

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

Presentation

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, gave a show-and-tell of his “KX2 Mini Travel Kit”, a small but complete HF station that he uses for bicycle- and pedestrian-portable HF operations. (For photos and information, visit https://wd8rif.com/kx2_mini_travel_kit.htm.)

Attendance

John Bowes, K3JJB (via Zoom)
Kate Bowes, KB3URV
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Andy McDonald, K8FO
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV (via Zoom)
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (via Zoom)
Judith Winner

Corrections/Additions to Minutes

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

A motion to accept the October meeting minutes as published was made by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The motion was seconded by Andy McDonald, K8FO. 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 he has updated the club's equipment inventory and has paid the club's annual liability and equipment insurance premiums.

The club checking account holds \$2,213.75 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$118.39. 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.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The motion was seconded by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV. 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.

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.

A committee consisting of the Executive Committee and interested club members will meet to discuss how best to use this donation. 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, he has not noticed any issue with desense.

Eric reported that the UHF repeater continues to work as well as it has been working.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, stated that he notices the lack of reset-beeps on the repeaters. Eric replied that other members have complained of the same issue and that he will prioritize the implementation of external repeater controllers in order to address this issue.

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 except to suggest that the station layout should be improved prior to the upcoming Winter Field Day.

Old Business (continued)

Elecraft KX3 Field-Contest Transceiver

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Elecraft is again taking orders for the KDVR3 Digital Voice Recorder module (https://elecraft.com/products/kdvr3_digital-voice-recorder) for the K3 transceiver. This module adds digital voice-keyer capabilities to the K3 and the cost is \$259.95 plus tax and shipping.

With the club's K3 currently being the club's primary field-contest transceiver, Eric asked if there's interest within the club in purchasing a KDVR3 module.

This topic was tabled until a later meeting.

Results: ARRL Field Day 2023

Event Date: Saturday-Sunday, June 24-25, 2023

Event Website: <https://field-day.arrl.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ARRL Field Day 2023 results were published in the December 2023 issue of QST magazine and are also available online at <https://field-day.arrl.org/>.

ACARA placed 58th of 308 in Class 2A, which calculates to the top 19th percentile. ACARA placed 4th in Ohio in Class 2A.

Results: Ohio State Parks on the Air 2023

Event Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that results for Ohio State Parks on the Air 2023 (OSPOTA) have been published on the OSPOTA website. The ACARA's activation of Strouds Run State Park at Bobcat Shelter earned fifth place in class "multi-op, single-radio, low-power, in a park" with 4,200 points.

Old Business (continued)

Results: Athens County Foxhunt

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that an Athens County Foxhunt took place on Sunday, November 5, with Carl Denbow, N8VZ, serving as the fox. Two teams participated as hunters. The team of Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, and Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ, took about 90 minutes to find the fox near Frost, Ohio. Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, found the fox about ten minutes later.

A full report can be found at <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2167>.

Public Service Event: Bobcat Trail Marathon & Half Marathon

Event Date: Saturday, November 11, 2023

Event Sponsor: Western Reserve Racing

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the ACARA successfully provided communications support for the Bobcat Trail Marathon and Half Marathon at Burr Oak State Park on Saturday, November 11. Twelve operators participated, and the radio net took place on 2m simplex.

Social Event: ACARA Annual Holiday Dinner

Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Location: Applebee's, East State Street, Athens ([info](#))

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the members that the club's annual holiday dinner will take place on December 19, the third Tuesday in December, at Applebee's on East State Street in Athens. Members and guests should arrive by 5:30pm. ACARA will provide hors d'oeuvres. Members and guests will order their meals from the menu.

For more information, visit <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2184>.

Old Business (continued)

Annual Technician License Class

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has announced that the club's annual Technician License Class will meet on Mondays from January 15 through March 18, with the VE test session to be held on the final Monday, March 18. The classes and VE test session will be held in-person at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio, 100 South May Avenue, Athens.

Operating Event: Winter Field Day

Date: January 27-28, 2024

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Winter Field Day, the wintertime operating event, will be held the weekend of January 27-28, 2024. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, is the Winter Field Day Chairman.

Paul reported that ACARA will operate at the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio in category "Indoors". Paul added that he is working to get the Athens County 9-1-1 Center's mobile crank-up tower for this event.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, volunteered to bring food to the operation.

Watch email and the club website for more information.

New Business

New 9-1-1 Center Radio Station

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the new Athens County 9-1-1 Center on Connett Road in The Plains is currently under construction. The new facility will include a radio room and equipment including, but not limited to, an IC-7300 HF+6m transceiver, a DR-735 VHF/UHF FM transceiver, two VHF/UHF vertical antennas, a five-band fan-dipole HF antenna, and a six-band trap-vertical HF antenna.

Jeff added that no amateur radio antennas can be mounted on the main tower but that Athens 9-1-1 is coordinating the installation of a telephone pole for support of the amateur radio antennas.

New Business (continued)

Operating Event: ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Event Date: Saturday-Sunday, December 9-10, 2023

Event Website: <https://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that the ARRL 10-Meter Contest is to be held on the weekend of December 9-10, 2023 and that ACARA participates in this contest in two ways:

1. The club participates in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest as a club, in the Affiliated Club Competition in class "Local". Members who will be operating at a location within 35 miles of uptown Athens will be eligible to participate in the Affiliated Club Competition. When you prepare your 10-Meter Contest submission to ARRL, simply list "Athens County ARA" in the "Club Name" field and your score will count toward the ACARA's Affiliated Club Competition score.
2. The ACARA member submitting the highest score to the ARRL will win the coveted NC8V Memorial Trophy which is presented annually in recognition of the life and accomplishments of past-member John Cornwell, NC8V (SK). The current holder of the NC8V Memorial Trophy is Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

ACARA / SCARF VE Test Sessions

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, announced dates and locations for the 2024 ACARA/SCARF VE test sessions:

- January 14, 2024 – SCARF Hamfest, Shade Community Center
- March 18, 2024 – Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio
- April 28, 2024 – Athens Hamfest, Athens Community Center
- June 17, 2024 – Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio
- August 19, 2024 – Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio
- October 21, 2024 – Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio

Walk-ins are welcome and exams for all license classes will be available at all test sessions.

New Business (continued)

Social Event: February Potluck

Event Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024, 5pm – 8pm

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, announced that the club's annual February Potluck will be held on Saturday, February 17, at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio, 100 South May Ave., Athens. Members and guests will arrive at 5pm and are asked to bring a dish to share, their own beverages, and their own table service. Watch email and the ACARA website for more information.

ARRL Club Affiliation

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has performed the annual update to the ACARA's ARRL Club Affiliation documentation.

Book Donation to Southeast Ohio History Center

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Mike Cooper, KC8WMY, has suggested that the club donate a copy of the published memoir of Marion Crawley, K8MMC (SK), CBI Radioman, a Memoir, to the Southeast Ohio History Center (<https://southeastohiohistory.org/>), and that Mike had provided a point-of-contact within the Southeast Ohio History Center.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, made a motion that the club donate a copy of CBI Radioman, a Memoir to the Southeast Ohio History Center. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, seconded the motion. The vote passed without dissent.

Eric will reach out to the Southeast Ohio History Center to verify they don't already have a copy of the book and will arrange the donation.

Drew suggested the club also donate a copy of the book to the Athens Public Library system and offered his own copy of the book for this purpose. Eric replied that he thinks the library system already has copies of the book. (Post-meeting update: Eric checked, and found that the Athens County Public Library has two copies of the book.)

New Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest

Hamfest Date: Sunday, April 28, 2024

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has begun the process of reserving the Athens Community Center for the Athens Hamfest to be held on the traditional last Sunday in April, April 28, 2024. He has sent an email to Vanessa Scott at the Community Center but hadn't yet received a reply.

Eric asked if last year's reduced footprint (no kitchen, small meeting room for the VE test session) and reduced time-window worked well. The consensus was that the reduced footprint and time-window worked well last year.

Operating Event: ARRL Field Day 2024

Event Date: Saturday-Sunday, June 22-23, 2024

Event website: <https://field-day.arrl.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, stated that it's time to begin planning for ARRL Field Day 2024, adding that last year's Class 2A operation at the Athens County Fairgrounds worked well. He asked Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, if he would serve again as Field Day Chairman and Paul agreed to do so.

Paul reported that his Cushcraft tri-band HF yagi will be available for Field Day and that Tim Grubb, KB8SRK, will be donating a rotor to the club.

Discussion turned toward where the Field Day operation will take place. The Athens Fairgrounds is a known place which offers both shelter and bathrooms. Paul suggested the water-tower area of The Ridges might work well but we'd have to negotiate with Ohio University to gain permission to use the place and we would probably need to rent portable toilets.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, suggested it's time to reserve the use of the Athens County Fairgrounds for Field Day weekend. Eric agreed and will do so.

Andy McDonald, KF8O, suggested the club might want to apply for a 1x1 callsign for use during the Field Day operation and during the meeting actually completed the application on the club's behalf.

New Business (continued)

Athens 9-1-1 Center Mobile Tower

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has been coordinating with Athens County 9-1-1 Center Director Theresa Savage about a possible transfer of the Center's 50' crank-up mobile tower to ACARA. An agreement of transfer is nearly complete but Jeff doesn't know yet the full details of the agreement. ACARA will be given the opportunity to study the agreement before it is signed.

ARRL Division Election Results

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that in the recently-completed 2023 ARRL Division Elections, Scott Yonally, N8SY, defeated Michael Kalter, W8CI, for the position of ARRL Great Lakes Division Director. Scott Yonally will assume the role when the incumbent, Dale Williams, WA8EFK, completes his term at the end of the year. Scott Yonally had previously been serving as ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director.

Following a motion to adjourn by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, and a second by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF