

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

### ***Presentation***

Daisy Crawley Franz gave a well-received presentation on her late father, Marion Crawley, ex-KA8HZN, K8MMC, and his memoir, CBI Radioman, a Memoir.

Marion's memoir is available in multiple formats on Amazon at

<https://www.amazon.com/CBI-Radioman-Memoir-Story-Military/dp/B0BM3NFT18>

### ***Attendance***

John Bowes, K3JJB (via Zoom)  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Daisy Crawley Franz  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV (via Zoom)  
Andy McDonald, K8FO  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Tony Peric, KE8VFA  
Rich Post, KB8TAD (via Zoom)  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (via Zoom)  
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

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

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

A motion to accept the September minutes as published was made by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The motion was seconded by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ. 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 that the club received a \$100 gift from Team Athens Cycling.

The club checking account holds \$2,719.30 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$118.38. The 5-month CD holds \$10,202.96. The 13-month CD hold \$10,000. The amounts reported for the two CDs do not include interest earned; Drew will report the interest earned after the CDs mature. The 5-month CD matures in January, 2024 and the 13-month CD matures in September, 2024.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Carl Denbow, N8VZ. The motion was seconded by Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV. 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.

**Repeater Reports**

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the VHF repeater is working well. Following the realignment of the cavities on April 11, 2024, he has not noticed any issue with desense.

Eric 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.

## Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, provided no update on the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Officer Elections

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that electronic election ballots (via a Qualtrics survey) were distributed to members via email, with two members receiving paper ballots. Twenty valid ballots were returned, with nineteen votes for each of the nominees, and with no write-in candidates.

Officers elected for 2024:

- President: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
- Vice-President: Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
- Treasurer / Membership Chairman: Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
- Secretary: Tony Peric, KE8VFA
- Webmaster / Newsletter Editor: Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
- Packet Node Trustee: Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
- Repeater Trustee: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

The electronic ballot included a comment field: "Please provide any comments or suggestions. (How can ACARA be improved? What does ACARA do that you enjoy? What activities would you like to see ACARA sponsor?)" Five members answered this question:

- I'm too new to answer that, but I'll let the club know as I go. Thanks!
- I would like to see an old project idea that was never carried out resurrected. The idea was to have a club project where we'd build a simple superheterodyne receiver, section by section, with technical instruction describing the function of each section as it was built. This would be a great learning experience for participants.
- Enjoy the build sessions in the Red Cross parking lot, though I wish we could eliminate the spurious rf. Also, would like to promote more participation in the Foxhunts once a month. Perhaps another tape measure yagi antenna build could be scheduled. Always on the lookout for more one-day projects to build or bring to the club's attention.
- Thanks for doing this!
- More builds.

(Update 2023-10-19: The two paper ballots were received by Drew McDaniel after the ballot-count at the meeting. Both ballots contained votes for all of the nominated members, and neither contained write-ins. Therefore, the correct total of valid ballots received is 22, and each nominee received 21 votes. )

***Old Business (continued)***

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that an ACARA / SCARF VE Testing session took place on Monday, October 16, 2023 at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Participating VEs were Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Andy McDonald, KF8O; Scott Green, KD8KZG; and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. Two candidates tested, and both successfully earned Technician Class licenses.

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 provided communications support to the Run 4 Blue Blazes Half Marathon on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that five operators participated:

- Michael Baxla, KE8ICP
- Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
- Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
- Andy McDonald, K8FO
- Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Jeff further reported that the Logan repeater worked well for this event. Repeater coverage at the various locations along the course was better this year than in previous years.

Jeff reported that the 2024 running of this event has been scheduled for the first Saturday in October, which is October 5, 2024.

**Old 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 had been asked to provide communications support to the Baileys Dirt Fondo / Funduro on Saturday, October 14. The club was unable to identify enough operators to support the event and had to decline the invitation.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, had been coordinating with the organizer. He reported he was able to secure volunteers from the bicycling club to work the marshal points and that the event went off well. He reported that the organizers have already asked for our support next year. Paul suggested that prior to next year's event we test repeater coverage along the course.

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.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he will begin sending emails out about this event this week.

**New Business**

Lapsed Licenses

Eric McFadden reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, had sent him a list of recently-expired licenses within the Athens area, with the suggestion that the club send letters to these operators to help them renew their licenses. Ted also generously provided printed address labels. Eric gave the list, the labels, and a PDF of an article on how to renew one's license that appeared in the October, 2024 issue of QST to Treasurer and Membership Chairman Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, who had agreed to compose and send the letters.

***New Business (continued)***

## Operating Event: Fox Hunt

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the next Athens County Fox Hunt will take place on Sunday, October 29, 2023, with Carl Denbow, N8VZ, as fox.

Carl added that his chosen location for the fox will be about 3,000' *outside* of Athens County. He has verified that he will have a good signal into the repeater at that location.

## Social Event: ACARA Annual Holiday Dinner

Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Location: To Be Determined

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the members that the club's annual holiday dinner is fast approaching and asked if the third Tuesday in December, the 19<sup>th</sup>, would be a good date for the dinner. The consensus was that December 19 would be a good date.

Eric asked about a venue, reminding members that the 2022 dinner had been held at Applebee's on East State Street in Athens. Members made comments indicating that Applebee's had worked well although the seating arrangement hadn't encouraged conversation beyond the immediate table. No alternate venues were suggested.

Eric said he will email the broader membership, asking for suggestions.

***New Business (continued)***

Operating Event: Winter Field Day

Date: January 27-28, 2024

Event website: <https://winterfieldday.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the wintertime operating event, Winter Field Day, will be held over the weekend of January 27-28, 2024. He asked if the club wishes to participate in category "I" (indoors) in the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station or in category "O" (outdoors) somewhere, perhaps in a travel trailer.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, offered the use of his travel trailer and said he will investigate use of the camping area at Lake Hope State Park for an operation in category "O". He also said he will investigate the use of a cabin at Lake Hope State Park for an operation in category "I".

Eric asked if anyone would be willing to serve as Winter Field Day Chairman. Paul volunteered to serve as Winter Field Day Chairman.

Annual Technician License Class

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he is working on the schedule for the club's annual Technician License Class and that the first session will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January. The class will meet every Monday thereafter, with the VE testing session to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> Monday.

Following a motion to adjourn by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, and a second by Tony Peric, KE8VFA, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President and Secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF