

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

No program was scheduled. After the meeting, Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, presented a brief primer of VHF foxhunting and a report on his weekly GMRS net on the Channel 19 repeater in The Plains.

### ***Attendance***

John Bowes, K3JJB  
Linda Clark  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Jessie DeChant  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV (via zoom)  
Chris Koon  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV (via Zoom)  
Andy McDonald, K8FO  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Rich Post, KB8TAD (via Zoom)  
Robert Riordan, Jr., KA4VNK  
Robert Riordan, Sr., KM4CRF  
John Thomas, KC8JWZ

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, initiated the Zoom session but wasn't able to participate in the meeting.

### ***Corrections/additions of Minutes***

The February meeting minutes were distributed.

A motion to accept the February minutes as published was made by Andy McDonald, K8FO. The motion was seconded by Carl Denbow, N8VZ. The motion to accept the minutes as published passed without dissent.

***Treasurer's Report***

Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, presented the Treasurer's Report.

Drew reported that the club roster now contains thirty-seven paid members. There are approximately five previous members who Drew expects will renew; he will send them reminders via mail.

Drew stated that starting next month he will report Athens hamfest items separately.

Drew reported on the club's Certificates of Deposit (CD) at Atomic Credit Union. Both the six-month and the three-month CDs have matured. Drew rolled them both into four-month CDs at Atomic Credit Union which both mature on July 1, 2025. The four-month CD at Atomic Credit Union offers the highest interest rate locally.

The club holds \$2,425.73 in unencumbered funds at Hocking Valley Bank and the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station Fund holds \$251.75 at Hocking Valley Bank. The club holds \$5,193.93 in unencumbered funds at Atomic Credit Union.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by John McCutcheon, N8XWO. The motion was seconded by John Thomas, KC8JWZ. The motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented passed without dissent.

The Treasurer's Report can be viewed online 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 he has not received any reports of poor repeater performance since the February meeting.

On behalf of UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, Eric reported that the UHF repeater is operating as well as it has been.

## GMRS Repeater

At the January meeting, Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, had agreed to investigate and coordinate with the City of Athens a possible move of the new GMRS repeater from his property on Kinkade Road to the city's Roosevelt Drive tower site.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Paul has received a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from Meigs County EMA for signature. The MOU appears to give ACARA possession of the GMRS repeater so long as the club continues to operate. This MOU is necessary because Athens City requires that ACARA "owns" any equipment the club hopes to install at the Roosevelt tower.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email prior to the meeting that he spoke with Athens City Service-Safety Director Andy Stone at the new EMA / 9-1-1 Center open house; Mr. Stone indicated Athens City is open to the idea of ACARA moving the GMRS repeater to the Roosevelt tower site. Further, Jeff had mentioned to Mr. Stone the question of installing an APRS node at the Roosevelt tower site for better support of the Athens Marathon.

**Old Business (continued)**

Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported he has no update on the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station.

**ACARA Nets**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA's weekly and monthly nets continue to do well except for the weekly System Fusion nets, participation in which has dropped. Eric 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)**

Report: Technician License Course

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that ACARA's annual Technician License Course finished with the VE testing session on Monday, March 17. Three students tested.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email prior to the meeting:

We had a successful VE session last evening to conclude our recent winter Tech license class. We had three candidates, two successful.

Congratulations to Linda Clark of Albany who earned her Tech license and Donald Wirtshafter of Athens who successfully tested elements 2 and 3 to earn his General license. For taking our class and testing with us, they also earned a one year membership in ACARA. A third candidate was close to passing.

One student who intended to test came down with COVID yesterday morning. We hope to test her before the marathon once she clears quarantine. A couple of other students were not quite ready to test.

The session report has been uploaded to ARRL. Hopefully, calls will be assigned later today or tomorrow depending on when FCC acts on the file.

