

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. Technical issues prevented the remote session via Zoom from working properly.

### ***Program***

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, presented “An Introduction to N1MM Logger+” (<https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/>).

### ***Attendance***

John Bowes, K3JJB  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV (via Zoom)  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (via Zoom)  
John Thomas, KC8JWZ  
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

### ***Corrections/Additions to Minutes***

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

Joe Weber, KE8LRZ, identified an incorrect callsign in the November minutes.

A motion to accept the November minutes as amended was made by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. The motion was seconded by John McCutcheon, N8ZWO. The motion passed without dissent.

***Treasurer's Report***

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report. The club treasury holds \$1,102.36 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$20.24.

Drew reported that he had found a used KAT3 internal automatic antenna tuner for the club's Elecraft K3 transceiver. After discussion with President Eric McFadden, Drew purchased the KAT3 for the club using funds from the Jim Crouse Memorial Fund.

A motion was made by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, 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 online in PDF format at [http://www.ac-ara.org/?page\\_id=37](http://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=37).

***Old Business***

## VHF and UHF Repeaters

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that in November and January he visited the repeater site to participate in the ACARA Monthly 2m Simplex Net using the repeater's antenna and feedline and an IC-2100H transceiver. On both occasions, all participating stations were strong and exhibited no desense. Eric takes this as an indication that the repeater antenna and feedline remain in good condition and that the intermittent desense issue is probably being caused by fundamental overload—a strong, intermittent, local signal is overwhelming the repeater receiver's front-end. Eric suggested that a good first step in solving this issue is to verify the repeaters duplexer/cavities are properly tuned.

Eric reported that he was given contact information for Wilmington-based Paul Jellison, K8IO, who is a former iHeart Radio regional engineer. Eric sent Mr. Jellison an email in mid-December but hasn't yet heard back.

Drew stated that he now has a spectrum analyzer and can verify the tuning of the cavities. He added that in the past he calibrated the repeater's cavities using an antenna analyzer but the cavities' filtering wasn't as sharp as he had expected it to be. Eric and Drew will coordinate a time for Drew to tune the cavities with his spectrum analyzer.

No report was given for the UHF repeater.

***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, 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 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](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 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:

1. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will lead a build-session for a collapsible copper 2m J-pole antenna
2. Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, will lead a build-session for a copper 2m dipole called the “Mighty Woof”
3. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, will lead a build-session for a 40/20/15m end-fed halfwave antenna
4. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, will lead a build-session for a two-band HF trap-dipole antenna

Paul stated he wants to give the students in the current Technican License Class an opportunity to participate in his antenna-build.

Drew stated that his schedule will prevent him from putting on his trap-dipole build until sometime in March.

***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, made available \$500,000 to radio clubs. The program provided up to \$25,000 for worthy club projects. A key criterion for determining awards was how the project would advance amateur radio in the grantee's community. The ACARA applied for but failed to be awarded a grant in the first round. The Executive Committee met several times to re-write the grant-submission for the second round and submitted the final product on November 2, prior to the November 4 deadline.

Eric reported that on December 22 he received notification that ACARA was not awarded a grant in the second round:

The second round of the Club Grant Program is complete, and the Grant Review Committee has finished their selections. This round produced eighty-five applications for a total of 1.1 million in requests. This far exceeded the available funding and unfortunately many good grant proposals will not be fulfilled. I am sorry to say that your request will not be granted.

Should the Club Grand Program continue into 2023 with additional rounds of applications we invite you to reapply. We hope that this will not deter your club from the excellent work that you continue to do in the ham radio community. Continue to monitor the ARRL website for additional opportunities.

## ARDC Grant

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, suggested that the club, having failed to receive a grant from the ARRL Foundation Club Grant, might choose to apply for an ARDC grant for the project.

The ACARA Executive Committee will meet to discuss a grant proposal to ARDC.

**Old Business (continued)**

Results: 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 was held on the weekend of December 10-11, 2022, and that the club competed in the event in two ways:

1. The ACARA competes in the ARRL Affiliated Clubs Competition in the "Local" category. Members operate their own stations and submit their own individual scores to ARRL with their club identified as "Athens County ARA"; these individual scores are aggregated to calculate an Affiliated Clubs score.
2. Within the ACARA, the member who submits the highest score to ARRL wins the right to hold the coveted NC8V Memorial Trophy for the following year.

For 2022, five ACARA members participated in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest:

#1. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV	122 QSO	mixed	50 multipliers	24,300 points
#2. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	110 QSO	CW	38 multipliers	16,720 points
#3. John Biddle, W8PG	133 QSO	SSB		14,784 points
#4. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV	120 QSO	SSB	54 multipliers	12,960 points
#5. Carl Denbow, N8VZ	96 QSO	SSB	33 multipliers	6,336 points

(John Biddle did not submit his score to ARRL and was ineligible to win the NC8V Memorial Trophy.)

The NC8V Memorial Trophy was presented to Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, at the ACARA Annual Holiday Dinner on December 20, 2022. (Photo by Chalisa McDaniel, N8MHV.)

Drew mentioned that the NC8V Memorial Trophy was built by Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O. Greg still has the previous version of the trophy, which he is offering to the ACARA to display in the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station.



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***Old Business (continued)***

## ACARA Holiday Dinner

Event Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA Annual Holiday Dinner was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at Applebee's in Athens. Turnout was good with fifteen attendees and the venue worked well.

## Attendees:

John Biddle, W8PG  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Kathy Curtis  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Jane Denbow  
Chalisa McDaniel, N8MHV  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Edi Post  
Rich Post, KB8TAD  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ



***Old Business (continued)***

## Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that on December 10, Drew McDaniel W8MHV, located a used KAT3 Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner module for the club's Elecraft K3 transceiver. After discussion with the President, Drew ordered the KAT3. It arrived on December 16, and Drew installed it in the K3 on December 26. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, has tested the upgraded K3 over several days, on several bands, using three antennas, and the transceiver and KAT3 are working well.

Drew mentioned that he had been looking for a KAT3 on the various ham radio sites for some time but finally found this one on eBay.

Eric mentioned that in addition to being a wide-range antenna tuner, the KAT3 gives the K3 transceiver two antenna ports, which are switchable from the K3's front panel. This will make operations such as *ARRL Field Day*, *Winter Field Day*, and *Ohio State Parks on the Air* easier.

Eric reported that Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, have begun work on updating the Memorial Radio Station's physical space within the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio chapterhouse. Their current plan is to replace both desks currently in the room with one longer desk to support multiple stations and to add shelving for reference materials, equipment, and displays. In addition, Paul is looking at options to add a window to main door into the station.

## SCARF Hamfest VE Session – Sunday, January 15, 2023

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that two candidates successfully earned their Technician Class licenses at the SCARF Hamfest VE session.

## ACARA Technician License Class

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the first session of the ACARA's annual Technician License Class was held on Monday, January 16. Three students attended the first session but Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, expects additional students to attend subsequent sessions. The class meets at 7pm on Mondays at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio in Athens until the VE test session on March 20, 2023. The VE test session is open to all and tests for all license classes will be available.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Operating Event: Winter Field Day

Event Date: January 28-29, 2023

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that ACARA will participate in the upcoming Winter Field Day event at the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, is the Winter Field Day captain and he is planning on an around-the-clock operation using the station's Elecraft K3 for SSB and CW and an ICOM IC-7300 owned by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, for the FT-8 digital mode. Eric will provide a logging PC configured with N1MM Logger+.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has opened a discussion with Sandy Shirey of the Red Cross about combining ACARA's Winter Field Day operation with a Red Cross mass-care and feeding exercise as was last done in 2020.

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

## Upcoming Public Service Event: Iron Furnace Trail Run

Event Sponsor: SE Ohio Trail Runners

Event Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA will be supporting the Iron Furnace Trail Run in Zaleski State Forest and Lake Hope State Park on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

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

## Upcoming Public Service Event: Athens Marathon

Event Sponsor: Athens Marathon Committee / Lisa Simons

Event Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA will be supporting the Athens Marathon on Sunday, April 16, 2023.

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

***Old Business (continued)***

## Athens Hamfest

Event Date: Sunday, April 30, 2023

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has reserved the use of the Community Center half-gym and a smaller conference room. In order to reduce cost, the membership decided at the November meeting to reduce the number of hours we will use the conference room and we will not reserve the kitchen.

## 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 reserved the use of the brick building and associated greenspace on the Athens County Fairgrounds..

Paul reported that he is currently planning a Class 2A operation with an HF station for CW and SSB and a second HF station for digital modes. If we have a sufficient number of operators, he would like to deploy the free VHF/UHF station for digital operations on 6m.

Eric added that being Class 2A opens up the possibility of fielding a free "Get On the Air" (GOTA) station but he is concerned we won't have enough operators to man a GOTA station.

***New Business***

## February Potluck

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked if there's interest in holding the annual February Potluck this year. The clear answer was that yes, there is. Eric reminded the members that the February Potluck is typically held on a Saturday evening in February and suggested the dates of February 11, 18, and 25 as possibilities. The dates of February 11 and 18 seemed to be best, and Eric will ask Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, to reserve the use of the meeting room at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio for one of these dates.

Eric announced he will select an appropriate episode of "The Twilight Zone" to screen at the Potluck. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, said he might be able to bring a 16mm film to screen.

## O'Bleness Foundation Grant

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggested ACARA apply for an O'Bleness Foundation Grant to fund the desired upgrades to Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station. Carl knows one of the Foundation trustees and will begin a dialog with this trustee. Carl asked Eric to provide a one-page summary of the desired upgrades to the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station.

Following a motion to adjourn by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, and a second by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF