

Minutes -- ACARA September 20, 2005

Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	John Cornwell	NC8V
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	Carl Denbow	N8VZ
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
	John Thomas and wife	KC8JWZ

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV

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

Treasurer's Report: Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, presented the treasurer's report. N8VZ inquired as to the \$150 amount of the hamfest (tourism) grant. KC8OVB confirmed that the amount has fallen the past several years. The report was accepted as presented.

Old Business:

Club Hats:

KC8OVB brought in hats to distribute to those who ordered them.

Repeater:

N8VZ announced that he wishes to give up repeater trusteeship. (More on this appears in New Business.)

New Business:

Death of Roberta Farr:

WD8RIF announced the death of Roberta Farr, a North Carolina resident who was the grandmother of Tom Witherspoon's (KF4TZK) wife Heather Pittillo. The family asks that donations be sent to the Salvation Army Disaster Relief Fund in her name in lieu of flowers. N8VZ moved that the ACARA send a \$35 donation. The motion was seconded by NC8V. The vote was passed unanimously.

NC8V suggested that the ACARA should define a policy concerning how close a relationship should be for ACARA to send flowers or donations. W8PG said that the other club he belongs to has such a policy. N8VZ mentioned OU-COM's policy, or lack thereof. W8MHV tabled the discussion until next meeting.

Ohio Section ARRL Conference:

N8SUZ reported on the Ohio Section ARRL Conference that he attended.

Hurricane Katrina support: Fifty hams from Ohio have been involved and currently there are twelve in the Gulf region.

Official Observers: Investigation of interference/jamming of Dayton repeater during the Hamvention led to discovery of an HT set on low power and interfaced to an MP3 player hidden in a plastic bag near the repeater site. The FBI is now investigating.

BPL (Broadband Over Power Line): A demonstration of BPL-caused noise levels was given. The push toward BPL seems to be dying.

Proposed Cell Phone Legislation: Proposed legislation would prohibit use of cell phones by drivers of motor vehicles. The language of the legislation is specific to full-duplex devices, i.e, telephones. One version of the legislation specifically exempts CB radio, but not ham radio or police/fire/public service radios.

W8MHV asked if there was discussion of the FCC proposal to do away with CW requirement. N8SUZ said there was, and explained that the ARRL remains opposed to doing away with CW requirement entirely.

Amateur Radio Publicity

N8XWO said that he feels the club should take steps to increase public awareness of Amateur Radio and the ACARA. He suggested that the club set up a display at the October 8-9 Athens Area Sustainability Festival (<http://www.susfest.org/>). He suggested that the club set up a display and an operating station. W8PG suggested that copies of articles about amateur radio use during emergencies be made available. WD8RIF suggested he could bring his APRS-equipped bicycle and marathon maps. N8XWO suggested that WD8RIF could bring and set up his field-portable QRP station. W8MHV suggested that both he and WD8RIF could bring portable stations.

W8MHV said he will contact the organizers and schedule a time for the club's display. He will try to arrange for a Sunday afternoon time.

Scout Camporee:

N8SUZ announced the upcoming Scout Camporee on October 8-9 at Dock Three at Burr Oak State Park. He will be setting up a station. He said there will be 1000 scouts in attendance. This is the weekend before the

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and will be a better way to expose the scouts to amateur radio.

ARRL Public Service Announcements:

N8SUZ has ordered and received the ARRL's new Public Service Announcements for radio and TV. The new PSAs include one specifically highlighting amateur radio support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. N8SUZ will distribute these PSAs to local and regional radio and television stations.

WD8RIF suggested that the videos would be good to show at the Sustainability Festival. N8SUZ said he will make copies for this purpose.

Sheriff's Department Communications Vehicle:

N8SUZ reported on W8KVK's tour of the Athens County Sheriff's Department's new Homeland Security-provided communications vehicle. W8KVK said that the large vehicle includes two small communications stations in addition to law-investigation/meeting room and kitchen. The communications equipment includes radios for public-service frequencies and several internet-connection technologies. The vehicle includes no provision for Amateur Radio operations. The Sheriff says that only APCO (Association of Public Service Communications Officials) certified operators (i.e., 911 dispatchers) will be utilized in the vehicle. Amateur communications will be through the local Emergency Operations Center.

Officer Slate 2005-2006:

W8MHV said that he feels that for the continuing success of the club it is time for the club to get a new slate of officers. Prior to the meeting he had spoken with many club members: KC8OVB wishes to stay on as Treasurer; WD8RIF would consider the position of VP; W8PG would consider position of VP; KC8JWZ would consider an officer role.

N8XWO explained that due to time constraints he will not be able to take a leadership role next year.

N8VZ said that he would like to step down as repeater trustee. He said he would consider a position of VP.

N8VZ suggested that given the meeting's low turnout, the nomination of the slate of officers and subsequent voting should be delayed by a month. KC8OVB read pertinent portions of the club By-Laws: the By-Laws call for the slate of officers to be drawn up by a three-person nominating committee consisting of the president, a second officer, and a member-at-large. W8MHV chose a committee of himself,

N8VZ, and W8PG. The slate of officers will be announced via email and by mailed ballots.

W8MHV explained the duties of president. NC8V said that it has been an unwritten policy of the club that the president will serve as hamfest chairman. He suggested that it might be appropriate to separate the two functions. KC8OV8 suggested that VP could take charge of setting up meeting programs. W8MHV said that current VP N8XWO has already done much along these lines the previous two years.

Officer positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter/Website Editor, Repeater Trustee, Packet Node Trustee

Program:

W8MHV presented an educational PowerPoint presentation on NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) HF operations and its usefulness for local and regional communications.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm by W8MHV.

Respectively submitted, William McFadden, Secretary