Thanks to our VEs: John McCutcheon, N8XWO, Andy McDonald, K8FO, Eric McFadden, WD8RiF and coordinator Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

Also, a big thank you to all our instructors for the license class: Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, John McCutcheon, N8XWO, Andy McDonald, K8FO, Eric McFadden, WD8RiF, Carl Denbow, N8VZ, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ and coordinator Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

**Old Business (continued)**

Report: February Potluck

Event Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that due to a change in the Ohio University basketball home-game schedule to accommodate national television coverage, the club's now-inaccurately-named "February Potluck" was rescheduled to take place on Saturday, March 1. The potluck took place at the Athens Red Cross and started at 5pm. Attendance was excellent:

John Biddle, W8PG  
Ben Brewster, KF8DES  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Kathy Curtis  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Jane Denbow  
Ashe Groeneveld, KD8KMZ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV  
Ronald Huggins (guest of N8VZ)  
John McCutchen, N8XWO  
Chalisa McDaniel, N8MHV  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC  
Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ  
Eddie Post  
Rick Post, KB8TAD  
Eileen Schulz  
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV  
David Straw, N5AKH (guest of N8VZ)  
Sheila Wurtsbaugh

Two episodes of The Twilight Zone selected by KC8JRV were screened: "The Fugitive" and "What You Need".

**Old Business (continued)**

Report: Red Cross Chapters on the Air + Open House

Event Date: March 14, 2025

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email prior to the meeting:

We had three operators: David Bradley, N8DWB; Andy McDonald, K8FO; and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. We accomplished two of the three tasks. We operated Winlink VARA HF digital and SSB but were unable to get the Winlink message to connect via an HF post office. Band conditions were terrible on both 40 and 20 meters so SSB voice was not very successful either. No contact with other chapters. We did contact a few POTA parks and a Pi Day special event station in New Jersey.

There were maybe a dozen visitors for the open house. A couple were interested in the amateur radio station. One had studied for his license several years ago but never tested. I did sell him a book and gave him the link to our license testing page. He is a church musician who works in Kentucky on Sundays so he won't make the hamfest.

**Old Business (continued)**

Upcoming Event: Athens Hamfest 2025

Event Date: Sunday, April 27, 2025

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has reserved the use of the Athens Community Center and ARRL has approved the hamfest as an ARRL sanctioned event. Eric has confirmed that Athens County Convention and Visitor Bureau is again offering a Tourism Development Grant and he and Treasurer Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, are working on the application.

Eric reported that Drew will purchase new admission tickets and has designed the new flyer and postcard.

Eric reported that he; Drew; and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will work together on postcard-mailing and emails.

Eric reported that door prize gift-certificates have arrived from Alpha Antenna and R&L Electronics. Drew ordered and received a Yaesu FT-4XR handheld transceiver for a door prize. Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, ordered and received a Tid Radio TD-H3 handheld transceiver two-pack for a door prize; Robert handed this off to Eric at the meeting.

Drew reported he has had no success in getting a door prize from Ham Radio Outlet.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported he has had no success in getting a door prize from MFJ.

Andy McDonald, K8FO, reported he has not yet had success in getting a door prize from Gigaparts but he will continue trying.

**Old Business (continued)**

## Upcoming Public Service Event: Iron Furnace Trail Run

Event Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025

Event Sponsor: SE Ohio Trail Runners

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF reminded members that the club will be supporting the upcoming Iron Furnace Trail Run, which features a new start/finish location, a new 5-mile course on the trails around Lake Hope, and a new half-marathon course on the Lake Hope State Park and Zaleski State Forest backpack trails.

Eric added that since the two new courses that don't overlap, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, is expecting to need more operators than were needed for previous events.

Watch for emails from Jeff about this event.

**Old Business (continued)**

## Upcoming Public Service Event: Athens Marathon

Event Date: Sunday, April 13, 2025

Event Sponsor: Athens Marathon Committee

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that the club will be supporting the upcoming Athens Marathon, most of which occurs on the Hockhocking-Adena Bikeway. Ben Brewster, KF8DES; Paul Schulz, WD8SCV; and Eric will be bicycle-portable with the half-marathon lead, full marathon female lead, and full marathon male lead, respectively, carrying voice and APRS radios.

Eric reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, returned the club's Byonics AIOv4 APRS trackers for service following their failures during last year's Athens Marathon. The Byonics technician found some incorrect settings, most notably a setting to turn off the GPS receiver between transmissions; he changed them to correct settings, and returned the trackers to Jeff.

Jeff verified proper operation of both units. Eric performed two bicycle-mobile operations with one of the trackers and both failed due to unrelated failures of two different SMA adapters. He subsequently ordered two high-quality SO239-to-SMA 3' jumpers from ABR Industries, one of which he will use with the tracker he will carry during the marathon.

Eric reminded members that the Athens Marathon is the largest public service event the club supports. He encouraged all members to participate in the club's support of this event.

Watch for emails from Jeff about this event.

**Old Business (continued)**

## Public Service Event: Ohio Race for a Reason

Event Date: Saturday, April 26, 2025

Event Sponsor: OhioHealth

Event website: <https://www.ohioraceforareason.org/>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that the club will be supporting the Ohio Race for a Reason in the triathlon, duathlon, and aqua-bike events.

Watch for emails from Jeff about this event.

## Upcoming Operating Event: ARRL Field Day

Event Date: Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29, 2025

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that he will be out-of-state the weekend of Field Day and will be unable to participate in the event with the club. At the February meeting, Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, and Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, volunteered to serve as Field Day Co-Chairmen. The Co-Chairs have determined that the ACARA Field Day operation will take place at the Athens Red Cross in Class F.

Andy McDonald, K8FO, volunteered to reserve the use of the 1x1 callsign "K8V" for the club to use during ARRL Field Day.

## Upcoming Public Service Event: Athens Gravel Challenge

Event Date: July 26, 2025

Event Sponsor: Team Athens Cycling

Event URL: <https://www.ohiogravelgrinders.com/event-listings/2025/7/26/the-athens-gravel-challenge>

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded the members that the club has again been asked to support Athens Gravel Challenge, adding that course changes for this year's event will necessitate having more operators. He expects Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, to identify needs and to present updated information in future meetings.

**Old Business (continued)**

## Athens Summer Trunkfest

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that at the February meeting they approved an ACARA Summer Trunkfest at the Athens Masonic Lodge. Eric added that the Executive Committee will select a date. Following the Athens Hamfest in April, Eric will register the Summer Trunkfest with the ARRL.

## Upcoming Operating Event: PCARS Ohio State Parks on the Air

Event date: Saturday, September 6, 2025

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that ACARA will activate Strouds Run State Park for the upcoming Ohio State Parks on the Air event, adding that he has already reserved the park's Bulldog Shelter for the operation. He mentioned that the event now allows the use of CW.

Watch for emails as the date of the event approaches.

**New Business**

## Inovato Quadra HamClock

Robert Riordan, KA4VNK, announced that Inovato ([inovato.com](http://inovato.com)), who had previously announced the discontinuation of their popular and inexpensive Quadra HamClock product, is now offering a new version of Quadra HamClock that supports 4K video.

Following a motion by Carl Denbow, and a second by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

### **Post-Adjournment**

Following adjournment, Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, provided a brief primer on VHF foxhunting and announced that Hocking County Amateur Radio Club ([k8lgn.com](http://k8lgn.com)) will hold their first foxhunt of the season on Saturday, April 12. He added that on Saturday, March 29, Hocking County ARC will hold a county-wide simplex exercise wherein members will attempt to operate from every township within Hocking County.

Kirk then gave a quick report on the weekly Sunday evening GMRS net he holds on the GMRS Channel 19 repeater. This past weekend, only licensed Amateur Radio operators participated in the net and Kirk feels he needs a better way to publicize the net to non-ham GMRS licensees. In the ensuing discussion, it was mentioned that the Meigs County GMRS group is successfully using Facebook and Discord to reach GMRS licensees.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF