

Minutes -- ACARA January 18, 2005 (as corrected)

Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	John Cornwell	NC8V
	Carl Denbow	N8VZ
	Evan Dickinson	K8ELD
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	Kate McFadden	(not yet licensed)
	Richard E. Perry	WB8SYN
	Rich Post	KB8TAD
	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 November meeting were accepted as distributed.

There was no Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVV, is currently in hospital with pneumonia. He can be contacted at (614) 297-5633 and is in room 424.

Old Business:

Calendars

W8PG distributed the 2005 ACARA wall calendars.
W8MHV will mail the calendars to those members not present.

License Class

N8XWO reported that there are 10 students in the class: seven are kids age 9-16, two are young adults (one of which is working on an upgrade), and one is middle-aged (and he is working on an upgrade).

N8XWO displayed the "N8XWO Award Code Practice Oscillator" that he built with a piezo buzzer. He will award this to the student that copies the code the best at the next class.

N8XWO says he plans to use FRS radios to teach phone-operation fundamentals.

The testing is on March 12 at 6pm.

W8MHV asked about VEs. N8XWO did a count and declared that enough will be available.

N8VZ inquired about testing at the ACARA Hamfest. No session is currently planned. KC8JWZ said that members of the Logan club had told him they would come down and run a session at the Hamfest. W8MHV asked KC8JWZ to confirm this with the Logan club.

In the absence of the Treasurer, N8SUZ asked the club to vote to reimburse him for the purchase of license study guides: eight Technician books and three General books; \$146. The members voted to allow the reimbursement.

Hamfest

W8MHV reported that the event has been registered with the ARRL. He is coordinating with the Rec Center.

N8VZ will be handling table reservations this year.
W8PG will help him the morning of the event.
(Corrected--had said "W8PG will help...")

W8MHV showed a hamfest flyer from the Tusco ARC Hamfest. It is a two-page postcard design with a large map on one side. He says a card of this type would cost more than our current card. The members liked the two-page design.

Repeater

N8VZ reported that the heater is in place at the repeater site.

It's a lamp that he owns--the ACARA lamp-assembly had needed repair; he has made the repair but not yet taken it back to the repeater site.

W8PG suggested that N8VZ replace the repeater ID with one using only N8VZ's voice. (Currently, the controller computer-voice says the callsign and N8VZ's voice says "a service of the Athens County Amateur Radio Association".

New Business:

Athens Marathon

WD8RIF showed his APRS station in its current configuration. The radio/TinyTrak3 interface is built and works; the TinyTrak3 generates packets.

WD8RIF explained the software requirement for the receiving stations. Free ham-written APRS software is available but since no one has done APRS in Athens we will have to acquire the maps and incorporate it into the software. KC8OVB and W8KVK have been working with Ilgard on this but neither was present at the meeting to discuss progress. WD8RIF explained that there's a commercial APRS package available, APRSPoint, that works with Microsoft MapPoint. A license for APRSPoint is \$29.95; the license plus MapPoint 2004 is \$109.95. This discussion was tabled until the February meeting.

Ohio River Flooding

N8XWO reported on his public-service work with the Red Cross at Hockingport and Coolville. He helped with Damage Assessment and provided communications support at a Red Cross shelter at Highlander School.

Program:

WD8RIF displayed his HW-29 Sixer 6-meter AM transceiver.

N8XWO displayed his Hallicrafters S-38C receiver and discussed its restoration. This receiver was found at Re-use Industries and was very dirty. N8XWO found that KB8TAD's suggestion of using waterless hand-cleaner to clean cabinets works.

N8VZ mentioned that the March CQ Magazine will feature him and his Knightkit Ocean Hopper receiver. (Corrected--had said "QST" instead of "CQ magazine".)

W8MHV discussed lightning protection and displayed a Transi-Trap that selflessly sacrificed itself to protect his rig. He said that the ARRL web site has a good section on lightning protection:

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/lightning.html>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm by W8MHV.

Respectively submitted, William McFadden, Secretary