

Minutes -- ACARA September 21, 2004 \*\*\* Revised October 20, 2004 \*\*\*

Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	John Cornwell	NC8V
	Marion Crawley	K8MMC
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	Carl J. Denbow	N8VZ
	Rodney Holley	KA8NDC
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	Craig Russell	KB8USO
	Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
	John Thomas	KC8JWZ

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as published.

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, presented the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as distributed.

Old Business:

Repeater Advisory Team (RAT)

N8VZ reported that the RAT met three times to investigate repeater interference issues. Three possible sources of interference were identified:

Modern transceivers with wide-band receivers are more susceptible to front-end overload than older models. Interference heard is not being transmitted by the repeater but is being received directly by our receivers. N8VZ explained that this was tested with a late model wonder-HT and a vintage ICOM IC-02AT. Sitting side-by-side at W8MHV, tuned to the repeater output frequency, the modern rig heard significant pager interference while the older rig remained silent. WD8RIF added that his handheld scanner is bothered by pager interference all over Athens while it is set to scan railroad frequencies.

Motorboating -- N8VZ reported that NS80 had noticed a one-to-one correlation between the DX packet cluster transmissions and "kerchunks" of the repeater. NC8V and N8XWO will investigate this. (The DX cluster is on 145.53 MHz.)

2-meter DX -- signals from afar have been reaching the repeater receiver. N8VZ has tightened the squelch on the repeater to reduce this.

KC8OVB reported that the post-flood emergency operations (September 22-23) experienced no problems with the repeater. He did explain that the operator at Hockingport was unable to hit the repeater with 60 watts, nor was he able to hear it. W8MHV said that he and W8PG own simplex repeaters that might be useful in such a situation. A discussion ensued about the former repeater controller's ability to link with other repeaters. N8VZ will investigate whether the new controller can be configured to allow this.

Jamboree On the Air (JOTA) -- 0001L October 16 to 2359L October 17

N8SUZ (\*\*\*\* correction \*\*\* was "KC8OVB) announced the upcoming JOTA event and asked for volunteers to show their shacks. K8MMC and W8MHV agreed to show their shacks. N8SUZ will be showing the high school station. This event is open to both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and participants will earn a patch.

Field Day & Hamfest

N8SUZ needs photos of Field Day and the Hamfest for use on the club website <<http://ac-ara.org/>>. W8PG has photos of each.

Red Cross Operation -- September 22 & 23

KC8OVB thanked the operators who helped with the post-flood emergency operations:

Mike Cooper  
Evan Dickenson  
Ted Jacobson  
John McCutcheon  
Mike Schlosser  
Dave Smith  
John Thomas

All (\*\* correction \*\*) was "Several") of these operators are club members.

W8MHV reported that during this operation he was hosting an international conference with his HT in his pocket. The conference paused to listen to the operation. W8MHV, the ACARA, and ham radio "earned points".

New Business:

Club events

W8MHV distributed a list he had compiled of events that club members had participated in over the past year. The list was extensive and indicates that

club members are an active group.

#### Single-Day Class & Testing

N8SUZ reported that other clubs have begun offering single-day intensive study sessions immediately followed by a testing session. He explained that these groups are seeing an 85% success rate. He asked whether the ACARA should consider doing such an event, possibly soon after JOTA, to help Scouts and Red Cross members earn licenses. He suggested October 30 as a possible date.

A hearty discussion ensued about the philosophy of classes and testing. The general consensus was that the ACARA isn't interested in doing a single-day event, although it was recognized that people such as Red Cross members and police and fire professionals might need a license but have no interest in ham radio as a hobby and no need to progress through the license class structure.

W8MHV suggested that a single day intensive review session be added to the end of the licensing class. This would allow those students who missed one or more session to "catch up" before testing and would provide a session for Red Cross, police, and fire professionals. This idea was met with interest and will be considered when the license class is scheduled.

#### Miscellaneous

KC8OVB passed out sheets of web addresses that had been provided by Bill Gardner, W8WG.

KC8OVB announced that Bill Gardner has a weekly 6m FM net. It meets Monday nights at 8pm EDT on 52.525MHz FM.

#### \*\*\* Added \*\*\* Nominations of Officers

President :	Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Vice-president :	John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Treasurer :	Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Secretary :	William McFadden, WD8RIF
Webmaster/Newsletter Editor :	Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Repeater Trustee :	Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Packet Node Trustee :	(open)

Program:

N8XWO presented a Beginner's Look at Shortwave Receivers. He demonstrated the ICOM IC-R75 and the Palstar R30C.

W8MHV displayed his 1967 Davco DR-30 receiver.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 pm by W8MHV.

Respectively submitted, William McFadden, Secretary