

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of May 15, 2007

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| In Attendance: | John Biddle | W8PG |
| | Gary Bruce | KD8FRN |
| | John Cornwell | NC8V |
| | Jim Crouse | KC8OVB |
| | Bob Curtis | KD8FRQ |
| | Carl Denbow | N8VZ |
| | Walt Jones | WT8E |
| | John McCutcheon | N8XWO |
| | Eric McFadden | WD8RIF |
| | Pat Pallini | WB3LUC |
| | Rich Post | KB8TAD |
| | John Thomas | KC8JWZ |

Following the 7:00pm social gathering, the meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by vice-president John McCutcheon, N8XWO.

The minutes of the April, 2007 meeting were accepted as distributed.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. A portion of the report concerned the expenses and proceeds of the Hamfest. Jim suggested that a discount on the cost of the Recreation Center might be appropriate because proper facility set-up hadn't been performed.

Old Business

Athens Hamfest

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, distributed a detailed expenses/income report. He reported that 374 tickets were sold and sixteen promotional were redeemed for a total attendance of 390, the highest recorded attendance since 2002, the first year for which he has attendance records. The total income was \$2591. Jim explained that the cost of the Recreation Center has yet to be determined but the estimated profit is \$1240.76.

Repeater

Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported no change to repeater status.

2m Net

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reported that the 2m net continues to see good participation. He reported that the May running of the net had five participants.

The ACARA 2m Net meets at 7pm every second Monday of

the month on the ACARA 145.15MHz repeater. The next net is June 11.

5pm 6AM Net

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that the 6m AM net is nearing its fourth anniversary and continues to have strong participation.

The 5pm 6AM net meets at 5pm every Sunday on 50.4mc and uses amplitude modulation (AM). The use of classic tube-type equipment is encouraged but all are encouraged to participate. (For those participants using modern equipment, the net frequency is 50.MHz.)

New Business

Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS)

Eric McFadden, WD8rif, reported that there appears to be growing interest in building an APRS node in Athens. Specifically, he said that he, Ted Jacobson (W8KVK), and Jeff Slattery (N8SUZ) were interested in providing a node in Athens. Eric explained that APRS is the technology that he, Ted, and Jeff have been using in support of the Athens Marathon to provide race organizers with a real-time map of the race leader's location. He added that an Athens APRS node would allow further APRS-support of the Athens Marathon, enhanced support of the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA), and high-altitude Amateur Radio balloon data-capture and tracking.

Eric reported that a central-Ohio ham, Phil Humphries, N8LRG, has noticed the lack of APRS coverage in southeast Ohio and has provided a Motorola MaxTrac 300 25-watt commercial VHF transceiver programmed with the national APRS frequency for use in an Athens APRS node.

Eric asked if the club has interest in building and maintaining an APRS node and said that if the club chooses not to then he, Ted, and Jeff might install a node at the High School. John Biddle, W8PG, asked what equipment would be needed. Eric explained that in addition to the transceiver, a power supply, packet TNC, and antenna system would be needed. He added that Ted has a suitable TNC and can burn the required APRS ROM for it. Eric said he has a Cushcraft Ringo Ranger II antenna that he's willing to donate to the project.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, suggested that as a pilot project the APRS node be installed at the High School. This was voted on and accepted by the assembled members. Eric asked whether the club's callsign of W8UKE be used and it was agreed that this would be appropriate.

ACARA Summer Picnic

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reminded the membership that the time of the Summer Picnic is fast approaching. He reported that Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, has offered to host the picnic at his house to make up for having to cancel this month's "Shack Visit" meeting.

John asked about dates. He explained that the usual third-Tuesday meeting date is June 19 but suggested that this date might be too late in the summer for some members. He suggested that June 12, the second Tuesday of the month might be better. The members voted to accept the June 12 date.

Details:

ACARA Summer Picnic (and Shack Visit)
June 12 at W8MHV, 61 Briarwood, Athens
Assemble at 5 o'clock; eat at 5:30.
Club will provide burgers and hot dogs.
Bring a covered dish to share.
Bring own beverages and table service.
Family members welcome.

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, explained that parking at W8MHV is a problem. He explained that Briarwood is split into two one-way streets where Drew lives and that the inbound side, the one closer to Drew's house, is too narrow for on-street parking. Jim suggested driving past Drew's house to park at the turn-around and walk back to Drew's house, or to continue past the turn-around and park on the wider outbound street and walk down the hill to Drew's house.

ARRL Field Day -- Saturday, June 23 - Sunday, 24, 2007

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that the ARRL Field Day event occurs between 1800Z (2pm local time) June 23 and 1800Z June 24. He reported that the club will field a one-transmitter-class effort this year at the Athens County Fairgrounds. He said that members are needed both to help set up for the event and to operate. He added that this is a fun event and encouraged newly-licensed members to participate. Set-up will begin at 10am on Saturday.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Constantine Faller, KC8JXA, has reserved the use of and paid the fee for use of the County Fairgrounds. Constantine registered under his organization's name, "Athen's Own", so that the event would be covered by that organization's insurance policy. (Constantine had explained to Eric that the Fair Board now requires all users of the Fairgrounds to be insured against liability.)

Eric also reported that Constantine has offered the club the use of his trailer-mounted solar-electric (photovoltaic) array and battery-bank for this event. This system is large enough to power a 100-watt transceiver for the entire weekend.

John McCutcheon assigned Eric the task of setting up organization meetings to hash out the details. These meetings will include John McCutcheon, Eric McFadden, Jim Crouse, and Constantine Faller.

Programs

Show-and-Tell

Rich Post, KB8TAD, showed his restored-and-functional Hewlett-Packard HP-200C Audio Oscillator. He explained that the first version of this device was the very first product offered by William Hewlett and David Packard in the early 1940s and that the fledgeling company's first customer was the Walt Disney Company who bought eight oscillators for use in the production of their feature-film, "Fantasia". Rich added that these earliest HP devices were designed and built in Hewlett's garage.

Rich also showed an early HP Vacuum Tube Volt Meter (VTVM), explaining that this was the first design contribution by David Packard.

Ten-Tec Factory Tour and Introduction to Orion

Jim Crouse, KC80VB, provided a video tour of Ten-Tec's Sevierville factory and a video introduction to the company's flagship rig, the Orion.

John Cornwell, NC8V said that he has the second generation of this rig, the Orion II, and that the rig has a spectacular pair of receivers. He added that the primary difference between the original Orion described in the video and the current-model Orion II is the latter's color display.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm by vice-president John McCutcheon.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.