

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

### ***Program***

Paul, Schulz, WD8SCV, did a walkthrough presentation of the in-progress remodeling of the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Paul explained his plans to purchase two pieces of butcher block countertop material from Lowe's to build a 108" long, 32" deep, table for HF, VHF/UHF, and logging operations. One piece of butcher block material will be cut and joined to the other to create the 32" depth of the operating desk. Paul will apply a finish to this and then assemble them in his shop. Once installed the grounding block and power supplies will be located below the desk. Plans include one or two monitors on the wall, with one dedicated to HamClock ([link](#)). The purchase of materials is to be this week, with building and installation to commence next week.

### ***Attendance***

John Bowes, K3JJB (via Zoom)  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Andy McDonald, K8FO  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Tony Peric, KE8VFA  
Robert Riordan, KA4VNK  
Robert Riordan, Sr., KM4CRF  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Josh Senefeld, N8VXR  
Joe Weber, KE8LRZ

***Corrections/Additions to Minutes***

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, passed out copies of the January meeting minutes. The January minutes were also available online to members participating remotely or not able to attend.

A motion to accept the January meeting minutes as published was made by John McCutchen, N8XWO. The motion seconded by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV. The motion to accept the minutes as published passed without dissent.

***Treasurer's Report***

The Treasurers Report was presented by Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

Drew started the report by stating he had attempted to get an estimate on the club two certificates of deposits held at Atomic Credit Union but the credit union's computers were down. Drew estimated that the CDs have earned \$478.00 in interest so far. As mentioned in the January minutes, the 5 month CD has matured. At that time, Drew and Eric had decided to renew this CD with a maturation date of June 12, 2023. The interest rate has dropped slightly since the original opening date.

Drew reminded the membership that it's time to renew. He has received thirty membership renewals so far. This is fewer than the forty membership renewals that he had received at this time last year. Drew stated he will send email reminders this week.

The club checking account holds \$1934.92 in unencumbered funds. The Jim Crouse Memorial Fund holds \$132.44. The 5 month CD holds \$10,240.78. The 13 month CD holds \$10,000.00.

A motion to accept the Treasures Report as presented was made by Andy McDonald, K8FO. The motion was seconded by John McCutchen, N8XWO. The motion to accept the Treasures 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 2m repeater continues to work well. He stated that on day last month, he had heard a some strange activity that could have been a distant DX station or a local station operating simplex on a frequency too close to the repeater's input frequency of 144.55 MHz.

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ was unable to attend the February meeting. He reported via email that the UHF repeater is working well. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, suggested that feed line and antenna may be considered for replacement at a future date.

## ACARA Packet Node

Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, reported the following via email:

With special thanks to Cade (KC3EKE) and his XYL, the Peach Ridge packet radio hub equipment was installed over the past weekend (see attached). Preliminary testing shows an overall improvement in 'local' coverage, however the connection reliability to K8QIK-11 (Lancaster) has deteriorated. Further analysis is ongoing, but as part of this research, the Hub frequency will (Monday 2/5) temporarily change to 145.01 mHz until further notice. W8KVK-5 mailbox will move as well.

One of the obvious issues is the significant amount of 'blanketing' RF at this busy tower site. Also, the elevation increase means the node hears more of the central Ohio traffic than we would like.

Important request: Please set your 'retries' parameter to no larger than SIX (6).

Thank you for your interest and support. 73/ted (W8KVK)

***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, reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has disposed of old computer hardware and other electronic equipment through an electronics recycler. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, continues to plan the construction of the station's new operating desk. (The program for this meeting was a presentation by Paul about the proposed design, building, and installation of the new desk.)

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he sent Andy Stone, Athens Service-Safety Director this email:

With Paul Schulz being a retired Athens firefighter and a member of the Athens County Amateur Radio Association (ACARA), we have been discussing the possibility that once the Athens Fire Department is moved into their new quarters, that the back-up generator from the old building might be acquired as a donation or for a minimal purchase price for the Athens office of the American Red Cross.

