

Minutes -- ACARA February 15, 2005 (Corrected)

Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	John Cornwell	NC8V
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	Carl Denbow	N8VZ
	Evan Dickinson	K8ELD
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	Kate McFadden	(not yet licensed)
	Rich Post	KB8TAD

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by VP John McCutcheon, N8XWO.

Minutes: Corrections were made to the January minutes; they were accepted as updated.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, presented the Treasurer's Report, which were accepted unanimously. KC8OVB reminded members that it is time to pay dues.

Old Business:

Repeater

N8VZ reported that on the weekend of February 12 & 13 he heard some motorboating again. Previously, it was speculated that the packet DX node was causing this sort of interference. N8VZ asked if there had been a contest this past weekend. There was a RTTY contest. KC8OVB said the packet DX node is not active on the site now.

WD8RIF reported that he recently heard some commercial interference on the repeater.

N8VZ announced that he plans to write a repeater user's manual.

N8VZ reported that members are asking that he bring back the voice time announcements on the repeater.

N8VZ reported that members want more variety in the voice ID messages. He asked if the members were interested in having members' children record ID messages as has been heard in Columbus. There was some discussion. The topic was tabled until next month.

N8XWO reported that recently WT8E had not been able to punch down the autopatch. He said WT8E checked his tone levels and they were good. (Corrected--had said "WT8E had been able...")

License Class/Testing

N8XWO reported that the testing session will be 6pm on March 12 at the Athens High School.

N8XWO announced that there will be a review session at 9am on March 12 at the Athens High School. All are welcome. He speculated that the session will run from 9am until 3pm.

New Business:

Athens Marathon

NC8V reported that he attended the Marathon planning meeting in place of KC80VB. There are few significant changes in the event since last year.

NC8V reported that Marathon bicyclist Tom Wolf expressed concerns that WD8RIF bicycling with the race leaders might be seen as "pacing". WD8RIF asked if signs on the bicycle saying something like "Amateur Radio Public Service" would help alleviate this concern.

KC80VB reminded the members that the Marathon is on April 10 and starts at 9am. He passed around a worker sign-up sheet. He would like to have two communicators at each aid station: a veteran and someone recently-licensed. N8XWO will announce the event at the License Class.

KC80VB announced that would like to pass the duties of Marathon liason to someone else next year.

Hamfest

KC80VB reported that the ACARA was awarded a \$150 grant from the county. This is \$330 less than we received last year. He said that last year, because of the larger grant he had expanded the mailing list and asked if to save money he should reduce it again. NC8V suggested that KC80VB might remove from the mailing list those that haven't attended in two years.

N8XWO suggested we look into reducing the printing costs. Last month W8MHV had shown his design for a two-part card. It was suggested that he be informed of the reduced grant and that that we return to the single-part card.

ARRL International DX Contest

N8XWO reported that the ARRL International DX contest is approaching:

CW : February 19-20, 2005 (third full weekend in Feb)
SSB : March 5-6, 2005 (first full weekend in March)

Rules are available in QST and at
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/intldx.html>

NC8V announced that the 160m contest is the weekend after the International DX SSB contest. He stated that the 160m 'test is fun and that 160m is still a gentleman's band.

Program:

WD8RIF presented on the Arizona ScQRPions' "Freeze Your B___ Off" (FYBO) wintertime field day. He also showed his complete "QRP Station in a Bag" and the W6MMA field-portable vertical antenna. More about each topic can be seen on his website:

<http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/radio.htm>

W8PG discussed the options for our hamfest at the Rec Center and showed photos of the proposed outdoor flea-market area and of the inside space that is being made available to the club. (Last month W8MHV had announced that due to a scheduling conflict the ACARA was unable to reserve the gym area and larger parking lot.)

KC8OVB raffled off two small door prizes: N8XWO won an MFJ coffee mug; K8ELD won a Yaesu hat. KC8OVB had attended the "Customer Appreciation Day" at R&L in Hamilton, Ohio, and had gotten these items there.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm by N8XWO.

Respectively submitted, William McFadden, Secretary