

Minutes -- ACARA May 17, 2005

Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	John Cornwell	NC8V
	Marion Crawley	K8MMC
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	Carl Denbow	N8VZ
	Royce Holliday	KC8THI
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	Rich Post	KB8TAD

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV

Minutes: The minutes from the April meeting were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, presented the Treasurer's Report. KB8TAB asked about the 0.75% CD and made a motion that the funds within the CD plus an additional \$2000 be moved to an account with a higher interest rate for a period of eight or sixteen months, the time period being at the Treasurer's best judgement. N8XWO seconded, and the issue passed. KB8TAD suggested Logan Citizen's Bank; KC8OVB will investigate.

Old Business:

Hamfest:

KC8OVB distributed a hamfest financial statement. Attendance and profits were down this year, probably due to the rain.

KC8OVB received several letters from prize winners; he passed two around for the members to read. N8VZ pointed out that one of letters suggested a motto for the event: "Tired of seeing same junk at every hamfest? Visit the ACARA Hamfest and see new junk!"

KC8OVB suggested we should watch what other events are doing.

W8PG reported that attendees commented on the photos on the ACARA web site of last year's event.

W8MHV said that the end of the building used this year made for a convenient place to get food, eat, and talk. He asked for comments from others on how this end of the building worked.

N8VZ reported that he sold 50 tables because of

the rain. The inside area was crowded and the tables overflowed into the hallway.

W8MHV suggested that the AAU basketball tournament will probably be on the same weekend for the foreseeable future; they are paying significantly more than the ACARA would to use the same space and the ACARA won't be able to "muscle them out". KC8OVB concurred, adding that the AAU is a big organization and that their website is slick.

NC8V suggested that the club look again at using the Athens High School. W8MHV said that the cost to use the high school would be about the same as the cost to rent the Rec Center. N8XWO added that the outdoor area is big and convenient. W8MHV said that tables are there, as is a cafeteria for the food vendor. N8VZ asked if there is electricity available for the vendors. N8XWO said there is and added that the indoor area is spacious. KC8OVB suggested that a table-plan should include space for sitting and chatting near the food concessions. KB8TAD suggested that should the venue change, information should be added to the web site.

W8MHV again asked for comments on this year's hamfest. He said he hadn't heard comments either way from attendees. N8VZ said that one vendor complained about not being able to drive all the way to the door to unload. W8PG felt that the new location at non-traditional end of the building was roomier.

W8PG said that the high school might be a better facility, although he is concerned that if the venue is changed many people won't find it because they have been coming to the event for so long they won't read the flyer or check the web site and won't see the announcement of the new location. W8MHV suggested the club could place a large sign on US33 announcing the new location. N8XWO suggested that periodic announcements of the new location could be made on the call-in net.

W8MHV said that in October he and others should meet with the high school officials and do a walk-through. The date and location needs to be set early so that the ARRL can be notified.

N8VZ asked if a different weekend can be chosen so that the Rec Center can continue to be used. W8MHV said he could talk to Rich at the Rec Center but didn't think that an earlier weekend would be better due to the possibility of bad weather.

W8MHV asked for feedback on the prizes. He said that the letters received were positive. N8XWO suggested that even though hamfest attendees like cash prizes--they don't have to tell their spouse, they don't have to sell an HT they won but don't have a use for--something like a high-quality cordless electric drill might be a good prize. W8MHV said that he had so many small items to give away he was doing so almost continuously. He feels "many prizes" is nicer than "big prizes".

W8PG photographed the MFJ-prize winners. He has printed these; KC8OVB will mail them to MFJ along with the club's "thank you". W8PG added that the prize winners wanted copies of the photos and suggested that in subsequent years the club bring to the hamfest a photo printer for this purpose.

KC8OVB asked if the club should solicit for more prize donations, and if so, would he be able to tell the donors that the club will promote them in print? W8MHV said that we should solicit for more prizes and the club will be able to promote the donors both on the postcard and in the flyer. WD8RIF suggested that prize donors also be promoted on the web site.

NC8V suggested that a form letter would probably be sufficient when asking for prize donations.

W8MHV reported that he has already sent a "thank you" to Worldradio magazine. (He added that K8MMC recently had a good article about his experiences during WWII printed in the magazine.)

W8MHV asked about the duty roster. KC8THI said he would have liked to be relieved from his post more often. W8MHV suggested that next year a rotating duty assignment scheme be used so that everyone gets relief in a timely fashion. NC8V said that one problem this year was there there was no in-house radio net. KC8OVB suggested that one person be in charge of manpower.

## New Business

### Club Hats:

KC8OVB investigated a club purchase of summer-weight mesh hats by talking to the two hat vendors at the hamfest. He got a sample and a quote (\$10 each, plus shipping) from NC-based Ken Moles.

N8VZ asked if solid hats (for better protection from the sun) could be purchased. KC8OVB said yes, but he didn't have a price. He said there isn't a minimum order requirement. KC8OVB said t-shirts and polo shirts are also a possibility but he hadn't gotten a quote on these items. He passed around an order form for those wishing to purchase a hat. W8MHV said the club will handle the purchase of the hats and members will pay the club for their hats once they are delivered.

#### Vinton County Disaster Drill:

N8XWO announced that four ACARA members participated: KC8RYL, KC8OVB, KC8THI, and N8XWO. The club received kudos from the incident commander. N8XWO said the event was an excellent test of the ability to set up and operate. He found that "Amateur radio is the glue that holds everything else together" in a situation such as this drill.

KC8OVB said that initially he had concerns about ACARA hams coming down for the event and using the Vinton County repeater. He explained, however, that his concerns were unfounded since the casual users on the machine before the event started graciously got off of the repeater and a Vinton County ham started an emergency net with himself as net control.

#### Field Day 2005:

N8XWO announced the upcoming ARRL Field Day. It starts at 2pm local time on June 25 and runs overnight through June 26. The ACARA effort will be in class 1A and will take place in the caboose at NC8V. Set up will occur on Thursday, June 23, at 6:30pm. Tear-down will be on June 26.

N8XWO said the goals this year will be to involve as many people as possible including newly-licensed hams and to teach participants how to efficiently use logging software.

N8XWO suggested that the club might use vintage tube-type gear at least some of the time. Dipoles will be used for 80, 40, and 20 meters, and the multi-band vertical will be mounted on top of the caboose this year instead of on the ground as in previous years.

N8XWO mentioned several methods of obtaining bonus points. He will take care of submitting

a press release to earn the Media Publicity bonus. The ACARA 1A effort will run on generator power to earn the Emergency Power bonus. N8XWO has a solar-charged battery the club can use for five QSOs to earn a 100 point bonus. He suggested that W8MHV can copy the ARRL CW Bulletin. A visit by an official of an agency provides bonus points; N8XWO suggested that since KC8OVB is an official with the Red Cross, we can earn that bonus. A two-times multiplier is earned when all operations occur at a power level of 150 watts or less.

N8XWO said that participants need to bring their own food and that there is a refrigerator in the caboose.

W8MHV suggested that the club might use only vintage tube-type gear, adding that there is plenty of equipment to choose from within the club.

#### ACARA Picnic:

After discussion, June 21 at 5:30 was chosen for the picnic. W8MHV will attempt to reserve the South Side Park for the picnic, and will email everyone with the location. Attendees are to bring a covered dish, beverages, and tableware. The club will provide hot dogs and burgers.

#### Program:

W8MHV displayed several oddball vacuum tubes from the former Soviet Union.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm by W8MHV.

Respectively submitted, William McFadden, Secretary