

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

Program

Because of two slide shows to be presented during the business meeting, there was no program.

Attendance

Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, via Zoom
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, via Zoom
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

Copies of the May minutes were distributed.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, found that his call had been incorrectly transcribed in the minutes. A motion to accept the May minutes as corrected 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 the monthly Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1594.55 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$556.68.

A motion was made by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV. The motion passed without dissent.

The Treasurer's Report is 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, meaning we continue to have periods of decreased sensitivity that are hard to diagnose. Eric suggested we might try to narrow down possible causes by having someone participate in the ACARA monthly 2m simplex net using a known-good transceiver connected to the repeater antenna, with and without the cavities, to see if the problem lies in the antenna/feedline or the cavities.

Eric reported he has begun researching new cavities. BridgeComm Systems offers a four-cavity system with 85dB of isolation for \$3500. It was suggested that the club might approach the Athens Marathon Committee for help in this purchase if it is determined that new cavities are needed.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the UHF repeater seems to be performing normally.

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:

- 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.

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, 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

Eric reported that the foxhunt offset attenuator group-buy led by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, has been completed.

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event: Athens Gravel Challenge – Sunday, June 5, 2022

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that ACARA communications support of the Athens Gravel Challenge bicycle race went well. We had many operators but could have used a few more so operators would not need to be assigned to multiple locations.

ACARA June Picnic – Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA June Picnic was held at the Dairy Lane picnic shelter and had good attendance:

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Linsey Groeneveld, KD8KNA
Chalisa Magpanthong, N8MHV
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Bob Moore, KD8KSM
Daniel Post
Edie Post
Rich Post, KB8TAD
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Mark Summers, KD8SM
Deb Summers, KE8TSA
Sheila Wurtsbaugh

Eric reported that Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, brought a pair of miniature foxhunt transmitters which he hid at the park for a short pedestrian-mobile foxhunt.

Old Business (continued)

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

ARRL Field Day website: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA participated in ARRL Field Day 2022 as W8MHV in Class 1A with 100-watt stations at the Athens County Fairgrounds.

Turnout was very good and least ten operators made contacts.

In all, the ACARA made 475 contacts and earned 1,470 bonus points for a total calculated score of 3,124 points.

A link to the full report with photos can be found on the ACARA website at <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=1742>.

Eric thanked everyone who participated, Athens County 9-1-1 for the use of their mobile tower, Athens County Fair Board for use of the fairgrounds, and Ohio ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway for accepting eleven Radiograms.

Eric presented a slideshow of Field Day 2022 photos.

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

OSPOTA website: <http://ospota.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA participated in the PCARS Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) field event on September 10, 2022, by activating Strouds Run State Park at the Bulldog shelter.

Turn-out was light but there were enough hands present for set-up and tear-down and the two members who operated made 248 QSOs and worked stations in 49 Ohio State Parks for a claimed score of 12,400 points. This score was significantly higher than last year's score of 825 points.

By band, thirty-one QSOs were made on 75m and 217 QSOs were made on 40m. By operator, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made 143 QSOs and Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, made 105 QSOs.

A complete report with photos can be viewed at <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=1772>.

Eric presented a slideshow of OSPOTA 2022 photos.

Old Business (continued)

ARRL Foundation Club Grant

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported as background that the ARRL Foundation, funded by a grant from ARDC, is making available \$500,000 to radio clubs. The program will provide up to \$25,000 for worthy club projects. Clubs are 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.

Eric reported that for the first round of the ARRL Foundation Club Grant program, the ACARA Executive Committee built a \$24,928 grant-proposal to fund significant upgrades to the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station to include the purchase a high-performance HF transceiver, a tower, and an HF beam antenna. During the first round, the ARRL received 128 grant-proposals, asking for a total of \$1.74 million. Twenty-four clubs received their requested grants, with a total of \$270,000 awarded. The ACARA's request was not awarded a grant.

Eric further reported that the second round of the grant is underway and that the ACARA Executive Committee will re-write the grant-proposal, strengthening the justifications for the funding.

ARDC Grant

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA Executive Committee has not yet met to discuss a grant proposal to ARDC.

Old Business (continued)

Foxhunts

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported that ACARA held a foxhunt on August 7, 2022. Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, was the fox and was well hidden in York Township. Six hunters in five vehicles participated. The first hunter to find the fox was Phil Stanley, W8NZB, from Hocking County, an indication that a hunter needn't have a good knowledge of local roads if he has good direction-finding equipment and skills.

Kirk reported that Phil will be the fox for the next foxhunt, the date of which has not yet been set. Watch for emails from Kirk with details once the date has been set.

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.seotvents.com/runbaileysdetails>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the ACARA provided communications support to the Run Baileys two-day running event on August 13-14, 2022. The club provided three operators for the Saturday half-marathon and two operators for the Sunday 5-mile run.

Public Service Event: Run 4 Blue Blazes Half Marathon – October 1, 2022

Event Date: Saturday, October 1, 2022

Event Sponsor: [Buckeye Trail Association](#) (BTA)

Event website: <https://www.buckeyetrail.org/blueblazefest.php>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that ACARA will be providing communications support to the Run 4 Blue Blazes Half Marathon on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Five operators are needed. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, will serve as net control. Miles McFadden, KD8KNC; Michael Baxla, KE8ICP; and Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, have confirmed their availability to work the event. Watch for emails from Jeff as the date of the event approaches.

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event: Bobcat Trail Marathon – November 12, 2022

Event Sponsor: Western Reserve Racing / Joe Jurczyk

Event Date: Saturday, November 12, 2022

Event Website: <https://www.westernreserveracing.com/events/bobcat-trail-marathon/>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that ACARA will provide communications support to the Bobcat Trail Marathon and Half Marathon on Saturday, November 12, 2022. Most regular operators have confirmed their availability to work the event. Watch for emails from Jeff as the date of the event approaches.

New Business

ARRL Field Day 2023 – June 24-25, 2023

ARRL Field Day website: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced that he will not be able to participate in Field Day 2023 with ACARA due to family obligations. He will be able to help with pre-event organization but the club needs to provide a Field Day Chairman to spearhead the operation. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, agreed to serve as Field Day Chairman for Field Day 2023.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the Athens Fair Board plans to demolish the fairground's brick building and replace it with a new structure. The schedule of this work is unknown. Eric will contact the Fair Board to determine whether a building will be available Field Day weekend. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reminded the membership that there are other options on the fairgrounds including the Kiwanis Building and the small music stage, both of which ACARA has used in the past for Field Day. Paul asked if other venues have been considered, and suggested that locations on The Ridges might work well for Field Day. Paul agreed to begin negotiations with Ohio University to see if The Ridges is a possibility for Field Day.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, suggested that the club consider moving to class 2A, with one HF station for CW and SSB, and one HF station for FT8 digital.

New Business (continued)

ARRL Club Commission Program

<https://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ARRL has a program in which clubs can earn a commission of \$15 for each new ARRL membership and \$5 for each ARRL membership renewal processed through the program. The ACARA is currently not taking advantage of this program. Vice-president Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, agreed to investigate how the program works.

Jamboree on the Air / Jamboree on the Internet – October 14-16, 2022

JOTA website: <https://www.jotajoti.info/>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that Scouting's Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) / Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) will be held on Friday-Sunday, October 14-16, 2022, and asked if the ACARA should consider hosting scouts at the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station so they can see an operating station, get on the air themselves, and perhaps complete some requirements for the Radio and other technology/communications badges, adding that activities such as this may help bolster the ACARA's chances of being awarded an ARRL Foundation Club Grant. When asked, Jeff reported that he has contacts into Scouting, as does Joe Weber, KE8LRZ.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked Jeff if he could coordinate an ACARA JOTA operation; Jeff agreed to do so. Members are asked to watch for email from Jeff about this operation.

Vinton County Club 2m Net – Sundays, 8pm

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported that the revived Vinton County club has a new repeater and needs participation in their weekly 2m net which meets at 8pm on Sundays. The repeater frequency is 147.105 (+), with an 88.5 tone. Kirk reports the repeater has good coverage into Athens.

Kirk added that the Vinton County club handles net-control assignments differently than ACARA does. For the Vinton County nets, a net-control station is responsible for running the net for an entire month. Kirk is currently serving as net-control for the month of September, and he's doing so from his house in Athens, using a 2m mobile rig and an outside omni-directional antenna.

ACARA

September 20, 2022

MINUTES

Following a motion to adjourn by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and a second by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF