

Minutes -- ACARA January 17, 2006

Attendance:

John Biddle	W8PG
Ron Chapman	N8HEK
John Cornwell	NC8V
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Evan Dickinson	K8ELD
Rodney Holley	KA8NDC
John Hursey	
Bob Mayer	
Jim Mayer	W5XF
John McCutcheon	N8XWO
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Miles McFadden	
Rich Post	KB8TAD
Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
John Thomas	KC8JWZ

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

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

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

Old Business:

ACARA Hamfest -- April 30, 2006

W8MHV reported that the Athens Community Center has been reserved; the club has reserved half of the gymnasium. W8MHV stated that it's a good thing the Rec Center was available because the High School is no longer available on the hamfest date.

W8MHV reported that the ARRL has sanctioned the event. The Hamfest is listed on the ARRL web site.

W8MHV has applied for the grant from the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

W8MHV reported that a ham from the Lancaster club has volunteered to organize a VE team for testing at the ACARA Hamfest. W8MHV said that last year the Logan club did the testing but this year they are unable to. NC8V said that having the Lancaster club do testing is a fine idea. N8SUZ asked what time the testing should be. W8MHV suggested 10:30am registration and 11am testing. W8MHV will coordinate with the Lancaster group. KC8OVB suggested that the VEs be given complimentary tickets; this was agreed to. WD8RIF asked if a room needs to be reserved for testing; W8MHV will do so.

KC8OVB pointed out that the cost of the venue has risen 75% from last year. He asked if he should pay the bill immediately. NC8V suggested the whole bill be paid now. W8MHV agreed.

W8PG asked if we should consider raising gate fees by a dollar. N8XWO pointed out that tickets are already printed. It was decided that the fee should remain the same this year.

#### Ham Class

N8SUZ reported that he has printed flyers; he passed these out for members to post. The classes are scheduled to begin Monday, January 30 and the testing session will be Monday April 10. There will be no session the week of Spring Break. Classes and testing will be 7pm to 9pm in room G-118 of the Athens High School. N8SUZ said that he and N8XWO are not planning to teach the Morse Code. W8PG said that Morse Code at 5wpm is easy to learn at home. W8MHV disagreed but said he would be willing to work individually with any students wishing to learn the code. W5XF said he would do the same. W8MHV will attend the first session to gauge interest in CW.

#### Repeater

WD8RIF reported that his key to the lock on the gate no longer works--the lock is so badly rusted it can't be opened. He and W8HMY will try W8MHV's key and, if necessary, cut the old lock off and replace it.

#### New Business:

##### 2-Meter Net

N8XWO reported on the January 9 2m net. There were nine participants.

N8XWO explained the "rotating net control" concept and passed out a script that could be used by the net control station. He built a list of volunteers. N8SUZ will add these callsigns to the calendar on the web site.

##### Athens Marathon

KC8OVB announced the April 2, 2006 Athens Marathon. He asked for a "co-chairman" to help in the work leading up to this event. NC8V volunteered to attend the Marathon meetings. W8MHV volunteered to act as co-chair but prefers not to be net control the day of the event. NC8V volunteered to be net control if necessary.

##### ACARA Annual Schedule

W8MHV reported that the planning group has worked up a schedule of programs and events and thanked KC8OVB for including this in the recent mailing.

W8MHV said that one item not yet in the schedule is a Saturday meeting at the Museum of Radio and Technology in Huntington, WV, <<http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/MRT/>> instead of the usual Tuesday evening meeting. He asked KB8TAD if this is possible and KB8TAD agreed that it was.

W8MHV also said that the survey results from last year showed that members are interested in seeing other members' hamshacks. He suggested that one of the regular meetings could occur at the house of a member. He suggested this meeting be at NC8V. WD8RIF suggested it be at W8MHV.

Program:

Eleven-year-old Miles McFadden showed the crystal radio he built. It is the "XSS Little Wonder" Crystal Radio Kit from "The Xtal Set Society" <<http://www.midnightscience.com/>>. This receiver is built on a circuit board and uses fixed inductors and a variable capacitor for tuning Miles built and soldered this receiver himself.

WD8RIF demonstrated the "Freq-Mite" audible frequency counter he has installed in his Heathkit HW-8 QRP transceiver. This counter reads the dial frequency in morse code at the press of a button. It can be configured to read back just the lowest three digits of the frequency for in-rig use or all four or five digits for use as a general-purpose frequency counter. For use within a rig, it can be programmed with an appropriate offset for the rig's IF. The Freq-Mite is described in the current ARRL Handbook and is available as a complete kit from Small Wonder Labs <<http://smallwonderlabs.com/>>.

W8MHV presented "Meters: Their Use and Misuse", a talk on multimeters and how one uses them. He gave out as door prizes nine small digital multimeters. Winners were John Hursey, KC8JWE, KA8NDC, NC8V, WD8RIF, N8XWO, K8ELD, W5XF, and N8HEK.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm by W8MHV.

Respectively submitted, William McFadden, Secretary