

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

### ***Program***

Paul, Schulz, WD8SCV, did a walk-through presentation of the in-progress remodeling of the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Paul had built and finished a butcher block countertop into a desk at his home woodworking shop. On Friday, March 15, 2024, Paul; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; and Andy McDonald, K8FO, removed the old desk and installed the new desk. The desk dimensions are 107" long and 32" wide. This should offer up to four spaces for operators and loggers. The grounding block and DC power supplies will be located on a shelf below the desk. Plans include mounting one or two monitors on the wall, with one monitor to be dedicated to HamClock ([link](#)). Shelving will be added to the walls at a future date. The club was advised by the Red Cross that painting and the installation of new carpet will be taking place soon throughout the building. The new desk and all radio equipment will have to be removed from the station while the work is taking place. Watch for an email for assistance when this will take place.

A big thank you to Paul, Eric, Jeff, and Andy.

### ***Attendance***

John Bowes, K3JJB (via Zoom)  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Kirk Groveneld, KC8JRV  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV (via Zoom)  
Andy McDonald, K8FO  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Tony Peric, KE8VFA  
Robert Riordan, KA4VNK  
Robert Riordan, Sr., KM4CRF  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Josh Senefeld, N8VXR  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (via Zoom)  
Judith Winner

***Corrections/Additions to Minutes***

Copies of the February meeting minutes were distributed and were also made available online for those members participating via Zoom.

A motion to accept the February meeting minutes as published was made by Carl Denbow, N8VZ. 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, via Zoom.

The club checking account holds \$1697.04 in unencumbered funds. The Jim Crouse Memorial Fund holds \$132.44. The 5-month CD holds \$10,202.96. The 13-month CD holds \$10,000.00.

Expenses included the purchase of two Byonics MicroTrak AIO v4 APRS trackers, rechargeable batteries, and a battery charger as well as the purchase of materials for the new desk.

Drew stated that the Atomic Credit Union has transitioned to a new on line digital account system which he hopes to be able to use while overseas.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, commended Drew on the work he did in investing the Marathon Committee donation in the CDs.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Carl Denbow, N8VZ. 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 2m repeater continues to work well.

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ reported via email that the 70cm repeater continues to work as well as it has been.

## 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

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported that participation in the weekly 10m net has dropped.

Eric extended thanks to all those serving as net-control and to all those participating in the club nets.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Donation of Book to Southeastern Ohio History Center

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that following the suggestion made by Mike Cooper, KC8WMY, at a previous meeting, he has donated a copy of the book, "CBI Radioman, a Memoir" by Marion Crawley, K8MMC (SK), to the Southeastern Ohio History Center on behalf of the ACARA.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, made a motion that the club similarly donate a copy of Marion Crawley's book to the Ohio University Library. The motion was seconded by Andy McDonald, K8FO. The motion passed without dissent. Eric will contact the Ohio University library to determine how to make the donation.

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, suggested we affix labels to the inside of the donated books to indicate that the books were donated by ACARA.

## Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, has joined and finished butcher-block material to form a 32"x107" desk for the station. On Friday, March 15, Andy McDonald, K8FO; Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; and Paul Schulz removed the old desk and installed the new desk, the station's radios, and the station's computers. He added that the Red Cross will be painting and installing new carpet throughout the building, including the radio room, within the next few weeks, and that the radio room will need to be temporarily emptied for this work. Wall-mounted monitors will then be installed for the IC-7610 HF transceiver and for the HamClock system ([link](#)).

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, made a motion that the club commend Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, for this work on designing and building the new desk and to thank him for his excellent work. The motion was seconded by Robert Riordan, KA4VNK. The motion passed without dissent.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Annual Technician License Class and VE Test Session

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the final session of the annual Technician License Class was held on Monday, March 11, and that the VE test session was held on Monday, March 18. Four students attended at least one class session. One student, Judith Winner, tested and succeeded in earning her Technician license; she reported that she is already studying for her General license.

Eric extended thanks to course instructors Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; Drew McDaniel, W8MHV; John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; Paul Schulz, WD8SCV; Carl Denbow, N8VZ; and Andy McDonald, K8FO. Eric also extended thanks to Volunteer Examiners Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; Andy McDonald, K8FO; and Jason Licht, KG8JL.

## Athens Hamfest

Hamfest Date: Sunday, April 28, 2024

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that the Athens Hamfest is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, 2024. The Athens Community Center half-gym and smaller conference room have been reserved for the event. ACARA has received ARRL sanction for the event.

Eric reported that Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, has donated a new Yaesu FT-70D dual band handheld to be used as a door prize. Eric has received five \$100.00 gift certificates from Alpha Antenna. Eric contacted Elecraft and they have agreed to send a door prize. Eric reported that Craig Buck, K4IA, from [EasyWayHamBooks.com](http://EasyWayHamBooks.com) will be sending six study guides and books for prizes. Drew reported that R&L Electronics has sent prizes and they have been delivered to Eric. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported that he contacted MFJ and they have sent door prizes. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, reported he contacted DX Engineering and they will be sending a door prize.

Eric reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, has printed address labels for postcards and has delivered them to Eric. Ted will print additional labels for new licensees up through the date of mailing in mid-April. The current address count is 420.

Eric will print postcards when a final number is determined.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Athens Hamfest (continued)

Eric will print hamfest flyers and he deliver some to the MOVARC Hamfest on April 13. He asked if other members are planning to attend other regional hamfests, and if they could take flyers.

Eric reported that John McCutcheon, N8XWO, is donating a PA system to the club to be used for the hamfest. Eric will accept delivery of the PA system for the club and will verify operation and set-up prior to the Hamfest.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported that five inside tables have been reserved by three individuals.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, volunteered to contact the City of Athens about cones and will arrange pick-up and return.

Carl has the club's ticket drum. He stated that it will soon need some repairs. Paul volunteered to look at it after the hamfest and will make any needed repairs.

Eric reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, is coordinating with the Masons about catering the Hamfest.

## 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. Iron Furnace Trail Run consists of 13.1 and 4.5 mile trail runs within Zaleski State Forest and Lake Hope State Park.

Watch for emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about this event.

***Old Business (continued)***

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 reminded members that the Athens Marathon is Ohio's longest running marathon, is a qualifier for the Boston Marathon, and runs mostly along the Hockhocking-Adena bikeway between Athens and Nelsonville. ACARA provides radio operators at each aid station and APRS-equipped bicycle-mobile operators ride with the full-marathon male lead, the full-marathon female lead, and the last runner on course. ACARA hopes to also be able to provide an APRS-equipped rider with the half-marathon lead runner.

Eric reported that he attended the March 13, 2024, Athens Marathon meeting. The event appears to be coming together well under the new director, Condy Richardson. Items mentioned: spray chalk is approved for use on the bike path; the bikepath split near the old railroad bridge and Courier Street will be marked for inbound runners; most aid stations will have porta-potties; Ohio University medical students will be assigned to aid stations; Eclipse aid station will have a golf cart.

Eric reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has purchased and received the two Byonics MicroTrak AIO v4 APRS trackers ([link](#)), 18650 rechargeable batteries, and the battery charger that the membership authorized at the February meeting. Eric added that Jeff purchased "protected" 18650 batteries that include built in protection against an over-charge and over-discharge. Jeff will configure these trackers for the marathon.

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

***Old Business (continued)***

## Public Service Event: OhioHealth Race for a Reason

Event Sponsor: OhioHealth

Event Date: Saturday, April 27, 2024

Event Websites: <https://www.ohioraceforareason.org/>,  
<https://www.ohioraceforareason.org/chsp-triathlonduathlon.html>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA has been asked to support the Ohio University College of Health Sciences and Professions Triathlon and Duathlon on Saturday of the two-day, six-event, Race for a Reason. The Triathlon consists of a 500-meter swim at the Aquatic Center, a 10.42 mile bicycle ride mostly on the Hockhocking-Adena Bikeway, and a 5k run alongside the Hocking River.

Eric reported that it appears enough operators have come forward to support this event. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, is still waiting for more details about the event so he can make position assignments.

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

## Public Service Event: Thunderbunny Trail Races

Event Sponsor: SE Ohio Trail Runners

Event Date: May 11, 2024

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Thunderbunny Trail Races, consisting of 50k, 25k, and 11k trail runs 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.

Watch from emails from Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about this event.



***Old Business (continued)***

## Public Service Event: Athens Gravel Challenge

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling

Event Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024

Event URL: <https://www.ohiogravelgrinders.com/event-listings/2024/7/20/the-athens-gravel-challenge>

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, reported ACARA has been asked to support the Athens Gravel Challenge on Saturday, July 20, 2024. The event runs from 9am until 3pm.

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

## 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: Ohio Points Series Bicycle Race

Event Date: Sunday, September 15, 2024.

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, reported that ACARA might be asked to support this event which runs on the Baileys Trail System. Paul is looking for more information about this event and will report back.

***Old Business (continued)***

Public Service Event: Baileys Dirt Fondo / Funduro

Event Sponsor: Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA)

Event Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024

Event URL: <https://baileystrailsystem.org/baileys-dirt-fondo/>

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that ACARA has been asked to support the Baileys Dirt Fondo, a “singletrack adventure consisting of casual riding between optionally-timed segments”, on Saturday, October 12, 2024.

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

Operating Event: Red Cross EclipseNet

Event Sponser: Red Cross

Event Date: Monday, April 8, 2024

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had previously reported that Red Cross will be sponsoring an EclipseNet event during the April 8, 2024 total eclipse of the sun. He had 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 more is learned about this event.

***Old Business (continued)***

Club Building Projects: 2m Tape Measure Yagi / 2m Copper J-Pole

Date of Event: Sunday, April 21, 2024

Location: Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio, 100 S. May Avenue, Athens

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, have chosen Sunday, April 21, 2024, as the date of their combined build session. Kirk will lead the build of the 2m tape-measure Yagi antenna. Jeff will lead the build of the 2m copper J-Pole antenna. The build will take place at 1pm at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio.

Both Kirk and Jeff need a count of how many will be attending their respective builds.

Information about these builds can be found on the ACARA website at <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2255>.

Operating Event: ARRL Field Day 2024

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

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, provided the following information about field day from the ARRL's Field Day website:

Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

Eric 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 and 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, will again serve as Field Day Captain. He plans for the club to participate in Class 2A with two HF stations and a 6m VHF station, with operations to take place using CW, SSB, and digital modes.

***New Business***

## Athens County Foxhut

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that because he was the winner of the final 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 announce via email.

Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, asked if it would be possible to have a day for fox hunt training as he and other members are not familiar with fox hunting. Eric replied that he would coordinate with Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, on this.

## Athens Packet Network

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, suggested that members would appreciate a meeting program on the newly re-built Athens packet system.

Following a motion to adjourn by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, and a second by Tony Peric, KE8VFA, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Tony Peric, KE8VFA