As the Red Cross office is the former American Electric Power office and, of course, all electric, a suitable source of back-up power would allow the Red Cross better capability to use the office as their emergency operations center during an area disaster relief operation. This also would allow ACARA to maintain radio communications from the co-located Jim Crouse, KC8OVB Memorial Radio Station to the Athens and Ohio EMA EOCs and the Columbus office of the Red Cross. ACARA has been upgrading the radio station from a generous donation from the Athens Marathon Committee and a local source of back-up power would be a welcome improvement rather than utilizing back-up generators external to the building.

I am also contacting the regional chief operating officer for the Red Cross regarding their willingness to obtain the generator and provide the necessary fuel source, mounting, and switchover equipment to complete installation.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ  
ACARA Public Service Events Coordinator  
Red Cross Disaster Services Technology team

When asked, Paul stated that the generator is fueled by natural gas.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Annual Technician License Class

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the first session of the annual Technician License Class was held on Monday, January 15. Four students have attended all or some of the sessions. The VE testing session at the end of the class will be held on Monday, March 18.

## Operating Event: Winter Field Day

Date: January 27-28, 2024

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA participated in Winter Field Day at the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station in "Class 1 Indoors" using the club's callsign, W8UKE. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, served as Winter Field Day Chairman.

Seven operators made 518 CW and SSB contacts on 80/75m, 40m, 20m, 15m, and 10m for a calculated score of 6,650 points.

## Operators:

Dave Bradley, N8DWB  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Andy McDonald, K8FO  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Josh Senefeld, N8VXR  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Eric reported that Josh Senefeld, N8VXR, was the club's "Most Valuable Player" for the operation in terms of both QSOs made (230) and hours spent operating.

The Red Cross performed an exercise in mass-care and feeding and provided snacks and dinner on Saturday.

Visit <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2218> for a full report with photos.

Eric reported that WOUB reporter Gabriel Scotto visited the Winter Field Day operation and on February 16, 2024 he published an article on the WOUB website: <https://woub.org/2024/02/16/local-amateur-radio-association-draws-young-people/>

***Old Business (continued)***

Social Event: February Potluck

Event Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that attendance was good, as was the food. The participants enjoyed the screening of two classic season-one episodes of "The Twilight Zone": "The Monsters are Due on Maple Street" and "The Lonely".

Attendees:

John Biddle, W8PG  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Chalisa McDaniel, N8MHV  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ  
Tony Peric, KE8VFA  
Edie Post  
Rich Post, KB8TAD  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV

***Old Business (continued)***

## 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.

Eric reported that Ted Jacobson, W8UKE, has provided an address database for all new Athens County Amateur Radio licenses granted since Athens Hamfest 2023. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, has incorporated these addresses into the existing database. The club will mail 404 postcards.

Eric reported that he has submitted an application for the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACCVB) Tourism Development Grant for the amount of \$414 to cover the cost of printing and mailing postcards and flyers.

Eric reported that Drew has generated artwork for postcards and flyers. Eric will proof these and will have the postcards printed.

Drew reported the club still has an adequate supply of tickets.

Eric added that it's time to request door prizes, adding that he has contacted Elecraft for a door prize. Drew reported that he will again provide a dual-band HT as a door prize and that he will contact R&L Electronics for door prizes. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, volunteered to contact DX Engineering for door prizes. Eric will ask Carl Denbow, N8VZ, if he can again contact MFJ for door prizes.

Drew reported he will have the postcard address labels printed prior to his departure for Thailand and that he will provide Eric with these and with a breakdown of currencies Eric will need to withdraw from Hocking Valley Bank to support the hamfest gates, the front desk, etc.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, is donating a PA system with speakers to the club for use at the hamfest.

Eric will contact Carl about the ticket drum in his possession.

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 an email this week from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about this event.

