

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

### **Program**

Len Tough, W8VQ, gave a well-received presentation on “Tiny and Inexpensive Portable HF Stations”

Presentation links:

[Micro Iambic Paddle](#) (AliExpress)

[Mini Iambic Paddle](#) (AliExpress)

[Mini Straight Key](#) (AliExpress)

[µSDX+ transceiver](#) (AliExpress)

[50w Amplifier](#) (AliExpress)

[µSDX 3-band transceiver](#) (AliExpress)

[µSDX HT form-factor transceiver](#) (AliExpress)

[1:49 end-fed wire antenna](#) (Amazon)

[ATU-100-0A Automatic Antenna Tuner](#) (AliExpress)

[Talentcell 12v 3000mAh battery](#) (Amazon)

[Memory Keyer](#) (eBay)

[3.6m telescoping mast](#) (Amazon)



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***Attendance***

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Alyssa Duncan,  
Jeramy Duncan, KC8QDQ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV (via Zoom)  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Tony Peric, KE8VFA  
Robert Riordan, KA4VNK  
Robert Riordan Sr., KM4CRF  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (via Zoom)  
Len Tough, W8VQ

***Corrections/additions of minutes***

Minutes from the May meeting were distributed.

A motion to accept the May Minutes as published was made by Tony Peric, KE8VFA. The motion was seconded by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. 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 rolled the 3-month CD into a new 3-month CD at Atomic Credit Union and that he has rolled the 12-month CD into a new 6-month CD at Atomic Credit Union.

The club checking account holds \$3,103.22 in unencumbered funds. The Jim Crouse Memorial Fund holds \$188.57. The 3-month CD holds \$10,730.42. The 6-month CD holds \$10,556.81. Drew reported that CD interest earnings now total \$1058.72. Drew suggested that we will need to think about how we will arrange our CDs when they mature after interest rates have dropped.

Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, asked if the club could or should withdraw the interest from the CD accounts as we roll the CDs over. We will discuss this in November.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Carl Denbow, N8VZ. 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 is available online in PDF format at [https://www.ac-ara.org/?page\\_id=37](https://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=37).

***Old Business*****Repeater Reports**

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the VHF repeater is performing well. Over the summer, he and others have heard distant signals over the repeater. The only way to prevent distant signals from being repeated by the repeater would be to configure our repeater to require sub-audible CTCSS tones.

Eric reported that Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, has expressed the desire that the club improve the repeater's coverage in the Coolville area. He suggested that a UHF repeater linked via the Internet to the VHF repeater could be hosted on his farm.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the 70cm repeater continues to work as well as it has been, but he admitted that the UHF repeater's coverage footprint is limited. He suggested we might want to tune the repeater's cavities and to verify the antenna feedline.

***Old Business (continued)***

## Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the new carpet has been installed and the walls have been stripped of wallpaper and painted. The station has been reassembled within the room.

Eric suggested the club needs to work on both of the station's permanent HF antennas to improve their SWR on the bands they're designed to cover. He suggested that the club might think about replacing the current 40m end-fed halfwave wire antenna with a Chameleon EMCOMM-III-B 130' end-fed wire antenna to gain coverage of 10m through 160m. Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, mentioned he is currently using a Chameleon EMCOMM-II and it's a great antenna. (Information about the EMCOMM-III-B can be found at [DX Engineering](#).)

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, suggested the club should generate a Memorandum of Understanding with the Athens Red Cross regarding the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station and our other use of the building.

## 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)***

## VE Testing Session

Test Session Date: Monday, June 17, 2024

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that one candidate tested at the June 17 VE testing session; the single candidate successfully passed the test.

## Social Event: June Picnic

Event Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club's annual June Picnic took place at the Dairy Lane picnic shelter on June 18. He reported that turnout was good and the food was excellent.

## Operating Event: ARRL Field Day – June 23-24, 2024

Event URL: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club participated in ARRL Field Day the weekend of June 23-24. He reported that the plan had been to operate at the Athens County Fairgrounds but the weather forecast calling for extreme heat over the weekend led Field Day Chairman Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, to decide the operation should take place within the air-conditioned Athens Red Cross building. The club participated in Class 2F ("Two Transmitter, in an Emergency Operations Center") with an HF CW/SSB station, an HF digital station, and a 6m SSB/digital station using the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station's ICOM IC-7610 transceiver and permanent HF antennas, additional field antennas, and member-provided HF and VHF transceivers. Athens County 9-1-1 Center provided their mobile 50' crank-up tower. Power for the stations was provided by Appalachian Renewable Power's solar power trailer.

Eric presented a slideshow of photos from the Field Day operation.

The club made 848 QSOs and earned 1,300 bonus points, for a total score of 4,252 points.

**Old Business (continued)**

Operating Event: ARRL Field Day (continued)

Participants:

Ted Jacobson, W8KVK  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Andy McDonald, K8FO  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Tony Peric, KE8VFA  
Cade Saugier, KC3EKE  
Josh Senefeld, N8VXR  
Bob Schulz, KD9ONG (from Wisconsin)  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ  
Len Tough, W8VQ (from Pickerington OH)

A complete report with photos is available at <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2315>

**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".

Eric reported that he eventually was able to contact with Mr. Sisler and Eric was able to deliver a copy of the book to Ohio University's Alden Library on July 17, 2024.

**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, reported that the club provided communications support to the Athens Gravel Challenge on Saturday, July 20.

Operating Event: ACARA POTA Activation of Strouds Run State Park

Event Date: Sunday, July 21, 2024

Event Location: Strouds Run State Park, Bulldog Shelter

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club sponsored a group Parks on the Air (POTA) activation of Strouds Run State Park on July 21. The club operated CW, SSB, and digital at Bulldog Shelter as W8UKE using the club's Elecraft K3 transceiver for SSB/CW and an ICOM IC-7300 transceiver provided by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, for digital. Antennas used were the club's Chameleon EMCOMM-III-P end-fed wire antenna and a Wolf River Coils vertical antenna provided by Josh Senefeld, N8VXR.

Participants:

Jeremy Duncan, KC8QDQ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC  
Tony Peric, KE8VFA  
Daniel Post  
Rich Post, KB8TAD  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
Josh Senefeld, N8VXR  
Len Tough, W8VQ, and Heidi Tough

Eric presented a slideshow of photos of the operation.

A total of 107 QSOs were made using SSB, CW, and FT8. Valid POTA activations were achieved by W8UKE (i.e., the club), WD8RIF, KE8VFA, N8VXR, and WD8SCV.

A report with photos is available at <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2380>.

**Old Business (continued)**

## VE Testing Session

Test Session Date: Monday, August 19

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the club sponsored a VE test session on August 19. Three candidates tested; all were successful:

- Dave Vance of Belleville, WV, passed all three elements and earned his Extra Class license.
- Randy V. Sherman, KF8BQJ, of Stockport, OH, successfully upgraded to General.
- Mark Halloran, KD8ZKS, of Guysville, OH, successfully upgraded to Extra Class.

## Athens Trunkfest

Date: Sunday, September 1, 2024

Location: Athens Masonic Lodge

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club sponsored a free Trunkfest on Sunday, September 1, at the Masonic Lodge in Athens. Turnout was good and participants seemed pleased with the event.

The club sold raffle tickets for door prizes: two ARRL \$25 gift certificates, two ARRL \$50 gift certificates, and \$50 cash. Raffle tickets were sold at \$1 each or six for \$5.

In his post-event analysis, Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, counted twenty-three unique ticket purchasers and he estimates another twenty participated but didn't purchase raffle tickets. He reported a net profit of \$76.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that a VE testing session was available but no candidates took advantage of it.

Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ, and the Eastern Stars sold donuts with proceeds going to the Red Cross.

Eric thanked the Athens Masonic Temple Company for use of the facility and all the club members who supported the event. Drew volunteered to send a formal thank-you letter to the Masons.

A report with photos is available at <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2419>.



**Old Business (continued)**

Operating Event: Ohio State Parks on the Air

Event date: Saturday, September 7, 2024

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club participated in the PCARS Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) field event on Saturday, September 7, at Strouds Run State Park's Bulldog Shelter. The club operated as W8UKE using the club's Elecraft K3 transceiver, a 13.8vdc power supply provided by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, and the club's Chameleon EMCOMM-III-P end-fed wire antenna. Eric provided a Honda 2kW inverter-generator and logging PCs. Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, provided an 80m end-fed halfwave wire antenna for back-up. Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, provided a camp-stove for the cook-out.

Turnout was low except for the group picnic at the end, and band conditions seemed poor. Four operators made a total of twenty-seven QSOs, all on 40m, and contacted stations operating from twenty-one Ohio state parks.

Eric presented a slideshow of photos of the event.

Participants:

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV  
Linsey Groeneveld, KC8KNA  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC  
Vickie McFadden, KB8MAJ  
Len Tough, W8VQ  
Sheila Wurtsbaugh

A report with photos is available at <https://www.ac-ara.org/?p=2432>.

**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.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the course is new this year and it won't cross SR-93. Radio operations will take place on the Hocking Valley ARC repeater with a simplex back-up frequency.

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, reminded the membership 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***

## Equipment Donations

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that several pieces of equipment have been donated to the club this year:

- John McCutcheon, N8XWO, donated a public address system consisting of an amplifier, microphone, two speakers, and interconnecting cables in time to be used at the Athens Hamfest in April. This equipment is currently being stored by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV.
- Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, donated a Chameleon EMCOMM-III-P portable end-fed wire antenna to the club for use during HF field operations. This antenna is currently being stored at the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station with the club's Elecraft K3 transceiver. (Information about the EMCOMM-III-P can be found at [DX Engineering](#).)
- Jeramy Duncan, KC8QDA, donated a welded-steel drive-on mast base at the Athens Trunkfest. This base is sized to accommodate the popular aluminum and fiberglass mast sections and it might prove useful for public service events and field operations. This is currently being stored by Paul Schulz, WD8SCV.

## Red Cross Building

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the Athens Red Cross will be installing a Brivo photo ID card access system to control access to the chapterhouse. All Red Cross volunteers will be getting new ID cards. Jeff has contacted the Red Cross and he learned that the existing key-safe located outside the building will remain and will hold an access-card to be used by ACARA and other groups who use the facility.

***New Business (continued)***

## Officer Nominations

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminder the membership that September is the month in which the club takes nominations for club officers to serve the following year, with ballots to be distributed in time for a count at the October club meeting.

## Current officers:

President: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Vice-President: Paul Schulz, WD8SCV

Treasurer / Membership Chairman: Drew McDaniel, W8MHV

Secretary: Tony Peric, KE8VFA

Newsletter Editor / Webmaster: Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Repeater Trustee: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Packet Node Trustee: Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, made a motion that the existing slate of officers be nominated. The motion was seconded by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The vote passed without dissent.

No other nominations were made.

Eric will email the membership for nominations from those not attending the meeting.

Eric will generate a Qualtrics form to be distributed prior to the October club meeting for the vote. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, will mail paper ballots to those members lacking internet access.

## Masonic Lodges on the Air

Event Date: Saturday, September 28, 2024

Event URL: <https://cqmorelight.com/>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, announced that Saturday, September 28, is the date of the annual "Masonic Lodges on the Air" and that the Athens Lodge will be participating at the Athens Lodge at 12 W. Carpenter St., Athens. Any interested Mason may participate.

Following a motion to adjourn by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, and a second by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.