

Minutes -- ACARA November 16, 2004 (as revised Nov. 20)

Attendance:	Nasseef Abukamail	AC8K
	John Biddle	W8PG
	John Cornwell	NC8V
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	Carl J. Denbow	N8VZ
	Rodney Holley	KA8NDC
	Scott Jarvis	AB8SQ
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	Rich Post	KB8TAD

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, presented the Treasurer's Report. N8VZ asked about the club calender. W8PG agreed to do one again but needs members to submit photos. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as distributed.

Old Business:

Holiday Banquet

CORRECTION NC8V (was "N8VZ") suggested we consider Lui Lui for the banquet. He had spoken with someone there and learned that they have a meeting room, they can do hors d'ouvres, and they have an extensive menu.

W8MHV reported that he has spoken with The OU Inn and Tuscano's. The OU Inn has a room but the club will need to pay for it. Menu items would cost members an estimated 30% more than at other places. He has not yet gotten a price yet for the room and hors d'ouvres. Tuscano's also has a room but W8MHV hasn't been able to get a price yet.

The members decided to meet at Lui Lui. W8MHV will talk to them.

W8MHV asked when the banquet should be, explaining that the 3rd Tuesday in December is the 21st, very close to Christmas. The members voted to hold the banquet on December 14, instead. Members can arrive for hors d'ouvres at 5:30 and order dinner about 6:15.

Repeater

N8VZ reported that the repeater has been well behaved. He hasn't heard any of the problems recently. The Repeater Advisory Team (RAT) will not meet again unless

the problems return.

N8VZ reported that KC8OVB had given him a letter from AllTel that contained a list of "dangerous" items that tenants of the tower site shouldn't have on-site. Of note concerning our repeater were "batteries" and "generator". W8MHV explained that while our repeater is on generator-backed power, the generator belongs to 911. WD8RIF explained that while he was trustee a 30Ah battery was installed on the repeater. W8MHV thinks this has been removed from the site.

N8VZ mentioned that it is time to re-install the light-bulb "heater" in the repeater cabinet.

Digipeater

W8MHV reported that he has spoken with NS80 and that NS80 is willing to accept the position of Packet Node Trustee, a position he won in the October elections with two write-in votes.

License Class

N8XWO reported that he still needs two more instructors.

Field Day

N8XWO reported on the results of the clubs 2004 Field Day effort. The club earned an actual score of 1860, which placed it just below the the mean score in Class 1A. He extended thanks to NC8V for the use of the caboose and grounds, and thanks to all participants.

ARRL 10m Contest

N8XWO announced the upcoming ARRL 10m Contest which starts at 0001z on December 11, which is 7pm local time Friday, December 10. The contest runs through 2400z December 12. Participants can operate 36 of the total 48 hours. (Ed: The rules to this event can be found here:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2004/10-meters.html>)

NC8V reminded the membership that the ACARA member with the highest score in this event will win the rotating "K8BZW 10m Trophy".

New Business:

ACARA Hamfest 2005

W8MHV asked the members to choose a date. This event traditionally occurs on the Sunday of the last weekend in April. In 2005, this date is April 24. After a brief discussion, the members voted to hold the hamfest on this date.

W8MHV reported that, anticipating the club's choice, he has already had the hamfest listed in the Athens County Tourism Board's events calendar.

W8MHV will register the event with the ARRL. He cannot reserve the Recreation Center until January.

Program:

WD8RIF presented his not-yet-complete bicycle-mobile APRS station. He briefly explained the various pieces of equipment which included a GPS receiver, a "sentence translator" which converts the output of the GPS to NMEA-standard sentences, and a TinyTrak3 APRS encoder which replaces a full TNC and generates the actual APRS packets. He explained that he has verified operation of the individual components and that his next step is to interface the TinyTrak3 to his handheld. He also explained that he has not yet figured out the receiving end of this system and asked for assistance in this. KC8OVB and N8VZ expressed interest.

NC8V displayed his re-built Heath HP-23 power supply. When he purchased this power supply it was non-functioning. He explained that Michael Bryce, through his company "The Heathkit Shop" (<http://www.theheathkitshop.com/>) offers a circuit board and components to completely re-build this power supply. He opened the power supply case to display the board. He distributed re-prints of a pair of QST articles: "Upgrading the Heathkit HP-23 Power Supply" by Michael Bryce, WB8VGE and "Restoring a Heathkit" by Ralph Craig, AJ8R.

NC8V also displayed his early 1960s Heathkit 80m SSB monoband transceiver and explained that the purchase of this rig was what prompted him to buy and then renovate the power supply. He pointed out that an entire station of this type (transceiver, power supply, D104 microphone) could be purchased for about \$100.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm by W8MHV.

Respectively submitted, William McFadden, Secretary