

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

### ***Presentation***

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, made a presentation and slide-show about the club's ARRL Field Day 2023 operation in Class 2-A at the Athens County Fairgrounds.

### ***Attendance***

John Biddle, W8PG (via Zoom)  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV (via Zoom)  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV (via Zoom)  
Andy McDonald, K8FO  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Tony Peric, KE8VFA  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (via Zoom)

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

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

A motion to accept the May minutes as published was made by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The motion was seconded by Tony Peric, KE8VFA. The motion to accept the Minutes as published passed without dissent.

***Treasurer's Report***

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

Drew reported on his research into interest-bearing accounts available in the area, the selection by the Executive Committee of the five-month Certificate of Deposit (CD) at Atomic Credit Union, and his deposit of \$20,000 into that account. He further explained that, after Atomic Credit offered a new, higher interest rate on a 13-month CD, he rolled \$10,000 from the 5-month CD into a 13-month CD, leaving \$10,000 plus interest-earned in the 5-month CD.

The club checking account holds \$2,599.30 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$118.37. The 5-month CD holds \$10,202.96. The 13-month CD hold \$10,000.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The motion was seconded by Carl Denbow, N8VZ. The motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented 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***

## Athens Marathon Committee Donation

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that in April the club received a \$30,000 donation from the outgoing Athens Marathon Committee and that at the April meeting, members voted to place the bulk of this money into an interest-bearing account.

Eric reported that he has not yet formed the planning committee that will discuss ways to spend the money. This committee will consist of the Executive Committee and interested club members. Watch for an email announcing the first meeting of this committee.

## VHF Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the VHF repeater is working well. Following the realignment of the cavities on April 11, he has not noticed any issue with desense.

## UHF Repeater

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the UHF repeater continues to work as well as it has been working.

***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.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that at the May meeting, he had been directed to return the station's Elecraft K3 transceiver to Elecraft for service to solve issues with receiver gain-distribution and with the KAT3 internal antenna tuner unit. Eric reported that he continued to work with the K3 and found that a previous owner had set some very extreme settings within the K3's menus that had ruined the receiver's gain-distribution. By returning these settings to factory defaults and making small changes from there, Eric was able to fix all of the issues related to receiver gain-distribution. Furthermore, over numerous CW and SSB QSOs using the K3 and the internal antenna tuner, he hasn't seen a return of the intermittent KAT3 issues he had earlier seen.

Eric reported that the club used the K3 for the recent Ohio State Parks on the Air field event and that the transceiver worked perfectly.

Eric suggested that the K3 no longer needs to be returned to Elecraft for service. The members present at the meeting agreed although no formal vote was taken.

## Club Building Projects

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the build of the copper j-pole antenna led by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and the build of the Mighty Woof copper 2m dipole led by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, took place simultaneously at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio at 1pm on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

Jeff reported that he led five members in builds of the copper j-pole. All were successful in their builds but, as has been experienced previously at the Red Cross, the antennas could not be successfully tuned using an antenna analyzer due to a nearby strong RF source that overwhelms an antenna analyzer. Jeff has published a report about the build on the ACARA website: <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2019>.

Kirk reported that he distributed five kits for the Mighty Woof copper 2m dipole, some of which were built during the build session on May 21.

The date for the build of the two-band HF dipole to be led by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, has yet to be determined.

***Old Business (continued)***

Social Event: June Picnic – Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club's annual June Picnic took place on Tuesday, June 20, at the Dairy Lane Park. The event took place in the evening following a whole day of rain and turnout was light.

Nevertheless, a good time was had by all who did attend. Eric thanked Joe Weber, KE8LRZ, for bringing his grill and cooking the burgers and brats.

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, followed up on the presentation given by Field Day Chairman Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, by reporting that the club's Class 2-A operation succeeded in making 716 QSOs for 2,368 QSO points, and earned 1,150 bonus points, for a total of 3,518 points.

Eric thanked Paul for serving as Field Day Chairman.

Eric apologized for not yet publishing a Field Day report on the club website but said he will publish the report soon.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Operating Event: Fox Hunts

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club sponsored two Athens County foxhunts since the May meeting.

The club held an Athens County foxhunt on June 4 with Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, as fox. Three hunters participated, with Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, being the first to find the fox hiding in far northern Athens County. Phil Stanley, W8NZB, from Hocking County, was second to find the fox. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, was third to find the fox.

The club held an Athens County foxhunt on September 3 with Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, as fox. Two hunters participated. Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, found the fox hiding in Waterloo Wildlife Area in 1 hour and 18 minutes. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, found the fox just three minutes later in 1 hour and 21 minutes. A report on this foxhunt can be viewed on the club website at <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2095>.

Kirk reported that Carl has volunteered to be the next fox. Watch for an email announcing the date and time of the hunt. Kirk encourages all interested hunters to get the newest Athens County Engineer's map to use during foxhunts. The maps are available at the Athens County Engineers Headquarters at 16000 Canaanville Road, near the intersection of US52/32 and SR690.

## Public Service Event: Athens Gravel Challenge

Event Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling / Todd Acheson

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club provided communications support to the Athens Gravel Challenge on Saturday, August 5, 2023.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that nine operators participated but that he could have used a few more operators.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Public Service Event: Run Baileys

Event Dates: August 12-13, 2023

Event Sponsor: Southeast Ohio Trail Runners / Michael Owen

Event Website: <https://www.seotrevents.com/runbaileysdetails>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club had committed to provide communications support to the Run Baileys event the weekend of August 12-13 but the event was cancelled by the organizers.

## Operating Event: Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA)

Event Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) event by activating Strouds Run State Park. The operation took place at the Bobcat shelter located near the boat-rental facility and the swim-beach area. Member participation was lighter than might have been hoped for, but three operators used the club's Elecraft K3 transceiver and an 80m end-fed halfwave antenna (EFHW) provided by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, to make 101 QSOs over the eight hours of the event.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, made 85 QSOs; Cade Saugier, KC3EKE, made 15 QSOs; and Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, made 1 QSO.

By band, 12 QSOs were made on 80m, 76 QSOs were made on 40m, and 13 QSOs were made on 20m. Stations were worked at 42 Ohio State Parks.

The club's final calculated score was 4,343 points.

The OSPOTA operation ended with a potluck, which several club members and their guests participated in.

Eric reminded the members that last year Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, together made 248 QSOs, working stations at 49 Ohio State Parks. The difference this year was that 80m was not productive. Eric doesn't think the 80m EFHW antenna was the cause of this; rather, the culprit was poor daytime propagation on 80m due to solar conditions.

A report on the OSPOTA operation has been published on the club website at <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2102>.



***New Business***

## Officer Nominations

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that September is the month in which the club makes nominations for club officers to serve the following year, with the vote to be held in October.

Current officers:

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

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, nominated the entire slate of current officers, so long as each wishes to serve again.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, nominated Tony Peric, KE8VFA, for Secretary.

Eric will ask members for additional nominations via email or Qualtrics survey.

## Public Service Event: Run 4 Blue Blazes Half Marathon

Event Date: Saturday, October 7, 2023

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA will be providing communications support to the Run 4 Blue Blazes Half Marathon on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, informed the membership that this event starts in Shawnee, Ohio, and will run from approximately 9am to 1pm

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

***New Business (continued)***

Public Service Event: Baileys Dirt Fondo / Funduro

Event Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023

Event Sponsor: [Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia](#) (ORCA)

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA has been asked by Elle Dickerson of the Ohio Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA) to provide communications support to the Baileys Dirt Fondo / Funduro on Saturday, October 14. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, has been coordinating with the Ms Dickerson. Paul reported that since neither he nor Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will be available to work that event, and since very few other members have indicated their ability to work the event, he has reluctantly informed Ms. Dickerson that the club will not be able to support the event this year.

ACARA / SCARF VE Testing Session – Monday, October 16, 2023

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that an ACARA / SCARF VE Testing session will take place on Monday, October 16, 2023 at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Testing begins at 7pm, with tests for all license class to be available. Walk-ins will be welcome.

Andy McDonald, K8FO, volunteered that he is an ARRL VE and is interested in participating in this session as a VE.

Public Service Event: Bobcat Trail Marathon & Half Marathon

Event Sponsor: Western Reserve Racing / Joe Jurczyk

Event Date: Saturday, November 11, 2023

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club will be providing communications to the Bobcat Trail Marathon and Half Marathon at Burr Oak State Park on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

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

***New Business (continued)***

## Technician License Class 2024

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, asked if the club is interested in offering a Technician Class course in 2024. The instructors present at the meeting indicated they would like to offer a class in 2024, and Andy McDonald, K8FO, also volunteered his services as an instructor.

Jeff will work up a schedule for the one-day-a-week, ten-week course.

Following a motion to adjourn by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, and a second by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF