

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Program

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, presented “An Introduction to the End-Fed Halfwave Antenna”. Paul soon will be leading a club-build of end-fed halfwave antennas.



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Attendance

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP (via Zoom)
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV (via Zoom)
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Tony Peric, KE8VFA
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

Copies of the October minutes were distributed and were also made available online for those members participating remotely.

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

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, the Treasurer's Report was presented by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. The club treasury holds \$1,617.55 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$556.70.

A motion was made by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The motion passed without dissent.

The Treasurer's Report is available online in PDF format at http://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=37.

Old Business

VHF and UHF Repeaters

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he visited the repeater site on November 3 to participate in the ACARA Monthly 2m Simplex Net. Using the repeater's antenna and feedline and an IC-2100H transceiver, Eric was able to hear all stations participating in the net. All stations drove his transceiver's S-meter to full-scale. All stations except the out-of-county stations and a mobile station near Nelsonville were full-quieting. Eric takes this as an indication that the repeater antenna and feedline remain in good condition. While on-site, Eric checked the tightness of all antenna and duplexer connections. Since this visit, the repeater has not shown signs of intermittent insensitivity and it's possible that tightening the connections fixed an intermittent poor connection.

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the 70cm repeater continues to functioning well in both analog FM and C4FM System Fusion modes.

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, following the 2m net, 442.100 MHz
- 10m SSB Ragchew Net, Tuesdays, 5pm, 28.375 MHz, hosted by Carl Denbow, N8VZ
- 6m AM Net, Sundays, 5pm, 50.4 MHz, hosted by John McCutcheon, N8XWO
- 2m System Fusion Net, Thursdays, 5pm, 145.15 MHz
- 70cm System Fusion Net, Thursdays, following the 2m System Fusion net, 442.100 MHz
- 2m FM Simplex Net, first Thursday, 7pm, 146.400 MHz, hosted by Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

Eric reported that members will receive an email concerning the selection of a new day-of-the-week and time-of-day for the 10m SSB Ragchew Net.

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.acara.org/?page_id=39.

Old Business (continued)

Officer Elections

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that following last month's meeting, which had low turn-out, and at which the only nominations for officers were for incumbents, he built and distributed a Qualtrics survey to paid members asking for club-officer nominations. Only one new nomination received, a nomination for Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, for Treasurer; Ted is not an ACARA member and this nomination was discarded.

Eric reported that using Qualtrics, he built and distributed an electronic ballot to paid members, with a deadline of midnight, November 14. After the ballots closed, and after seven blank ballots were removed, seventeen valid ballots remained.

Election Results:

President: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF – 17 votes

Vice-President: Paul Schulz, WD8SCV – 17 votes

Treasurer: Drew McDaniel, W8MHV – 16 votes

Treasurer: Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, (write-in) – 1 vote

Secretary: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF – 17 votes

Webmaster/Newsletter Editor: Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ – 17 votes

Packet Node Trustee: Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ – 17 votes

Repeater Trustee: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF – 17 votes

Several of the electronic ballots were returned with comments or suggestions:

“Simple build it and fixit programs, getting started in digital, what is a mesh network, etc.”

“Thank you!”

“Would love to see some of the proposed club build project actually come to fruition.”

“ACARA is great, wish I had more time to participate right now!”

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 will schedule the build-sessions. Eric explained that now that winter weather has arrived, the projects that require sweating copper pipe (J-pole, "Mighty Woof") will need to wait until Spring—we don't want to be dripping solder or hot flux on the carpet in the Red Cross chapter house.

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 an HF end-fed halfwave antenna
- Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, 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)

ARRL Foundation Club Grant

Club 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 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 proposal in the first round was not awarded a grant.

Eric reported that the second round of the grant is now underway. The ACARA Executive Committee has extensively re-written the club's grant-proposal, strengthening the justifications for the request, and the final package was submitted on November 2, prior to the November 4 deadline. ACARA will learn in January if this grant proposal was successful.

Eric reported that because the grant-proposal involves erecting a tower on the grounds of the Red Cross chapter house, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ACARA and the Red Cross is needed. On November 9, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, forwarded the final draft of the MOU as delivered by the Red Cross to the members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is still studying the document, but it has already been determined that the Red Cross will require ACARA to carry liability insurance. Eric has asked Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, to investigate the cost of liability insurance.

ARDC Grant

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA Executive Committee has not yet met to discuss a grant proposal to ARDC but he suggested that if the ACARA were to fail receiving a grant in the second round of the ARRL Foundation Club Grant, the club could apply for an ARDC grant for the project.

Old Business (continued)

Results: Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA)

Event Date: September 10, 2022

Event Website: <https://ospota.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that results from 2022 Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) have been published on the OSPOTA website.

After all the participating stations' logs were cross-checked, the ACARA operating as W8UKE ended up placing fourth in class "Multi Op, Single Radio, Low Power, in a Park" with 12,100 points. The winning station in-class was Preble Amateur Radio Association, operating as N8XC at Hueston Woods State Park, with 19,080 points. Second place in-class was Portage County Amateur Radio Association, operating as AD8FQ at Wingfoot Lake State Park, with 6,390 points. Third place in-class was N8EU, operating at John Bryan State Park, with 14,448 points.

Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation (SCARF), operating as KC8AAV at Burr Oak State Park, placed first in class "Multi Op, Single Radio, High Power, in a Park" with 23,691 points.

Sixty of Ohio's seventy state parks were activated. Of these, five parks were activated but no logs were submitted.

Results: ARRL Field Day – June 25-26, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Field Day 2022 results have been published in the December 2022 issue of QST magazine. ACARA placed 21st out of 131 in Class 1A, which places the club in the top 16%. Within Class 1A, ACARA placed 2nd in Ohio, 2nd in the 8th call-district, and 3rd in the ARRL Great Lakes Subdivision (OH, MI, KY).

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event: Bobcat Trail Marathon & Half-Marathon

Event Sponsor: Western Reserve Racing

Event Date: Saturday, November 12, 2022

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that ACARA once again successfully supported the Bobcat Trail Marathon & Half-Marathon. Eleven operators braved the cold, wet, and even snowy, weather conditions and supported what was a mostly uneventful event. One runner was reported with an injury but she made it to the location of Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, and was SAG-ed to the start/finish by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV. Jeff reported that the event organizers expressed great appreciation for our support of their event, going so far as to say they would not be able to run the event without our support.

Old Business (continued)

ACARA Holiday Dinner

Event Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that at last month's meeting the date of Tuesday, December 20, 2022 was selected for the annual ACARA Holiday Dinner but that no venue was selected at that time.

Eric reported that since last month's meeting, he has visited Stevens on Court (<https://stephens66.com/>) twice but hasn't yet heard back from the manager/owner. Stevens on Court typically closes over the winter break, so it's likely the venue won't be available for our event.

Eric reported that he and his wife took dinner at Cirò Italian Kitchen and Bar (<https://ciroinathens.com/>) on West Union. The food was very good, but the venue is small and it might not accommodate our event well.

Eric said he will investigate Zoë Fine Dining (<http://www.zoefinefood.com/>).

Eric asked for additional suggestions. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, said he thought last year's venue, Pizza Cottage (<https://www.pizza-cottage.com/>) on East State Street, worked well, and he also suggested we consider Albany Cafe (<https://albanycafe.com/>). Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested Starbrick BBQ (<https://www.starbrickbbq.com/>) in the Rocky Outdoor Gear store in Nelsonville, and the Eclipse Company Store (<https://www.eclipsecompanystore.com/>) in The Plains. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, suggested Jackie O's Taproom & Brewery (<https://jackieos.com/>) on Campbell Street but said we would need to cater our own food on a Tuesday evening.

ARRL Club Affiliation

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has filed the club's annual report with ARRL, renewing the club's ARRL Club Affiliation.

ARRL Special Service Club

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, suggested the club should consider applying to become a Special Service Club within ARRL. He will discuss this topic with the Executive Committee.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, said he thinks the Lawrence County club is the only Special Service Club in our ARRL district.

Old Business (continued)

Operating Event: Foxhunts

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, reported that ACARA held two foxhunts in 2022. He said that participants were passionate and had fun participating in the events. He added that, now that winter weather has arrived, it's unlikely that the club will sponsor another foxhunt this year.

Kirk suggested that after the return of warmer weather the club might hold a "work session" type of foxhunt in a local park, where participants can learn to use their directional antennas and other direction-finding equipment to find hidden low-power transmitters.

Kirk added that he had been asked by the Union County Amateur Radio Club (<http://ohiohams.net/>) to make a presentation on foxhunting at their meeting, but that conflicts had prevented him from accepting the offer. Instead, Phil Stanley, W8NZB, who hails from Logan and has participated in several of the ACARA foxhunts, made the presentation.

Operating Event: Winter Field Day

Event Date: January 28-29, 2023

Event Website: <https://winterfieldday.com/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that at last month's meeting the members decided to participate in the upcoming Winter Field Day event at the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio and that Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, had volunteered to serve as Winter Field Day captain.

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

Old Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest

Event Date: Sunday, April 30, 2023

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that at last month's meeting the membership decided the club should investigate the cost of using a smaller conference room at the Community Center for VE testing instead of the larger multi-purpose room with kitchen.

Eric reported that he communicated with Vanessa Scott of the Community Center and learned that the half-gym will cost us \$30/hour and a first-floor conference room will cost us \$10/hour. However, since the Community Center is currently not open on Sundays, we will be charged a \$100 fee to use the facility on a Sunday. Eric passed this information on to Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, who calculated that for 6am-to-noon use of the half-gym and 9am-to-noon use of the conference room, our cost would be \$310, not far from the \$300 we paid prior to last year's fee-increase. Eric reminded the members that last year the club paid \$490 for the use of the half-gym and the multi-purpose room.

Eric reported that he has reserved the half-gym and first-floor conference room for the hamfest.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, volunteered to notify the Masons and DeMolay that a kitchen will not be available for their use at the hamfest.

Old Business (continued)

Operating Event: ARRL Field Day 2023

Event Date: 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 ARRL Field Day 2023 and that Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, will serve as Field Day Chairman.

Eric reported that he has communicated with Ranson Calloway of the Athens County Fair Board. Mr. Calloway knows of no plans for demolition of the brick building in 2023 and that the building would be available for the club's use Field Day weekend except that the Masons have already reserved the Fairgrounds for a car show that weekend.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has consulted with the Masons and that the Masons and ACARA agree that both can use the Fairgrounds that weekend.

Jeff reported that that Athens County 9-1-1 has begun the process of replacing the broken cable on the mobile crank-up tower. Jeff has requested the use of the mobile tower for Field Day.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, reported he has found no suitable alternate location for the ACARA Field Day. Eric will reserve the use of the brick building and associated yard for Field Day.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, suggested that the club might consider switching from Class1A to Class 2A and operate two HF stations: one SSB/CW HF station and one digital-mode HF station. Paul said he has everything needed for a digital-mode HF station. Eric said the club owns several HF bandpass filters suitable for a multi-transmitter operation. John volunteered to purchase additional HF bandpass filters should they be needed.

Old Business (continued)

Ohio University Amateur Radio Club

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Troy Bonte, AC8XP, provided via email additional information about the OU club members:

President: Zachary Arnett

Vice President: Austin McKibben

Treasurer: Ryan McKnight, K8MCK

Exam Coordinator: Brian C. Peters, W8BCP

Advisor: Adam Schultz

Faculty Member: Dr. Sabrina Ugazio

Eric said he will recruit an ACARA member to act as a liaison between ACARA and the OU club.

New Business

Technician License Class

Class Dates: Mondays, January 16 through March 20, 2023

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the ACARA's Technician License Class will meet weekly on Mondays from January 16, 2023 through March 20, 2023, with a VE session on the final Monday. Jeff already knows of two potential students who have expressed interest in the class and he will also reach out to the local Scout troops. Jeff will distribute press releases to The Messenger, The Athens News, The Post, and local radio stations. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, volunteered to distribute flyers at the branches of the Athens Public Library system once Jeff has created the flyers.

New Business (continued)

Operating Event: ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Event Date: December 10-11, 2022

Event Website: <https://contests.arrl.org/10m/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the members that the ARRL 10-Meter Contest is to be held on the weekend of December 10-11, 2022, and that the club competes in the event in two ways:

1. The ACARA competes in the ARRL Affiliated Clubs Competition in the "Local" category. Members will operate their own stations and will submit their own individual scores to ARRL with their club identified as "Athens County ARA"; these individual scores will be used to calculate an Affiliated Clubs score.
2. Within the ACARA, the member submitting the highest score to ARRL wins the right to hold the coveted NC8V Memorial Trophy for the following year. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, is the current holder of the NC8V Memorial Trophy.

Iron Furnace Trail Run

Event Sponsor: SE Ohio Trail Runners

Event Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023

Event Website: <https://www.ironfurnacetrailrun.com/>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he has not yet been contacted about Iron Furnace Trail Run 2023 other than being told at last year's event that ACARA's support is wanted for 2023 but he confirmed that the event is always held on the first Saturday of April. This places the event on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

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

New Business (continued)

Athens Marathon

Event Sponsor: Athens Marathon Committee / Lisa Simons

Event Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023

Event Website: <https://www.athensohiomarathon.com/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, has confirmed that the date of the next running of the Athens Marathon is Sunday, April 16, 2023.

Watch for emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, as the date of the event approaches.

Meeting Space

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has reserved space at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio for ACARA's 2023 monthly meetings, the Technican License Class, all the VE sessions, and Winter Field Day.

Following a motion to adjourn by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, and a second by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF