)

Jeff reported he has received a door-prize donation of six books and study guides from Craig Buck, K4IA, (EasyWayHamBooks.com).

Carl reported he has received door prizes from MFJ.

Drew reported he has received two door prizes from R&L Electronics. Drew has heard nothing yet from DX Engineering but will keep trying to reach them.

Eric has heard nothing yet from QuickSilver Electronics; Jeff has heard nothing yet from Newark Electronics.

Jeff asked about highway cones. Eric will arrange to borrow cones from the city.

A question was asked about a PA system for the flea-market area. Drew confirmed he has a low-power FM transmitter that might be suitable for this. Eric will try to come up with a receiver, amplifier, and speakers.

Jeff confirmed that the VE session is set up and registered.

Jeff confirmed that the Masonic Lodge and DeMolay will provide food.

Jeff asked if John Thomas, KC8JWZ, will be able to handle mobile check-in? Eric will reach out to John. Drew will get dollar-coins for the mobile check-in prizes.

Eric reported we will need new hamfest banners, the old ones having aged very poorly. Jeff reported we can use the generic ACARA banners in a pinch, and he will contact Performance Signs about having new signs made.

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, reminded members 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, reported that he has all the stations covered.

Old Business (continued)

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.

Eric reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, won't be able to provide full APRS support to the event this year. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and Brian Taylor, KZ8U, are working together to build an APRS digipeater for the full-marathon turn-around. Jeff reported the APRS net will again run on 144.34 MHz instead of on the national APRS frequency and that he will reconfigure the ACARA's digipeater prior to the marathon.

Jeff reported that additional 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 – May 29 – June 1

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has confirmed that this event, sponsored by the Simon Kenton Council of the Boy Scouts of America, is still on and the dates are May 29 through June 1, 2022. Jeff will be unable to participate in the event but invites other interested members to do so.

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. Jeff said we can use more operators than we had last year.

Jeff asks members to send him an email if they can work the event.

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

Old Business (continued)

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that he has reserved the use of the brick building and associated greenspace at the Athens Fairground for Field Day weekend.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the Athens County 9-1-1 Center's 50' mobile crank-up tower has been reserved.

Jeff will contact the Mayor of Athens and Athens County Board of Trustees in April for the annual proclamations.

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://arrl.org/news/arrl-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

ACARA June Picnic – Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the ACARA traditionally holds a picnic on the evening of the third Tuesday in June in place of the monthly meeting.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, agreed to reserve the Dairy Lane shelter for the June Picnic.

Following a motion by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and a second by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm. Informal discussion continued after the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.