Public Service Event: Athens Marathon

Event Sponsor: Condi Richards

Event Date: Sunday, April 14, 2024

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

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

Eric reported that he; Paul Schulz, WD8SCV; and Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; will ride bicycle-mobile, carrying APRS trackers, with the full-marathon male lead, the full marathon female lead, and the last runner, respectively, during the marathon. Paul stated that the event organizer would really like an APRS-equipped rider be assigned to the half-marathon leader.

Discussion turned to APRS trackers. The club currently owns two of the original Byonics MicroTrak AIO self-contained trackers which are designed to be powered by AA alkaline cells. He mentioned that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has suggested that the club consider purchasing some of new version Byonics MicroTrak AIO trackers ([link](#)) that are smaller than the original, use rechargeable lithium cells for power, and cost \$299 each. Paul made a motion that the club purchase two new-version MicroTrak AIO trackers. The motion was seconded by Andy McDonald, K8FO. The vote passed without dissent. Robert Riordan noticed that the Byonics website is unclear about whether the tracker comes with the required lithium cells and made a motion that the club purchase two sets of the batteries, if required. The motion was seconded by Tony Peric, KE8VFA. The vote passed without dissent.

Watch for an email this week from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about the Athens Marathon.

***Old Business (continued)***

## 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 and Eric asked if the club could support it this year. ACARA support of this event will be discussed in future meetings.

## 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 will take place sometime in August.

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

## Public Service Event: Baileys Dirt Fondo / Funduro

Event Sponsor: Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA)

Event Date: TBA

Organization Website: <https://www.orcaohio.com/>

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, reminded members of the upcoming bicycling event on the Baileys trail system. Paul thinks this event will be held sometime in September.

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

***Old Business (continued)***

Operating Event: ARRL Field Day 2024

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that he has reserved the use of the brick building and adjoining greenspace on the Athens County Fairgrounds for the ACARA Field Day operation.

Eric reported that through the efforts of Andy McDonald, K8FO, ACARA has been authorized to use the 1x1 special-event callsign "K8V" for the club's Field Day operation. Andy will update the K8V page on QRZ.com prior to Field Day weekend.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, has agreed to again serve as Field Day Captain. He reported that the club will participate in Class 2A with two HF stations and a 6m VHF station, with operations to take place using CW, SSB, and digital modes.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reminded the membership that it's important that holders of Extra Class licenses be on-site throughout the event to act as control operators so operations can take place legally in the Extra Class subbands.

**New 9-1-1 Center Radio Station**

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, was not able to attend this meeting, so no new information on this subject was available.

**Public Service Event: Red Cross EclipseNet**

Event Sponser: Red Cross

Event Date: Monday, April 8, 2024

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that Red Cross will be sponsoring an EclipseNet event during the April 8, 2024 total eclipse of the sun. He sent the following question and information via email: "Red Cross is wondering if anyone would be interested in staffing our station during the eclipse for a Red Cross EclipseNet. They may want to do some messages, maybe using digital."

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

***New Business***

## Club Building Project: 2m Tape Measure Yagi

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, will be leading another build of the 2m Tape Measure Yagi this spring. Kirk will need a count of those interested in this project so he can purchase the required parts.

Watch for emails and further discussion about this project.

## Club Building Project: Two-Band HF Trap Dipole

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported he will be leading another build of a two-band HF trap-dipole in May or June, after his return from Thailand. The antennas will be constructed using center insulators and 100-watt traps from SOTA Beams ([link](#)). Drew will provide the center insulator, trap kits, and antenna wire. Drew will need a count of those interested in this project so he can purchase the required parts.

Watch for emails and further discussion about this project.

## Athens County Foxhut

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that since he was the winner of the last Athens County Foxhunt of 2023, he will serve as fox for the first Athens County Foxhunt of 2024. He will choose a date once springtime weather appears to have arrived for good and will distribute an announcement via email.

Following a motion to adjourn by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, and a second by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Tony Peric, KE8VFA