

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

Attendance

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

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

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

A motion to accept the January minutes as published was made by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The motion was seconded by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ. 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 \$1,279.46 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$48.24.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel has filed the club's income tax return and has submitted the club's annual report to the Ohio Attorney General.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. 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.

Old Business

VHF and UHF Repeaters

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the 2m repeater is operating normally. He has not recently noticed any periods of desense, but added that because of the ACARA Technician license classes, he has been unable to participate in the weekly 2m FM nets.

Eric reported that he has not heard back from Wilmington-based Paul Jellison, K8IO, about testing and tuning our cavities. Eric reminded the members that last month Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, had mentioned that he now has a spectrum analyzer and can verify the tuning of the cavities.

Eric reported that the UHF repeater is also operating normally.

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; the next net will be on March 2, 2023

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 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 40/20/15/10m end-fed halfwave antenna
4. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, will lead a build-session for a two-band HF trap-dipole antenna

Drew will not be able to lead his build of the of two-band HF trap-dipole until sometime after early April.

Paul hopes to lead his build of the 40/20/15/10m end-fed halfwave antenna on Sunday, March 26. Eric will ask Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, to confirm availability of the Red Cross chapter house on that date.

Tony Peric, KE8VFA, expressed interest in participating in all the builds. Eric will ask the build-leaders to him to their lists.

Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the members that the club's Elecraft K3 transceiver now has the optional KAT3 internal automatic antenna tuner. Unfortunately, since the installation of the KAT3, the K3 has been showing intermittent apparent antenna disconnection. Eric will continue to to test the K3.

Eric reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, have been working to improve the station's grounding system.

Old Business (continued)

ACARA Technician License Class

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA's annual Technician License Class is underway. Five students have attended various sessions but only three students have attended the most recent sessions. Eric is hopeful the students not attending the classes are studying on their own and will successfully test on March 20.

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.

Operating Event: Winter Field Day

Event Date: January 28-29, 2023

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA competed in the Winter Field Day at the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Because of an issue with the club's Elecraft K3 transceiver, operations took place using the ICOM IC-7300 provided by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, was the Winter Field Day captain. Using Drew's callsign, ACARA members operated the station around-the-clock for twenty-four hours and succeeded in making 343 QSO using CW, SSB, and the digital mode JS8 on the 80/75, 40, 20, 15, and 10m bands.

The operators were Drew McDaniel, W8MHV; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; Miles McFadden, KD8KNC; Paul Schulz, WD8SCV; and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

Sandy Shirey of the Red Cross saw the ACARA's participation in Winter Field Day in the chapter house as an opportunity to perform an exercise in mass-care and feeding, and provided the ACARA with snacks and dinner on Saturday.

Thanks go to Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, for serving as Winter Field Day Captain; to Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, for providing the transceiver, antenna tuner, and logging PC; to Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, for coordinating with the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio; and to all the operators who made this operation a success.

A complete report with photos can be found at <http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=1885>.

Old Business (continued)

February Potluck

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA's annual February Potluck was held on Saturday, February 18, 2023. Eric reported that the event was well attended and, as always, good food was provided by attendees. Two episodes of *The Twilight Zone* were screened: Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, had suggested the season two episode "King Nine Will Not Return", and Eric had selected the season three episode "The Hunt".

Attendees:

- John Biddle, W8PG
- Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
- Kathy Curtis
- Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
- John McCutcheon, N8XWO
- Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
- Kate McFadden, KD8KNB + infant son Archer
- Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
- Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ
- Tony Peric, KE8VFA
- Edie Post
- Rick Post, KB8TAB
- Sheila Wurtsbaugh

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.

Old Business (continued)

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.

Athens Hamfest

Event Date: Sunday, April 30, 2023

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the members 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.

Eric reported that on January 18, he registered the event with ARRL and received confirmation on the 20th. ARRL will send gift certificates as door prizes.

Eric reported that on February 14, he completed the application for the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism Development Grant, asking for \$170 to cover printing and postage costs.

Eric reported that he has received postcard and flyer artwork from Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, reported that DX Engineering will send a \$50 gift certificate as a door prize. He further reported that Gigaparts will not be sending door prizes but offered a discount on items ACARA would purchase for door prizes. He hasn't yet heard back from Ham Radio Outlet. Paul said he will reach out the Baileys Trail System for door prizes.

Eric reported that he has received three \$20 gift certificates from Mastrant as door prizes.

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 reserved the use of the brick building and associated greenspace on the Athens County Fairgrounds. He further reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had reported last month that Athens County 9-1-1 has begun the process of replacing the broken cable on the mobile crank-up tower and that he has reserved the use for the tower for Field Day.

Eric reported that has the club's 15m, 20m, and 40m bandpass filters. These will be important when the club has more than one HF station in operation.

Paul reminded the members that he is planning a Class 2A operation with two HF stations in addition to the free VHF/UHF station operating on 6m.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the Masons' car show has been rescheduled and is no longer on Field Day weekend.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, asked Eric if his 2kw Honda inverter-generator will be available for Field Day. Eric assured him it will be.

New Business

No items of new business were discussed.

Following a motion to adjourn by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, and a second by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF