

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Program

The program was a “show-and-tell” suggested by Carl Denbow, N8VZ. Members had been asked to bring their favorite or most meaningful QSL cards to the meeting to share and to tell the stories behind them.

Carl started the “show and tell” with a card confirming a QSO with K4KKP who, at the time, was 109 years old.

John Biddle, W8PG, shared an album of DX cards from the 1980s.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, shared two albums of cards he used to earn Worked All States (WAS). The first album contained cards Eric used to earn his first ARRL WAS certificate and the cards all confirmed QSOs in which both operators were running 5-watts or less (QRP). The second album contained cards confirming QSOs with stations operating as W1AW in all fifty states during the 2014 ARRL Centennial Celebration and were used to earn the ARRL Centennial Celebration WAS certificate.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, shared a card confirming a 6m AM QSO with WB1EVP in Kingston, Massachusetts; this QSO took place as part of the ACARA’s weekly 6m AM net. He also shared the story behind working the Space Shuttle using packet but had been unable to locate the QSL card in time for the meeting.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, brought in a selection of cards confirming QSOs he made while he was in Malaysia, when he was the “rare DX”.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, shared a card confirming a 10m QSO he made at the Athens High School station with a ham who had been involved in the Manhattan Project during WWII.

Attendance

John Biddle, W8PG
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, via Zoom
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Brian Taylor, KZ8U, via Zoom

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

Copies of the April minutes were distributed.

A motion to accept the April minutes as published was made by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The motion was seconded by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented a final accounting of the 2022 Athens Hamfest. In terms of attendance, Drew thinks we're doing well compared to recent years. In terms of profit, he feels we need to control costs associated with the use of the Athens Community Center. Drew reported that the club has been awarded a \$150 Athens Convention and Visitor Bureau (ACCVB) Tourism grant although he hasn't received the check yet. Drew reported that the winner of the \$50 hamfest prize hasn't yet cashed the check.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, pointed out that table-sales at the hamfest were down relative to recent years. He added that with Debco going out of business, we might need to identify a new multi-table vendor for our hamfest.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that his wife Jan, KD8PUJ, belongs to a group that rents the Federal Hocking Resource Center in Stewart, Ohio (<https://federalvalleyresourcecenter.org/>) for events and suggested it might be a good venue for the hamfest if the club decides to find an alternate venue. Carl asked if Jeff can provide pictures. Jeff will ask Jan to take some photos when she returns to the facility on the 18th.

Drew presented the monthly Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1536.38 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$407.59.

A motion was made by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ. The motion passed without dissent.

The Treasurer's Report and the Athens Hamfest 2022 Final Accounting documents are available at http://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=37.

Old Business

VHF and UHF Repeaters

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the 2m repeater seems to be performing normally except for the occasional episodes of desense. He has not yet been able to research the cost of replacing the duplexer.

Eric reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, informed him via email that "... the Commission approved allowing Athens City Schools to put a repeater on the county's communication tower." Also, "The district will have to wait to install its repeater until upgrades to the communications tower are complete... (i)t would be about 30 to 45 days before the project would start. They will remove older wires, repair the structure and conduct technology updates." Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, added that the school bus radios operate on 461.200 MHz and that he thinks the current repeater runs 100w output. Eric stated that we will need to watch as this project unfolds.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the UHF repeater seems to be performing normally except for recent periods of reduced sensitivity. He wondered if this apparent lack of sensitivity could be due to foliage.

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:

- 2m FM Net, Mondays, 7pm, 145.15 MHz
- 70cm FM Net, Mondays, immediately following the 2m net, 442.100 MHz
- 10m SSB Ragchew Net, Tuesdays, 5pm, 28.375 MHz
- 6m AM Net, Sundays, 5pm, 50.4 MHz – since 2003
- 2m System Fusion Net, Thursdays, 5pm, 145.15 MHz
- 70cm System Fusion Net, Thursdays, immediately following the 2m System Fusion net, 442.100 MHz
- 2m FM Simplex Net, first Thursday, 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)

Club Building Projects.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the build-leaders will contact those who expressed interest in their projects and schedule the build-sessions.

Eric reminded the membership of the upcoming club building projects:

- Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will lead a build-session for a collapsible copper 2m J-pole antenna
- Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, has organized the group-purchase of factory-built foxhunt offset-attenuators
- Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, will lead a build-session for a copper 2m dipole called the "Mighty Woof"
- Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, will lead a build-session for a QRPGuys HF end-fed halfwave antenna kit
- Drew McDaniel, WD8RIF, will lead a build-session for a two-band HF trap-dipole antenna

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 24, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, thanked everyone who helped make this year's Athens Hamfest a success.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the final accounting of the hamfest earlier in the meeting, during the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business (continued)

ACARA Potluck – Saturday, May 14, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the rescheduled ACARA Potluck was a success. Fifteen members and guests participated:

- Nick Arnold, KD8FKB
- John Biddle, W8PG
- Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
- Kathy Curtis
- Carl Denbow, N8VZ
- Jane Denbow
- Chalisa Magpanthong, N8MHV
- John McCutcheon, N8XWO
- Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
- Bob Moore, KC8KSM
- Esther Moore
- Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
- Daniel Post
- Edie Post
- Rich Post, KB8TAD

Eric reported that several participants had stated at the event that it was nice to be able to gather together again. Two videos were screened during the potluck. The episode of “Father Knows Best”, entitled “Shortwave”, selected by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, was well received. The episode of “The Twilight Zone”, entitled “To Serve Man”, selected by Eric McFadden was also well received.

Thunderbase 2022 – April 29-May 1, 2022

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the Boy Scouts of America event, Thunderbase 2022, had a nice turnout of regional hams and Athens was represented by himself and Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV. Jeff reported that two amateur HF stations were set up; one station used Jeff’s IC-706 transceiver and his 40/30/20m NVIS antenna system, and the other station used an end-fed halfwave antenna. A demonstration of tape-measure yagis was available for the Scouts. A CW demonstration with code practice oscillators drew lots of attention. Several Scout leaders expressed interest in getting licensed and Jeff added that the Technician Class question-pool changes on July 1. There were 2,200 registrations and many Scouts in attendance. Kirk took foxhunt gear to demonstrate to the Scouts.

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 the event will be a single 50-mile race this year. All riders register at Eclipse. Riders will follow the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway to SR682, where they ride to Coal Run Road to the start the race in waves. The race finishes at Salina/Beaumont. Jeff needs several more operators this year than were needed in previous years.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, pointed out that without the short-course race, operators can work two locations during the single long-course race.

In answer to a question, Jeff explained that the radio operators will be there in case of emergencies; to count riders, if possible; and to track the location of the last rider.

Jeff reported he had received the map of the finalized course that day but doesn't yet have the locations of aid stations. Jeff calculates there are fourteen locations needing radio operators.

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

ACARA June Picnic – Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA June Picnic will be held on the traditional third Tuesday in June in place of the June monthly meeting. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, has already reserved the use of the Dairy Lane picnic shelter; this is the picnic shelter behind The Ridges, the one associated with the mini-golf course.

Members are to gather at 5:30pm with dining to commence about 6pm. The club will provide burgers, buns, and condiments. Members are to bring a dish to share, their own beverage, and their own table-service. Members are invited to bring family members or other guests.

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, announced he will bring a miniature VHF foxhunt transmitter to the June Picnic. Members are asked to bring their foxhunt antennas and other gear for a short on-foot foxhunt.

Old Business (continued)

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members of the upcoming ARRL Field Day operating event. The Athens Fairgrounds is reserved for ACARA use, and the use of the 9-1-1 Center's mobile crank-up 50' tower has been arranged.

Eric reminded members that reporter Tracey Maine had written an article about the hamfest that appeared in the Athens News ([link to article](#)). At the hamfest, Eric spoke with Tracey Maine and Athens Messenger chief photographer John Halley about them visiting the ACARA Field Day site and writing an article about the operation. Eric volunteered to send a press-release to Maine and Halley.

Eric reported that he has added the ACARA Field Day operation to the ARRL Field Day Locator (<http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>).

Eric said we need a Safety Officer for Field Day. He asked Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, if they might be able to serve as Safety Officer. Neither can spend the entire weekend at the Field Day site but both agreed they can take turns at the site to serve as Safety Officer.

Eric mentioned that both the current issue of *QST* and the current issue of *On the Air* ARRL magazines contain articles about Field Day and that each are currently available to view online without ARRL membership. *QST* is available at <http://www.arrl.org/qst>. *On the Air* is available at <http://www.arrl.org/on-the-air-magazine>.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, asked if an Educational Activity Bonus topic has been selected yet and suggested "Quick Emergency Set-Ups". John volunteered to put together a program.

John McCutcheon confirmed he will again serve as VHF Station Captain and will provide the 6m station.

Jeff Slattery volunteered to ask Jeramy Duncan, KC8QDQ, if can bring his mobile satellite station this year.

Jeff reported he has asked the Mayor of Athens and the Athens County Commissioners for proclamations.

Old Business (continued)

ARDC Grant

<https://www.ampr.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has not yet arranged a meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss an ARDC grant proposal.

ARRL Foundation Club Grant

<http://www.arrl.org/the-arrl-foundation>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that members of the Executive Committee participated in, or watched the recording of, the ARRL webinar about the ARRL Foundation Club Grants Program (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lx42qAFknOw>). The grant will be available to clubs during two windows, the first of which closes on June 30, and the second of which closes in mid-September.

The Executive Committee met just prior to the ACARA May monthly meeting and decided to submit a grant proposal to fund significant upgrades to the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has begun discussions with the Red Cross about the possibility of installing a tower at the Red Cross chapterhouse. If a tower can be installed, it will support a multiband HF yagi antenna and VHF/UHF antennas. The Executive Committee also discussed replacing the station's current Elecraft K3 with a newer high-performance transceiver, something like an ICOM IC-7610, and keeping the K3 as a dedicated field radio for events such as Field Day and Ohio State Parks on the Air.

The Executive Committee will continue to meet on this topic.

Interested members are invited to send ideas to Eric at president@ac-ara.org.

Old Business (continued)

Foxhunts

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported he was unable to attend the most recent Hocking County foxhunt. He also reported that the Hocking County club has expanded their foxhunts to allow hunters at home to try to find the fox. The next Hocking County foxhunt will be held in July.

The next ACARA foxhunt will have as fox either Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, or Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, since they were the team that won the final ACARA foxhunt of 2021. Eric or Miles will choose a date and make an announcement soon via email.

New Business

ACARA Summer Meetings

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that the ACARA traditionally doesn't meet in July or August, and that during the COVID-19 pandemic members voted to meet remotely during the summer. Eric asked if the membership was interested in continuing to meet during the summer.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, made a motion that unless something of an emergency nature arises, the ACARA should return to not meeting in July and August from this point forward. The motion was seconded by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. During discussion, Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, stated he has been enjoying the chance to meet. Eric reminded Kirk that during the summer members can meet during nets and foxhunts and, if there's interest, the club could schedule a summer potluck. The motion passed without dissent.

Upcoming Public Service Event: Run Baileys – August 13-14, 2022

Event Dates: August 13-14, 2022

Event Sponsor: Southeast Ohio Trail Runners / Michael Owen

Event Website: <https://www.seotrevents.com/runbaileysdetails>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the 2022 running of the Run Baileys event will be held on August 13 and 14.

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

Following a motion to adjourn by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, and a second by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF