

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Program

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, gave a short show-and-tell presentation about the Elecraft KH1 transceiver.

Attendance

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV (via Zoom)
Larry Krist, N8CWU (via Zoom)
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Andy McDonald, K8FO
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Robert Riordan, KA4VNK
Robert Riordan Sr., KM4CRF
Josh Senefeld, N8VXR
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (via Zoom)
Judith Winner, KF8AQL

Corrections/additions of minutes

Members had been instructed to review the Minutes of the April meeting prior to the meeting. Judith Winner, KF8AQL, reported that her callsign was incorrect in the April Minutes. President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, will publish the corrected Minutes on the club website.

A motion to accept the April Minutes as amended 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 first explained the Athens Hamfest 2024 Budget, then he explained the Hamfest 2024 Athens Hamfest Financial Report, and then he presented the monthly Treasurer's Report. All three documents are available online at https://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=37. Drew reported that hamfest attendance was 209 and the club made a profit of \$878.56.

Drew reported that SE Ohio Trailrunners, sponsors of Iron Furnace Trail Run, made an unexpected and very generous donation of \$500 to the club following club support of the Iron Furnace Trail Run.

The club checking account holds \$3,420.10 in unencumbered funds. The Jim Crouse Memorial Fund holds \$132.49. The 5 month CD holds \$10,560.45. The 13 month CD holds \$10,386.32.

Drew reported that the 5-month CD will mature soon and asked for permission to roll it over into another 5-month CD, adding that the interest rate has fallen somewhat. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, made a motion to allow the Treasurer to roll the funds over into a new 5-month CD. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Andy McDonald, K8FO. The motion was seconded by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented passed without dissent.

The Treasurer's Report and Hamfest reports are available online in PDF format at https://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=37.

Old Business

Repeater Reports

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that over a period of two days in early May a loud buzzing was intermittently heard on the repeater. This noise was heard by several members located around the county so it was almost certainly being generated by, or was being repeated by the repeater, rather than being a separate a signal on the repeater output frequency. Eric emailed the club email list asking for reports on anything heard on the repeater input but no one who responded reported hearing anything on the repeater input. Eric visited the repeater site and heard nothing on the repeater input even when the buzz was present on the repeater output. He found the interior of the building to extremely hot and the free-standing HVAC unit to be beeping and blinking and displaying a temperature of 91 degrees. The unit was unresponsive to button pushes so he unplugged the HVAC unit and opened both doors of the building to allow cooler outside air to enter. Once the building cooled, the buzz hasn't returned. Eric notified Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about the faulty HVAC; Jeff notified Athens 9-1-1.

Eric reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, had exchanged a series of emails with him detailing how to use one of the club's new Byonics MicroTrak AIO v4 devices to generate temperature telemetry.

Eric reported that early in the month he had heard what sounded like weak public-service comms on the repeater. He speculated that this could be intermodulation products or receiver fundamental overload.

Eric reported that the 70cm repeater continues to work as well as it has been. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported that he thinks performance of the 70cm repeater has degraded; he can no longer bring it up reliably from his home and suggested the club should consider performing diagnostics and repair.

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 Rag chew 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)

Donation of book to the Ohio University Library

As background, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that following a vote made at the March meeting, he had contacted Seth Sisler, Head of Acquisitions and Collections Services for the Ohio University Libraries, via email, asking if the library would accept a donation of the Marion Crawley book "CBI Radioman, a Memoir". As of the date of the meeting, no reply had been received. At the April meeting, Joe Weber, KE8LRZ, stated that his wife, Allison, works for Ohio University under Mr. Sisler, and that Joe will ask Allison to follow up with Mr. Sisler on this matter.

Since no reply has been heard from Mr. Sisler or any other representative of the Ohio University library system, and with the donation of the book to the OU library being the idea of Carl Denbow, N8VZ, Eric asked Carl if he would be willing to continue pursuing the matter. Carl agreed and asked Eric to send him Mr. Sisler's contact information.

Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he; Paul Schulz, WD8SCV; and Andy McDonald, K8FO, had earlier this month visited the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station to remove all the equipment and to dismount the new radio table from the wall so that the contractors can strip the wallpaper and paint the walls. As of the date of the meeting, the room had not yet been visited by the contractors and the station remains inoperable.

Athens Hamfest

Event Date: Sunday, April 28, 2024

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Athens Hamfest took place and turnout was good. As reported earlier during the Treasurer's Report, 209 people attended the hamfest.

Eric reported that the club received a \$30 donation from Ryan Lehrman, KD8DNS, as a sign of support after he notified Eric that someone had posted on Facebook derogatory comments about the hamfest.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest (continued)

Eric reported that Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, had independently reported to him that Columbus-based Robert Pusch, WD8NVN, had posted a short video on YouTube denigrating the hamfest. (The President chooses not to publish the URL of the video so that the video's click-count won't grow.) Eric reported that Kirk had contacted via email Mr. Pusch's club and ARRL Ohio Section Manager Tom Sly, WB8LCD. The President of Madison County Amateur Radio Club (MCARC) replied via email with a nicely written apology for Mr. Pusch's actions and a statement that Mr. Pusch "has a bad habit of saying things that offend other people and he quite frankly doesn't care". Tom Sly replied to Kirk's email stating that he doesn't have any power over Mr. Pusch but he is planning to write a short open letter to to comment on the situation.

Kirk mentioned that a representative of MCARC was participating in the meeting via Zoom and introduced Larry Krist, N8CWU. Larry said he knows Mr. Pusch and agrees with the sentiments expressed by the MCARC President in the reply to Kirk's email.

Eric reported that Kirk had also conducted a short three-question poll during the Vinton County 2m net following the Athens Hamfest. His findings were that, "Almost universally, there was no discontent with any aspect.... admission of \$5 was fine, quality of merchandise was out of our control ("one man's trash is another man's treasure") and no suggestions for improvement." Kirk had mentioned that one respondent had suggested promoting the Athens Hamfest on local nets leading up to the hamfest. Eric added that Kirk had promoting the hamfest on the Hocking County, Vinton County, and Jackson County nets and he thanked Kirk for doing so.

Eric reported that Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, had mentioned to him after the Athens Hamfest that at least one person had expressed disappointment there wasn't going to be another summer trunkfest similar to the one the club had sponsored in 2021. Eric suggested the club might consider sponsoring an annual free summer trunkfest in addition to the annual Athens Hamfest.

Old Business (continued)

Athens Hamfest (continued)

Eric presented three things to consider doing prior to Athens Hamfest 2025:

- Promote extra door-prize ticket sales; if we can't identify a high-energy individual to sell extra-chance tickets, we should at least print a banner for the club's indoor table announcing that extra door-prize tickets are available.
- Discuss with the Community Center the increase in the cost of renting the facility.
- Have printed a large banner to be displayed in the outdoor flea market, pointing to the inside sales area.

Kirk stated that he thinks sellers at the hamfest pack up too soon and asked if there's a way to encourage them to stay longer, suggesting that perhaps we can offer special door prizes only to sellers who stay until the end of the hamfest.

Club Antenna Building Projects

Event Date: Sunday, April 21, 2024

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the simultaneous antenna builds led by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, took place on Sunday, April 21 at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. Jeff had one participant build a copper J-Pole. Kirk had one participant build a tape-measure Yagi.

For those interested, Jeff has three copper J-Pole kits available, and Kirk has materials for two or three tape-measure Yagis.

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

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event: OhioHealth Race for a Reason

Event Sponsor: OhioHealth

Event Date: Saturday, April 27

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the club provided communications support to the Ohio University College of Health Sciences and Professions Triathlon and Duathlon on Saturday of the two-day, six-event, OhioHealth Race for a Reason. Seven operators supported the event. Jeff said the organizers expressed appreciation of the club's participation and he expects the club will be asked to support next year's event.

Operating Event: Athens County Foxhut

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that following a suggestion made at the March meeting, he had emailed Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV about the possibility of a fox hunt teaching session; Kirk had replied that he would similarly reach out to Phil Stanley, W8NZZB,. During the May meeting, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested the fox hunt teaching session could take place during the ACARA Field Day operation. This was seen as a good idea and Eric suggested that the session could be used to earn the Field Day Educational Activity Bonus.

Eric reported that since he was the first to find the fox during 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 in July and will distribute an announcement via email.

Kirk reported that the next Hocking County Foxhunt will take place on June 8.

Social Event: ACARA Annual June Picnic

Event Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Event Time: 5:30 PM

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club's annual June Picnic will be held at 5:30pm on Tuesday, June 18. Eric has reserved the use of the Dairy Lane picnic shelter. For this event, the club will provide burgers, brats, and buns. Members and their guests are asked to bring a dish to share, their own beverages, and their own table service.

Old Business (continued)

Operating Event: ARRL Field Day 2024

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

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

As background, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, read from the ARRL Field Day website that “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 members that Andy McDonald, K8FO, has reserved the special-event callsign “K8V” for the club’s use during Field Day, that Andy will update the QRZ.com page for “K8V” to reflect ACARA Field Day, and that Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, is Field Day Chairman and is planning a Class 2A operation with an HF CW/SSB station, an HF digital station, a 6m CW/SSB/digital station, and, perhaps, a Get On the Air (GOTA) station.

Eric reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has contacted the offices of the Mayor of Athens and the Athens County Commissioners about their annual proclamations. Jeff added that Mayor Steve Patterson will be visiting the Field Day operation on Saturday of the event to present the city’s proclamation and that the County Commissioners’ proclamation should now be in the mail.

Jeff reported that he has spoken with Curt Duncan, KC8QDP about bringing a satellite station to the club Field Day site. Unfortunately, Curt will be busy with the Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation (SCARF) Field Day operation but he has volunteered to serve as an Elmer to anyone wishing to learn how to communicate through the amateur radio satellites.

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event: Athens Gravel Challenge / Gravel Grinder

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling

Event Date: July 20, 2024

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members of the upcoming event the club has been asked to support.

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

Operating Event: ACARA POTA Activation of Strouds Run State Park

Event Date: Sunday, July 21, 2024

Event Location: Strouds Run State Park

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he would like to lead a club Parks on the Air (POTA) activation of Strouds Run State Park on Sunday, July 21, 2024, during the POTA "Summer Support Your Parks Weekend". The operation could use the club's Elecraft K3 transceiver and operate SSB, CW, and digital using the club's callsign, W8UKE. The logging software will track individual operators' callsigns so that when the file is submitted to POTA, the individual operators as well as ACARA will receive credit for the QSOs and the POTA activation.

Eric asked if there's any interest in such an event. Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, expressed interest.

Eric will reserve the Bulldog Shelter for club use on Sunday, July 21.

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 the club has supported in previous years. Run Baileys consists of a 13.1-mile half marathon and two 5k runs within the Baileys Trail System.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that no date has yet been announced for this event. He has spoken with Michael Owen of SE Ohio Trail Runners and speculated that the event might not take place this year.

Watch for emails from Jeff if the the date of the event is announced.

Operating Event: Ohio State Parks on the Air

Event date: Saturday, September 7, 2024

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has reserved the Bulldog Shelter for Saturday, September 7, 2024, for the club's activation of Strouds Run State Park during Ohio State Parks on the Air.

Watch for emails as the date of this event draws nearer.

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 the club has been asked to support the Bailey Dirt Fondo, a "singletrack adventure consisting of casual riding between optionally-timed segments."

This event occurs on the same date as the Buckeye Trail Blue Blaze Festival.

Watch for emails as the date of the event nears.

Old Business (continued)

Public Service Event: Buckeye Trail Blue Blaze Festival

Event Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024

Event Sponsor: Buckeye Trail Association (BTA)

Event URL:

<https://runscore.runsignup.com/Race/OH/Shawnee/RunForBlueBlazes>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the membership that the club has been asked to support the Buckeye Trail Blue Blaze Festival, a half marathon, a 10K run, a 5K run/walk, a 10-mile hike, and an overnight backpacking trek held on the Buckeye Trail in the Wayne National Forest.

Eric pointed out that this event conflicts with the Baileys Dirt Fondo / Funduro and asked if the club provide enough operators to support both events? Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, said that five or six operators are needed to support the Buckeye Trail Blue Blaze Festival and that he is confident he can find enough operators to support both events.

Watch for emails from Jeff as the event nears.

Public Service Event: Bobcat Trail Marathon and Half Marathon

Event Sponsor: Western Reserve Racing / Joe Jurczyk

Event Date: Saturday, November 9, 2024

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club has been asked to support the Bobcat Trail Marathon and Half Marathon, an event the club has sponsored for many years. The marathon is a single loop on the hiking trails encircling Burr Oak. The half marathon is a point-to-point course on the same trails.

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

New Business

GMRS Repeater

Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, mentioned that many Amateur Radio clubs now have repeaters for the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and they use these repeaters to bring new licensees into Amateur Radio. Robert suggested the club should consider building a GMRS repeater for this purpose. There was some discussion about the hardware required to deploy a GMRS repeater. Robert volunteered to investigate GMRS and repeaters and will report back to the club.

Following a motion to adjourn by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, and a second by Josh Senefeld, N8VXR, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.