

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2008

In Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	Garry Bruce	KD8FRN
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	Miles McFadden	
	Rich Post	KB8TAD
	Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
	John Thomas	KC8JWZ

Following the 7:00pm social gathering, the meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Vice-President John McCutcheon, N8XWO.

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

The minutes of the February, 2008 meeting were accepted as distributed.

Old Business

Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that earlier in March Norfolk-Southern radio traffic was heard on the repeater. He explained that only the locomotive crews' transmissions were heard; the transmissions of the dispatcher were not heard. These transmissions were heard on the repeater on only one day.

Marathon -- Sunday, April 6, 2008

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, passed around a worker sign-up sheet and a map of the course with worker locations. He explained that the course this year is the same as last year's course with the addition of one aid station at the Tri-Valley Mental Health. This aid station will be for inbound-runners only.

Thank You Letter

Jim Crouse reported that he received a thank-you letter from Milena Miller of the Appalachian Community Visiting Nurse Association for the ACARA donation in memory of John Cornwell, NC8V.

An excerpt:

"On behalf of Appalachian Community Visiting Nurse Association, Hospice, and Health Services,

Inc., we wish to thank the Athens County Amateur Radio Association for its generous contribution of \$100.00 to support hospice services in our area in memory of Mr. John A. Cornwell. Your Support is greatly appreciated.

"When you donate to our organization, you enable us to continue our practice of caring for all residents of the community, especially those unable to pay for their own care. This is one of the most heartfelt gifts that can be given, and we thank you on behalf of those who will be recipients of your generosity. ACVNAHHS is a non-profit corporation, and your gift also enables us to cover costs not reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid and other third party sources.

"We will notify Mr. Brian Cornwell of your gift in his father's memory."

Dayton Hamvention Bus

Jim Crouse reported that the Lancaster group is chartering a bus to take to the Dayton Hamvention. For details, contact Jim.
(Find Jim's email address here:
<http://ac-ara.org/members.html>)

2008 Global Conversation Cafe -- Saturday, March 29

Jim Crouse reported that Kathy Jacobson, KC8ZHR, is hosting an event entitled "2008 Global Conversation Cafe" at the Athens Library on Saturday, March 29 from 2pm to 4:30pm. This event is being held in association with the Ohio Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week and with Global Conversation Week. Kathy is asking organizations to set up displays. The Red Cross and National Weather Service will display at the event.

Hamfest -- April 27, 2008

John McCutcheon reminded the membership that the annual postcard mailing session is coming up. An email notice will be sent to members once a date, time, and location are determined.

License Class

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the license class is over. At the testing session, five examinees passed seven elements, resulting in two new Technicians and two new Generals. One of the five examinees was a walk-in; the remainder were License Class participants.

New Business

Severe Storm Spotter Classes

Jeff Slattery announced upcoming Severe Storm Spotter Classes.

Basic Storm Spotter Training will be given Monday, April 28, 2008 at 6pm to 8pm at the Athens High School.

The date for Advanced Storm Spotter Training has yet to be set but it will be in September or October.

Both sessions are free. Registration is not required but is encouraged. For details, visit <http://www.weather.gov/charlestonwv/>

Program

Rich Post, KB8TAD, showed and described his recent project, a 100% recycled, high-current, variable power supply. This power supply is based in large part on a retired computer UPS. An article describing the circuit can be seen here: <http://tinyurl.com/25gbyc>.

Members interested in building something similar based on this article should contact Rich for a recommended change to the circuit. (Rich's email address can be found here: <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/bapix/>).

Jeff Slattery gave a nice presentation on Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) with a follow-up on building a "Jump Kit".

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm by Vice-President John McCutcheon.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.