

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Program

There was no program at this meeting.

Attendance

Troy Bonte, AC8XP
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

Copies of the September minutes were distributed.

A motion to accept the September minutes as distributed was made by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. The motion was seconded by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV. 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 \$556.70.

A motion was made by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, 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 in PDF format at http://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=37.

Old Business

VHF and UHF Repeaters

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the 2m repeater continues to function as it has been functioning, with hard-to-diagnose periods of reduced sensitivity.

In the absence of UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, Eric reported that the 70cm repeater is functioning 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:

- 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. A list of these nets and other regional nets can be found on the ACARA website at http://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=39.

Old Business (continued)

Club Building Projects.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the build-leaders will contact those who have 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.

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. For the first round, 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. The ACARA's request in the first round was not awarded a grant.

Eric reported that the second round of the grant is now underway and that the ACARA Executive Committee has been meeting to re-write the grant-proposal, strengthening the justifications for the request.

Old Business (continued)

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.

Athens County Foundation

<https://athensfoundation.org/>

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggested the club might consider applying for a grant from the Athens County Foundation (ACF). After discussion, it was decided that a grant from ACF will be considered for further enhancements to the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station and the club's 2m and 70cm repeaters.

Operating Event: Foxhunts

With Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, not being present, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA held a foxhunt on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Phil Stanley, W8NZB, from Hocking County was the fox and was well hidden in Strouds Run State Park. Three hunters in two vehicles participated. The first hunter to find the fox was Kirk Groeneveld. The team of Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, found the fox twenty-four minutes later.

A final foxhunt for 2022 will be staged in late October or early November, with Kirk as the fox. Watch for emails from Kirk with details once the date has been set.

Old Business (continued)

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>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA provided communications support to the Run 4 Blue Blazes Half Marathon on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, acted as liaison between the Buckeye Trail Association and ACARA leading up to the event and he made the operator assignments. Five operators participated during the event itself, with Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, serving as net control. Stationed along the half-marathon route were operators Miles McFadden, KD8KNC; Michael Baxla, KE8ICP; Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV; and Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ.

ACARA VE Session – Monday, October 17, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA held a VE session at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio on Monday, October 17, 2022.

Unfortunately, no candidates showed up to test. VEs present were Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; Scott Green, KD8KZG; and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

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/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership 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.

Old Business (continued)

Operating Event: ARRL Field Day 2023 – June 24-25, 2023

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that he will be unable to participate with the club in Field Day 2023 and that Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, has agreed to serve as Field Day Chairman.

Paul reported that he has been working to find an alternative location for ACARA's Field Day operation since it's possible the brick building at the Athens County Fairgrounds will not be available to the club on Field Day weekend. So far, he has not had success in securing permission for the club to operate Field Day on The Ridges and also mentioned that access to bathrooms on The Ridges could be a problem. Troy Bonte, AC8XP, who is Interim Associate Vice President of Facilities Management at Ohio University, stated that he can help Paul talk to the right people to get permission for the club to do Field Day on The Ridges.

Paul asked if there would be interest in doing Field Day at the picnic shelter at Lake Hope State Park. This location does have available toilets but is low in elevation in relation to the surrounding hills. Eric suggested that the low elevation would be a problem for operation on 6m. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, said the low elevation might be a problem for operation on the higher HF bands, too.

Eric will contact the Athens County Fair Board to determine whether the brick building on the fairgrounds, or its replacement, will be available to club on Field Day weekend. Drew pointed out that the club has operated Field Day from the Kiwanis shelter at the fairgrounds, and this remains a possibility for 2023.

Old Business (continued)

ARRL Club Commission Program

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

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, reported that he has researched the ARRL Club Commission Program. In order for the club to earn commission on ARRL new memberships (\$15) and renewals (\$5), the club will need to act as a “middle man” between the member and the ARRL—the club will need to collect the ARRL membership forms, with payment, from members and forward these to the ARRL with a separate form identifying us as an ARRL Affiliated Club. Paul suggested the club might be able to do this if we schedule annual, twice-yearly, or quarterly submissions to ARRL. Paul also suggested it might make sense to encourage those who receive free ACARA membership at ACARA VE sessions to join ARRL at the VE session so ACARA can take advantage of the commission program.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, stated that this seems like a lot of work for a small club. He added that he is a Diamond-level member of ARRL and asked Paul to research how that works with the commission program.

New Business (continued)

Officer Nominations

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, apologized for forgetting to get club officer nominations at the September meeting and stated that taking nominations this month necessitates the ballots be counted at the November meeting.

Eric read the list of current officers:

President: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Vice-President: Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Treasurer / Membership Coordinator: Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Secretary: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Webmaster / Newsletter Editor: Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Packet Node Trustee: Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Repeater Trustee: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Eric asked for nominations. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, nominated the current slate of officers to serve again in 2023.

After discussion, the members present directed Eric to take additional nominations from the wider membership via email or electronic survey. In addition, and as a test, Eric is to generate a Qualtrics survey to be used for the voting itself. This survey will be emailed only to paid members and the results of the electronic ballots will be announced at the November meeting.

ACARA Holiday Dinner – Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA traditionally meets for the annual Holiday Dinner on the evening of the third Tuesday in December. This year, that date is December 20. Eric asked if December 20 is too late, or too close to Christmas. The consensus was that December 20 is a suitable date for the Holiday Dinner.

The date having been chosen, Eric then asked where would the members like the Holiday Dinner to be held. He reminded the members that last year the Holiday Dinner was held at Pizza Cottage. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, and others expressed dissatisfaction with Pizza Cottage as a venue. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, reported that a new Italian restaurant is opening in the location of the now-gone Lui Lui restaurant; he will investigate availability. Eric will determine if Stevens will be open and available on the 20th. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, suggested the Athen Country Club; he will be attending a event there soon and will investigate.

New Business (continued)

Operating Event: Winter Field Day – January 28-29, 2023

<https://winterfieldday.com/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked if the club has interest in participating in Winter Field Day. The consensus was that, yes, there's interest. Eric asked who might serve as Winter Field Day captain, and Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, agreed to serve as captain so long as the operation would take place in the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station.

Watch for emails about Winter Field Day as the date approaches.

New Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 30, 2023

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that last year the club decided that this year the questions of hamfest date and venue this year would be revisited.

Eric reminded members that the Athens Hamfest traditionally falls on the last Sunday in April, which in 2023 will be April 30.

Discussion ensued about date.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, mentioning the last-Sunday-in-April date came about when Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) swapped Hamvention from April to May, forcing ACARA to likewise change the date of the Athens Hamfest. Before DARA swapped months, the Athens Hamfest came after Hamvention; after the swap, Athens Hamfest came prior to Hamvention. Carl suggested that with the Athens Hamfest falling so close prior to Hamvention, attendance suffers.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, stated that Athens Hamfest has fallen on the last-Sunday-in-April for so long that attendees know and expect the hamfest to fall on that date; he further suggested that changing the date will lead to a drop in attendance until the event could become associated with the new date.

The members present decided to keep the last-Sunday-in-April date. The Athens Hamfest will next occur on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

The discussion turned to venue. Eric reminded members that the main problem with the Community Center is that the cost to rent the facility rose dramatically last year—even though attendance was up last year, income dropped because of the increased cost.

Drew pointed out that last year the cost for the half-gymnasium space was reasonable; the problem was the cost to rent the multi-purpose room for the VE session. He reminded the membership that we have been renting the multi-purpose room in order to also have access to the kitchen for the DeMolay group who sell food at the hamfest; he suggested that a smaller meeting room would be adequate for the VE session and should cost considerably less than the multi-purpose room. Eric will contact the Community Center for pricing on a smaller meeting room and other options.

New Business (continued)

Ohio University Amateur Radio Club

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has learned that Blake Gall, KE8PAQ, has been working to rejuvenate the Ohio University Amateur Radio Club. He added that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has been communicating with Blake and has invited OU club members to participate in ACARA support of Bobcat Trail Marathon and he provided dates for VE sessions.

Troy Bonte, AC8XP, reported that he, independently, has been working with the members of the Ohio University Amateur Radio Club. He reported that all current members are engineering students working in avionics, and he was able to provide some additional names:

Advisor: Adam Schultz
President: Zachary Arnett
Vice-President: Austin McKibben
Treasurer: Ryan McKnight
Faculty Member: Sabrina Ugazio
Exam Coordinator: Brian C. Peters

Following a motion to adjourn by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, and a second by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF