

Minutes -- ACARA March 15, 2005

Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	John Cornwell	NC8V
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	Jennifer Cunningham (guest)	
	Carl Denbow	N8VZ
	Evan Dickinson	K8ELD
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	Kate McFadden	(not yet licensed)
	Rich Post	KB8TAD
	Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
	John Thomas	KC8JWZ
	Henri Zuber	W3EYD

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV

Minutes: The minutes from the February meeting were accepted as revised and distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, presented the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted.

(Because of the meeting's guest, the meeting was conducted in an unorthodox order. The minutes below are presented in an "Old Business" first followed by "New Business" format. -- WD8RIF)

Old Business:

License Class:

N8XWO reported that the results from the license class and March 12 test session were disappointing. One class participant earned her Technician with Morse Code license. An already-licensed ham did a "paper upgrade" from an original Technician class license to General.

W8MHV stated that this year's class consisted of a unique group when compared to previous classes. This year the class consisted of numerous kids.

Hamfest:

KC8JWZ confirmed that the Logan club will be providing a VE session at noon at the hamfest.

W8MHV reported that a small group of members took a second walk-through of the Rec Center. W8PG showed his photos of the venue.

Somewhat heated discussion ensued over where to sell tickets. Suggested locations for ticket sales: at the entrance to the swimming pool parking lot; at the entrance to the Rec Center road; at the far entrance to the Rec Center parking lot; indoors in the foyer. This topic was tabled until the April meeting.

N8SUZ reported on his discussions with the Athens High School. This location is a possibility for future events. The cafeteria could be used for the indoor portion; it already has 40 tables. The parking lot behind the building could be used for the outdoor portion and it has only one access road so traffic could be easily controlled. The cost of this venue would be about \$400.

Athens Marathon:

KC80VB reminded the club of the upcoming Athens Marathon which starts at 9am on April 10. Several positions remain unfilled and he sent a sign-up sheet around.

New Business:

Hocking College Spring Bike Tour:

Jennifer Cunningham asked the club for communicationss support for this May 14-15 two-day bicycle event. The 100-mile tour starts at Hocking College and the first day ends with the riders camping at Lake Hope. The riders return to Hocking College on the second day. The event starts with a 9am sign-in on Saturday and is limited to thirty (30) riders.

Ms. Cunningham has not yet determined what her communications needs will be. She will have two or more Sag Wagons that could benefit from communications. She doesn't yet have Aid Stations designated. She recognizes that radio would be valuable for emergency communications.

W8MHV told Ms. Cunningham that the ACARA can provide radio operators for the Sag Wagon communications and a net control. He also suggested that she contact the Sunday Creek (Nelsonville) group and the Vinton County group.

Ms. Cunningham will contact W8MHV with final requirements.

Red Cross Drill:

N8XWO announced that on April 2, the Red Cross will be participating in an emergency drill. The drill is expected to run from 9am until 1pm. N8XWO anticipates that communications support will be needed at O'Bleness and Doctors Hospital (Nelsonville), in two vehicles, at the Hocking College multipurpose room, at the Red Cross shelterhouse, and at the respite center.

N8SUZ suggested that communications may be needed at the the EMA.

Hams able to participate should arrive with gear at the Red Cross shelterhouse before 9am.

Programs:

WD8RIF showed the bicycle-mobile 2m FM and Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) station he will be using in support of the Athens Marathon. He explained that W8KVK has been developing the receiving end of the APRS system for the event.

N8XWO showed his new LDG AT-100Pro autotuner and explained that with an inexpensive cable it fully integrates with modern ICOM HF rigs, automatically tuning the antenna as frequency or band changes occur.

N8SUZ discussed "EMCOMM Jump Kits" and distributed two handouts: "Jump Kit Idea List" and "ARES Boom Box". N8SUZ is in the processing of building an ARES Boom Box, which is a weather-resistant box containing radio, batteries, charging system, and all necessary accessories.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29pm by N8XWO.

Respectively submitted, William McFadden, Secretary