

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Program

Len Tough, W8VQ, gave a well-received presentation on his recreated Novice station and the book, So You Want to be a Ham (fourth edition, second printing, 1968) featuring *Mr. Charles Finkelman, FCC Radio License Examiner, New York City Office*. Len's receiver is the original Hallicrafters S-38D he used as a Novice and his transmitter is a recreation of the single-tube CW transmitter he built in 1970 (using a Log Cabin syrup tin as the chassis) from an article in a 1968 Electronics Illustrated magazine.



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Attendance

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP (via Zoom)
John Bowes, K3JJB (via Zoom)
Ben Brewster, KF8DES
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Shelby Elzinga
Jeff Finlay, KD4CKX
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Rich Post, KB8TAD (via Zoom)
Paul Schulz, WD8SCV
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ (via Zoom)
Len Tough, W8VQ

Corrections/additions of Minutes

The April meeting minutes were distributed.

A motion to accept the April minutes as published was made by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV. 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 a financial report on the Athens Hamfest and the Treasurer's Report.

Drew reported that the club received \$424 for event promotion through the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau's Tourism Development Grant. The Athens Hamfest produced an income of \$1,816 and a net profit of \$729.48, numbers that compare favorably with those of recent years. Drew mentioned that postage has increased and the club sent more postcards this year than in recent years.

The club treasury holds \$3,449.48 in unencumbered funds at Hocking Valley Bank and \$5,160.06 at Atomic Credit Union. The Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station Fund at Hocking Valley Bank holds \$272.75.

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 can be viewed online at https://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=37.

Old Business

Repeater Reports

VHF Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that in April, Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, had reported that the 2m repeater appears to mute any repeated audio while it identifies in CW. Subsequently, Eric listened to the repeater and didn't notice any instances of muting. Ben Brewster, KF8DES, reported that he has heard the muting, and the muting happens only if the repeater CW identification starts before a user begins transmitting. (I.e., if the CW IDer is running and someone transmits through the repeater, their audio is muted until the IDer finishes.) Ben reported he has heard this behavior on both the 2m and the 70cm repeater.

UHF Repeater

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

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he edited the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Meigs County EMA to properly reflect the club's name, signed it, and forwarded it to Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, to send to Meigs County EMA. Paul reported that he sent the signed MOU to Joe Barnhart, KB8JOE, who has not yet returned a copy signed by Meigs County EMA. Paul reported that Joe will be sending him programming software for the repeater.

Eric reminded members that the club has received permission from the City of Athens to move the repeater to the city's Roosevelt Drive tower site, with the antenna to be installed on the shortest of the three towers at the site. However, a wind event on April 19 took down the largest tower at the site and the repeater relocation project is now on hold until the city decides what to do with the three towers on the site.

Old Business (continued)

Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station

Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, reported that he has spoken with Tony Stoncel, who is willing to install the station feedthroughs authorized at the April meeting. Paul has identified a suitable box by KF7P ([link](#)). Paul will also ask Tony for guidance on properly grounding the station and antennas.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, made a motion to approve the construction work, with final approval, including costs, to be determined by Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Ben Brewster, KF8DES. The motion passed without dissent.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reiterated that he wants to the club to generate an MOU with Red Cross for use of the building. Drew reported the club already has such an MOU with the Red Cross.

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 significantly. 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)

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, reported that the club supported the Ohio Race for a Reason in the triathlon, duathlon, and aqua-bike events. Andy McDonald, K8FO, served as net-control for the event.

Athens Hamfest 2025

Event Date: Sunday, April 27, 2025

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Athens Hamfest had good turn-out and he thanked everyone who helped and everyone who attended.

Eric mentioned that he had been able to secure a number of door prizes a few days prior to the hamfest from local businesses including Lowe's, Applebees, and Shade on State. For next year, he suggests the club start early in the year to contact local businesses and ask for door prizes.

Eric added that one attendee, who isn't licensed, won multiple prizes but donated most of his prizes back to the club. Some of these were awarded again via ticket-draw, but the club kept an ARRL gift certificate and a Wireman gift certificate. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will make a purchase for the club from ARRL using the former, and the club will use the latter to make a purchase from Wireman for upgrades to the Jim Crouse Memorial Radio Station.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ, and Eastern Star made \$90 through food-sales which they donated to Shriners Hospital for Children.

Old Business (continued)

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 Paul Schulz, WD8SCV, and Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, are serving 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, or "Emergency Operations Center". Andy McDonald, K8FO, has reserved the 1x1 callsign "K8V" for the club to use during ARRL Field Day.

Watch for additional information via email as Field Day approaches.

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 been asked to support Athens Gravel Challenge, adding that course changes for this year's event will require fielding more operators.

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

Old Business (continued)

Upcoming Event: Athens Summer Trunkfest

Event Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025

Event Time: 10am – 2pm

Event Location: Athens Masonic Lodge

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that ACARA will be sponsoring a free Summer Trunkfest at the Athens Masonic Lodge sometime in August.

After much discussion, the members chose the date of Saturday, August 30, 2025 for the event. The event will run from 10am until 2pm.

Eric will register the event with ARRL.

The club will rely on email to publicize the event. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, is in the process of updating the club's email address database using Athens Hamfest ticket stubs, and he will coordinate with Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, to include addresses of local hams.

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 (OSPOTA) 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.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, mentioned that September 6 is the date of the West Virginia University vs. Ohio University football game and traffic in the area is likely to be heavy.

At the suggestion of John McCutcheon, N8XWO, the event will also be a club potluck. Eric will arrange for fire to be provided in the form of a propane grill. Attendees can bring their own beverages, table service, and a dish to share.

Watch for emails as the date of the event approaches.

New Business

Upcoming Social Event: ACARA June Picnic

Event Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Event Location: Dairy Lane Picnic Shelter

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the club's annual June Picnic, which is traditionally held on the evening of the third Tuesday in June in place of a regular business meeting, will be held on Tuesday, June 17 at the Dairy Lane Picnic Shelter. Members and guests are to arrive at 5:30pm with their own beverages, table service, and a dish to share. The club will provide burgers, brats, condiments, and buns.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, has reserved the use of the shelter.

Summer Meetings and Officer Nominations

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reminded members that the club does not hold business meetings in June, July, or August. He also reminded members that officer nominations will take place at the September meeting, with the election to be held electronically, and with the results to be announced at the October meeting.

Following a motion by Carl Denbow, N8VZ, and a second by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF