

Minutes -- ACARA November 15, 2005; corrected 16 November, 2005

Attendance:

John Cornwell	NC8V
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Rodney Holley	KA8NDC
John McCutcheon	N8XWO
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Kate McFadden	
Richard Post	KB8TAD
John Thomas	KC8JWZ

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

Minutes: The minutes from the October (corrected--had said September) meeting were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, presented the treasurer's report. The report was accepted as presented.

Old Business:

Survey

N8XWO presented the results of the member survey.
(The report in PDF format can be seen here:

<http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/text/acara/survey2005.pdf>)

N8XWO reported that the membership is asking for increased "elmering". KC8OVB suggested that following the licensing classes, the new hams are not being helped enough. NC8V suggested that young people nowadays lack the motivation that young people of previous generations had.

KB8TAD said his greatest problem is the "protocol" and added that he had found the two-meter net the club used to sponsor to be very useful in learning proper protocol and gaining confidence. KC8OVB said that with the entry-class license being the no-code Technician, new hams think that "talk around the world" is just words without meaning; they don't understand that HF allows one to literally "talk around the world." (corrected wording 11/16/2005)

W8MHV suggested that the club might host the monthly meetings at members' houses so new hams could see how hamshacks are put together and could see ham radio in operation. He volunteered his shack for such a meeting.

W8MHV suggested the club sponsor a trip to the radio museum in Huntington, WV.

KC8OVB suggested the club might hold the meeting on two-meters occasionally.

NC8V said that operating radio contests is the best way to learn how to operate. W8MHV suggested that the club organize its own contest just for club members. N8XWO suggested that the club sponsor an event "Worked All Athens" whereby ops work stations in as many towns of "Athens" as they can. (Athens KY, Athens GA, etc.) NC8V suggested that the Worked All Athens County event from years ago could be revived.

NC8V suggested that each club meeting be preceded with a ten-minute code practice session.

W8MHV reminded the club that a decade or so ago he had designed and kitted a simple 15m transceiver for members to build but interest had waned. He had kept the kits for several years but eventually all the parts were used for other projects. WD8RIF suggested that the club might buy underwrite the purchase of Small Wonder Labs "Rock-Mite" kits for members to build. (<http://smallwonderlabs.com/>) These are very small, low parts-count 40m crystal-controlled direct-conversion transceiver kits that cost about \$25 each. (Secretary--actual cost is \$27 each.)

WD8RIF pointed out that the survey results indicated an interest in doing more public service work. He asked if there were additional "marathon-type" events the club could participate in. N8XWO said that the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA) might (corrected 11/16/2005; had said "will") be in the area in 2006. NC8V said the "Indian Summer Run" is still being held and that this is an event the club has never participated in. KB8TAD suggested the "Walk for the Homeless". His wife has contacts; he will ask her to inquire.

New Business:

Ft. Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo, 19-20 November

KC80VB passed around a brochure and two free tickets. The tickets went unclaimed.

ARRL Ten-Meter Contest

N8XWO reported that the ARRL ten-meter contest is 7pm (local) December 9 through 7pm (local) December 11. ACARA participants should list that they are competing with "Athens County ARA". (<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/10-meters.html>)

Skywarn Recognition Day, December 3, 2005

N8XWO reported that December 3, 2005 is "Skywarn Recognition Day" Amateur Radio special event. (details: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>) W8KVK has asked approval to allow the ACARA repeater to

to participate in the VoIP network to allow regional hams
contact Charleston Weather for this event. The club agreed
to this request.

ACARA Holiday Party

W8MHV asked about the annual Holiday Party. The date of
December 13 was chosen. (This is the Tuesday a week prior to
the normal December meeting date.) The membership authorized
W8MHV to coordinate with Lui Lui restaurant and for the club
to provide the punch bowl and hors d'ouvres. KC80VB will
mail a flyer.

ACARA Hamfest

W8MHV asked about the date for this event. April 30 was
chosen. (This date is not Daylight Savings Time change
weekend as had been thought last month.) W8MHV asked about
the location. The concensus was that if the basketball
tournament could be avoided the Athens Community Center
is the preferred venue. W8MHV was authorized to negotiate with
the Community Center. If the tournament can not be avoided,
W8MHV will negotiate with the Athens High School.

Program:

KC80VB presented on "Emergency Preparadness". He distributed several
FEMA pamphlets: "Food and Water in an Emergency", Emergency
Preparadness Checklist", and "Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit". He
also distributed two additional handouts: "Generic Go Kit" and
"Winter Safety Tips". He gave out personal first kits and raffled
off three emergency preparadness prizes: a multi-tool, a Mag-Lite
flashlight, and an emergency money holder (a pill bottle) containing
an undisclosed amount of cash.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm by W8MHV.

Respectively submitted, William McFadden, Secretary