

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

***Attendance***

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Ted Jacobson, W8KVK (via Zoom)  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Andy McDonald, K8FO (via Zoom)  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Bob Riordan, KM4CRF  
Robert Riordan, KA4VNK  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Josh Senefeld, N8VXR  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ  
Judith Winner

***Corrections/Additions to Minutes***

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

A motion to accept the November meeting minutes as published was made by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The motion was seconded by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. 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's 5-month Certificate of Deposit (CD) at Atomic Credit Union has matured. After consultation with President Eric McFadden, he rolled the money back into a new 5-month CD which reaches maturity on June 12, 2024. The interest rate on the 5-month CD has dropped slightly. Drew reported that the original 5-month CD and the 13-month CD at Atomic Credit Union have earned \$370.24 in interest.

Drew reported he has sent out dues-reminders. He stated he has already received dues from some members.

The club checking account holds \$2,200.93 in unencumbered funds. The *Jim Crouse Memorial Fund* holds \$118.42. 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 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](http://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=37).

***Old Business*****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.

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the UHF repeater continues to work as well as it has been working but the club might decide to have the repeater's antenna and feedline checked and have the cavities realigned.

***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)**

Results: ARRL 10-Meter Contest + NC8V Memorial Trophy

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the NC8V Memorial Trophy is annually awarded to the club member submitting the highest score in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest. He reported that four members participated in ARRL 10-Meter Contest and submitted their results to ARRL.

- #1. John Biddle, W8PG, 157 QSO SSB, 2 pts/QSO, 60 multipliers → 18,840 points
- #2. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, 153 QSO SSB, 2 pts/QSO, 61 multipliers → 18,666 points
- #3. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, 153 QSO SSB, 2 pts/QSO, 59 multipliers → 18,054 points
- #4. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, 52 QSO CW, 4 pts/QSO, 22 multipliers → 4,576 points

Eric reported that the NC8V Memorial Trophy was presented to John Biddle, W8PG, at the ACARA's annual Holiday Dinner on December 19.



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***Old Business (continued)***

Social Event: ACARA Annual Holiday Dinner

Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Location: Applebee's, East State Street, Athens

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the that the club's annual holiday dinner was held on December 19, 2023, at Applebee's on East State Street in Athens. The dinner was attended by by fourteen members and guests:

John Biddle, W8PG  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Jane Denbow  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Chalisa McDaniel, N8MHV  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Andy McDonald, K8FO  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Edi Post  
Rich Post, KB8TAD  
Cade Saugier, KC3EKE  
Eileen Schulz  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV

**Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; Paul Schulz, WD8SCV; and himself met to discuss rebuilding the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station radio room. They decided to replace the existing desk with a built-in 32" deep, 9' long desk, filling the wall from the door to the window, to provide adequate space for an simultaneous operation of the HF station, the VHF/UHF station, including loggers. They went to Lowe's to investigate countertop material and decided the best option is butcher-block countertop material. Unfortunately, Lowe's doesn't stock 32" deep butcher-block countertops. Paul has been investigating and he reported he has come up with a plan for the building of the new desk.

***Old Business (continued)***

SCARF Hamfest VE Session – Sunday, January 14, 2024

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the VE session at the SCARF Hamfest in Shade was supported by five VEs. Two candidates tested. One candidate successfully upgraded to General. One candidate successfully earned his Technician Class license.

Annual Technician License Class

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the first session of the annual Technician License Class was held on Monday, January 15, and two students attended. Jeff has reason to believe that additional students will attend subsequent sessions. The VE testing session at the end of the class will be held on 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. ACARA will participate at the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio in category "Indoors".

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has asked the Red Cross if they would like to combine the club's Winter Field Day operation with a mass-feeding exercise. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, also volunteered to bring food to the operation.

Jeff volunteered to create a SignUp Genius form to help interested operators select an operating time.

Watch email for more information.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Public Service Event: Iron Furnace Trail Run

Event Sponsor: SE Ohio Trail Runners

Event Date: Saturday, April 6, 2024

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members of this upcoming ACARA-supported event.

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

## Public Service Event: Athens Marathon

Event Sponsor: Athens Marathon Committee / Lisa Simons

Event Date: Sunday, April 14, 2024

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members of this upcoming ACARA-supported event.

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

## Public Service Event: Thunderbunny Trail Races

Event Sponsor: SE Ohio Trail Runners

Event Date: May 11, 2024

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Thunderbunny Trail Races running event in Strouds Run State Park is scheduled for May 11, 2024. This is an event ACARA has not previously been able to support. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will determine if ACARA can support the event this year.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Public Service Event: Run Baileys

Event Sponsor: SE Ohio Trail Runners

Event Date: TBA

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members of this event that ACARA has supported in previous years. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, expects this event to be scheduled to take place in August.

Watch for emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, once the the date of the event has been announced.

## Athens Hamfest

Hamfest Date: Sunday, April 28, 2024

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has reserved the use of the Athens Community Center half-gym and smaller conference room for the event. He reported he has applied for, and ACARA has received ARRL sanction for, the event.

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reminded the members that he will be unable to attend the hamfest this year. He will have tickets, cash for change, and door prize money all arranged prior to the hamfest but someone will need to be identified to take responsibility for these items during the hamfest. He is also updating the postcard database and it will be ready when it's time to mail postcards. He will determine if we need to buy more tickets.

## 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 still under construction with an expected occupancy sometime in the summer. The new facility is to include a radio room with a raised floor 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 Hustler 6-BTV six-band trap-vertical HF antenna, and a five-band fan-dipole HF antenna.

Jeff added that no amateur radio antennas will be allowed 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***

## Social Event: February Potluck

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported 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. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has reserved the use of the meeting room for this event. 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.

## Operating Event: ARRL Field Day 2024

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has reserved the use of the brick building and adjoining greenspace on the Athens County Fairgrounds for the ACARA Field Day operation. He also reported that through the efforts of Andy McDonald, K8FO, ACARA has been authorized to use the special-event 1x1 callsign "K8V" for the Field Day operation.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, agreed to again serve as Field Day Captain.

***New Business (continued)***

## Athens Packet Node

Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, described the local packet-radio network he and a working group are building, details of which can be found at <https://w8kvk.com/Packet-Proposal/>.

Ted made the following motion: "A motion authorizing the Packet Radio Working Group to install and operate a Packet Radio Control Hub at the ACARA-owned building at the Peach Ridge repeater site". The motion was seconded by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. The vote passed without dissent.

Following a motion to adjourn by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, and a second by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF