

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of November 21, 2006

In Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	John Cornwell	NC8V
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	Carl Denbow	N8VZ
	Dan Dolata	
	John Hursey	N8GNV
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	Rich Post	KB8TAD
	Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
	John Thomas	KC8JWZ

Following the 7:00pm social gathering, the meeting was called to order 7:38pm by president Drew McDaniel (W8MHV).

The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as distributed by secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB.

Old Business

Repeater

Repeater trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he has been unable to find his keys to the repeater site. (The last time he used the keys was July 17, when he broke his wrist following a visit to the repeater site.) Eric is going to borrow Drew McDaniel's keys, winterize the repeater, and hope to find his keys locked in the repeater building.

Hamfest -- April 29, 2006

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported that he will reserve the Recreation Center as soon as the Recreation Center allows him reservations for 2007 events.

Field Day

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that the December, 2006 issue of QST magazine contains the results of Field Day 2006. He reported that the ACARA placed 29th out of 160 entries in class 1A.

New Business

Holiday Dinner

President Drew McDaniel announced that December brings the annual ACARA Holiday Dinner. He asked about the venue. The assembled members agreed that last year's venue, Lui-Lui, worked well. Drew will contact Lui-Lui and reserve the place for December 12 or December 19, whichever is available. He will email the date to the membership. As has become custom, members can arrive at the Holiday Dinner starting at 5:30pm for hors d'ouvres and punch-bowl provided by the club.

New HF Frequency Allocations

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported on the FCC "Omnibus" Amateur Radio Report and Order (R&O) which was published in the Federal Register on November 15 and which becomes effective December 15, 2006. Eric reported that the R&O increases spectrum for phone transmissions on 80m, 40m, and 15m at the expense of CW/RTTY/data modes. Novices and Tech-Plus licensees gain significant spectrum for CW on the traditional Novice bands (80m, 40m, 15m), and spectrum for CW/data on 10m.

Eric distributed ARRL frequency charts with the new allocations.

Emergency Management Agency

Guest Dan Dolata, assistant director of Athens County EMA, visited to announce that the new EMA director, Fred Davis (594-2261), appreciates ham radio participation in emergencies and wishes to meet with the club in the next few weeks to discuss issues concerning emergency communications. Drew McDaniel asked Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, to act as liaison with the EMA. Jeff agreed and will meet initially with Dan and Fred and then will arrange another meeting between EMA and the membership. W8PG suggested that the Sunday Creek group be involved in these meetings.

Dan Dolata reported that the small radio room in the EMA needs to be updated and that it might still be possible to get federal grant money for doing so. Dan also explained that Fred Davis has proposed that a "Forward EOC" be implemented during an emergency.

Survey

John McCutcheon presented the results of the

survey which has been mailed to the membership in October. He reported that he received eight responses and that these eight responses contained a great number of good ideas which will be incorporated into club events.

Earlier Meeting Time

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, announced that as a result of the survey (see above) the club meetings will start a half-hour earlier for social time before the regular 7:30pm start of the business meeting.

License Class

Jeff Slattery announced that he and John McCutcheon will present a license class for the club beginning on Monday, January 8 with a test session tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 12. The classes will again be in Jeff's classroom in the Athens High School. Jeff reported that there's a new question-pool for the Technician test and a new ARRL Study Guide.

John Cornwell, NC8V, asked if the class was going to include training in CW. John McCutcheon said this would depend on the students' interest. John Biddle, W8PG, said that if CW credit isn't earned with the initial license, it's very unlikely for a new ham to earn it later. He added that he thinks showing videos about amateur radio to the students might help to spur their interest in learning CW.

Drew McDaniel said he would like to see the class promoted more than it has been in the past. He asked the club for permission to buy advertising in The Athens News and The Post newspapers. His suggestion was modified to include buying advertising in The Athens Messenger and the motion was passed unanimously.

Announcements

Jim Crouse announced that Bill Gardener, W8WG, was mentioned in the December, 2006, QST along with his CW oscillator design, "The Cheaper Beeper."

Jim Crouse announced that Skywarn Recognition Day is December 2, 2006. (See ARRL press release: http://www.arrl.org/pio/press_releases/2006/1120.html) The Charleston National Weather Service office will be participating.

Program

Contests & Contest Logging Software

John McCutcheon discussed the upcoming ARRL 10-meter Contest which is December 9-10. He explained how to convert contest UTC/Z/GMT times to local times. He asked that all members who participate to let him know afterwards so he can include them in the club entry. (John's email is mccutchj@ohio.edu) The contest announcement can be found in the November issue of QST.

John McCutcheon also discussed and demonstrated the contest logging software "CT", using the ARRL 10-meter Contest as the example event. He showed CT version 10 for DOS. He explained that CT can be downloaded for free at <http://www.K1EA.com>; download and install version 9, and then download and install the upgrade to version 10. John also explained that whatever contest logging software is used, it is important to download and install any updates prior to an event so that the software is correctly configured for the event.

Drew McDaniel discussed the free contest logging software "N1MM". He explained that N1MM is designed for use on a Windows PC. Drew gave out installation CDs for N1MM and noted that the installer and updates can be downloaded at <http://pages.cthome.net/n1mm/>.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm by president Drew McDaniel.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.