

General Meeting Minutes August 2026

Executive Committee Members Present

President: Geoff Kline KI5VNB

Vice President: Eric Bramini KC8OPY, Field Day Coordinator

Treasurer: Tom McClory KE8FWZ, Youth Coordinator

Senior Director: Don Macon KE8WVJ

Junior Director: Glenn Rodgers WI8O, Clubhouse Safety, POTA

Co-Coordinator

Executive Committee Members Absent

Secretary: Jim Gifford N8KET, POTA Co-Coordinator (The VP, Eric Bramini, took notes and gave to the secretary)

Opening

President Geoff Kline KI5VNB led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made, and we recognized visitors and new and advanced hams. The mic was passed around the room and members and guests introduced themselves.

Questions/Comments on June meeting minutes

Members stated that no one received the minutes. Approval will occur at the September meeting.

Financial Report – Tom McClory KE8FWZ

Tom McClory KE8FWZ presented the report:

Nigel Gunn W8IFF moved we accept; seconded; passed.

Nominating Committee

Need volunteers for nominating committee – Please talk to Geoff Kline and/or Eric Bramini (Would like to have members on this committee who currently are not one the officers and coordinators)

- ***Would like to get the committee set before/during the meeting – work the room before Known Open Positions for 2027:***

* President – Geoff Kline has reached the end of his term as defined by the club bylaws

* Vice President - ?

* Secretary - ?

- * Treasurer - ?
- * Junior Director (Safety Director)– Always an open spot
- * Senior Director – the previous years Junior Director (Glenn moves into role / Don Macon KE8WVJ completes his term)

Radio Room Open (Reminder)

Radio Room open before membership meetings through the end of the year.
Bob French AC8ZU has been opening the radio room at 5:30pm on membership meeting nights for new ham use or other educational opportunities.

Do you have questions? Do you want to try a new mode? Stop by and we will work through it.

Do you have experience and want to help answer questions and mentor other club members? Stop by and offer your expertise.

Cincinnati Hamfest – last Saturday

Geoff Kline thanked the members who came out to help represent the club during the award ceremony.

The plaque is on the back table

Newsletter Award – 3rd place, Great Lakes Division

Congratulations to Ray Hitt N8VMX for the work he does to consistently put out a top-notch newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who contributes articles to the newsletter.

We encourage anyone and everyone to write an article. You don't have to be an expert, your article might be enough to inspire someone else on the same or similar subject.

The award is on back table.

Lions Club Parade

Cancelled this year because of the threatening weather

Ohio QSO Party from the clubhouse August 22

We will be have the radio room open on Saturday, August 22nd for anyone who wants to work the Ohio QSO Party from noon until 2pm.

If you're interested in contesting or seeing what it is about, this is an easy contest. Watch your BARC email for additional information

Picnic On The Air – Saturday August 29

The picnic will be at Buck Creek State Park at the Oak Grove Shelter. Bring yourself, your family or friends, and come enjoy a relaxing social event. Buck Creek is a World Wildlife Flora & Fauna (KFF-1937) / Parks On The Air (US-1937) Dual Park.

If you are new to POTA or only have a tech license, we will be able to get you on the air; you don't even need to bring a radio as we will have some at the event.

If you are coming to the event we ask that you bring a side dish to share.

Wilbur & Orville Wright Special Event Station– September 19 (Carillon Park)

We have our flyer designed and will be sending it out to get printed for the event (trifold). We also have a certificate to mail out to those who contact us.

- Sample on the back table

We need operators through out the day 9:30am – 5pm.

Please let Geoff and Jim know if you can operate that day Let us know what mode you would like to operate and if you would be interested in working with the general public and helping people make a contact.

We will be operating under the call sign W8O

October 15 – Membership Meeting

Start working on your chili recipes. We will be hosting the BARC chili dinner in the PDC room (main meeting room).

Bring your chili and enjoy an evening of visiting and eating. There will be a quick business only meeting and no presentation.

Updates from Coordinators

APRS Presentation – Randy Allen KA0AZS

The presentation may be accessed on the BARC web pages

Using APRS  Randy Allen, K4GAZS BARC 20 August 2026	Focus on RF - This presentation will focus on APRS used over amateur analog RF frequencies. - Digital (D-STAR), Web based and Smart Phone applications are not discussed 	OVERVIEW APRS is a real-time tactical digital communications protocol for exchanging information between a large number of stations covering a large (local) area. As a multi-user data network, it is quite different from conventional packet radio. APRS is different from regular packet in four ways:	OVERVIEW FIRST By the integration of maps and other data displays to organize and display data. 	OVERVIEW SECOND by using a one-to-many protocol to update everyone in real time. 
OVERVIEW THIRD by using generic digitizing so that prior knowledge of the network is not required. 	OVERVIEW FOURTH by using a worldwide transparent internet backbone, linking everyone worldwide. 	OVERVIEW APRS 	CONCEPT - The concept, which dates back to the mid 1980's, is that all relevant information is transmitted immediately to everyone in the net and every station captures that information for consistent and standard display to all participants. - Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, SK, is commonly known as the "Father of APRS"	.CONCEPT Information is refreshed redundantly but at a decaying rate so that old information is updated less frequently than new info.
CONCEPT Since the primary objective is consistent exchange of information between everyone, APRS establishes standard formats for the transmission of POSITION, STATUS, MESSAGES, and QUERIES. 	CONCEPT It also establishes guidelines for display so that users of different systems will still see the same consistent information displayed in a consistent manner (independent of the particular display or mapping system in use) 	HOW IT WORKS APRS turns packet radio into a real-time tactical communications and display system for emergencies and public service applications (and global communications).	HOW IT WORKS - APRS provides universal connectivity to all stations in the net by avoiding the complexity and limitations of a connected network. - It permits any number of stations to exchange data just like voice users would on a voice net. - Any station that has information to contribute simply sends it, and all stations receive it and log it.	HOW IT WORKS APRS recognizes that one of the greatest real-time needs at any special event or emergency is the tracking of key assets using packets containing call sign, icon, messages, QSO frequency monitored and much more. 
HOW IT WORKS - Where is the Event Leader? - Where are the emergency vehicles? - What's the Weather at various points in the area? - To answer these questions, APRS transmits and captures the location and status of all stations.	HOW IT WORKS - It can be used over any 2-way radio system including HAM, CB, Marine Band, etc. when authorized by regulation. - On VHF, APRS is on 144.39 MHz throughout the North American Continent. - Other countries use other frequencies. Check locally - On HF using FSK or VARA (30 and 40M)	APPLICATIONS OF APRS - public service events - emergencies - weather nets - direction finding - fox hunting - plotting satellite contacts - monitoring DX clusters.	APPLICATIONS OF APRS 2026 Air Force Marathon Routes 	APPLICATIONS OF APRS - BARC Digipeater - WB4CARMS - Weather 
APPLICATIONS OF APRS Many hams put APRS in their cars and let it run most of the time. Using it this way can allow someone to track your progress on a trip. While traveling, the Voice Alert CD mode keeps you in touch with other hams and the other local information features gives the traveling ham information of interest. 	CONVENTIONS OF APRS - Use your own call sign. For a fixed station, this is enough. - The dash number is a Secondary Station ID (SSID) and it allows you to have multiple APRS stations. It can provide a little additional information about your Station, but the standards are rather loose. - Here is a summary of the recommendations:	CONVENTIONS OF APRS Note: These are commonly used but may vary by region. -0 Home Station (Dash) (Same as call sign with no SSID) -1 Digipeater B -2 Digipeater C -3 Digipeater D -4 Gate (Not Home Station) -5 Is for Satellite Operations -6 Is for Amateur -8 Is for Mobile -14 Is for Truckers -15 Is for Off 	APRS Radios - Kenwood (the originals) HTs TH-D72/D72, D7A, D7E Mobiles TM-D700, D710, D710 (Due this year) (Prominal) - Yaesu HT FT-10, 10, 30, 80, 90, 90A Mobiles FTM-2000, FTM-3000, 3600, 5000 - Icom The new IC-5200 mobile to have a free firmware upgrade to add APRS (Due this year) - Any AT-CENTRAVE Plus mobile - Voice VR5000 PRO models, VR-NXT HT - BTECH (X-APRO) https://www.aprs.org/aprswiki/index.php/APRS_Radios	APRS Clients - APRSDroid (Android) https://www.aprsdroid.com/ - APRSDroid (Windows) http://aprsdroid.sourceforge.net/ - PhAPRS (Raspberry Pi) http://github.com/dan-knapp/PhAPRS - PoPiNet APRS (Windows) https://www.popinets.com/ - Xastir (Linux) https://sourceforge.net/projects/xastir/ - YACAC (Yet Another APRS Client) (Windows, Linux, Raspberry Pi, Mac, FreeBSD) https://www.k4davis.org/yacac/YAAC.html
APRS ON THE WEB https://www.aprsfoundation.org/ The APRS Foundation https://www.aprs-wiki.org/ detailed up to date information by the APRS Foundation https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_Packet_Reportage_System_Wikipedia https://ham.f1 APRS F1 (ARA Google Maps APRS) http://www.aprs.org/ Bob Bruninga's WB4APR SK (Site maintained for historical purposes)	Questions? 			