

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of May 20, 2008

In Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	Rich Post	KB8TAD
	John Thomas	KC8JWZ

Following the 7:00pm social gathering, the meeting was called to order at 7:36pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

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

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

Repeater Report

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that repeater building storm door has again "sprung" as a result of the earlier wind damage. He reported that Walt Jones, WT8E, has sketched a repair to the door that would use steel hinges. Eric's motion to contact Brian Cornwell to repair the door according to Walt's design passed unanimously.

Eric reported that the grounding system has been restored at the repeater site.

Eric reported that while the fence is down at the repeater site to allow construction of a new cellular-system building, a night watchman will be on-site.

Eric reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, discovered on a visit to the site that the telephone line didn't have dial-tone. The tone came back after a few minutes, leading him to speculate that the problem is that the phone isn't taken "off hook" often enough. Eric's subsequent tests of the autopatch didn't disclose any problems.

Eric reported that the two packet systems at the repeater site are not protected by Polyphasors. (These packet systems are the DX node system and the APRS system.) Eric's motion that the club install Polyphasors on both packet systems passed unanimously. Eric will coordinate with Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, the packet-node trustee.

Old Business

ACARA Hamfest -- April 27, 2008

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reported that this year's

hamfest had 300 attendees, a number slightly down from 2007. Jim distributed a hamfest financial report.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, shared a letter he received from Allen Sellers, KB8JLG, a member of the Lancaster group that provided VE sessions (license testing) at the ACARA hamfest. In the letter, Allen asked that at future hamfests testing be made available for only those who preregister and that walk-ins not be accepted. Allen provided two reasons for this request. First, he explained that walk-ins often don't have the required photo ID. Second, walk-ins often decide to test simply because the opportunity exists to do so. Such walk-ins haven't studied and, as a result, often fail, using significant amounts of the VE's valuable time. Much discussion ensued and the vote to require preregistration passed unanimously. Drew will inform Allen of this and will ask him for preregistration contact information which will be included on the hamfest mailings and club website.

Jim Crouse asked about setting the date for the 2009 Hamfest. Drew pointed out that the last Sunday of April, 2009 is the 26th. The vote to set April 26, 2009 as the date for hamfest passed unanimously.

New Business

"Ohio State Parks on the Air" -- September 6, 2008

Jim Crouse introduced the "Ohio State Parks on the Air", a new operating event sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service. The event encourages Ohio hams to activate state parks and that all hams endeavor to make contacts with stations in all seventy-three Ohio State Parks. The event runs from noon until 8pm. (Full details about the event can be found here: [http://parks.portcars.org/.](http://parks.portcars.org/))

Jim explained that he and John McCutcheon, N8XWO, have reserved a shelter at Strouds Run State Park for September 6. Jim added that the usual fee for shelter-use has been waived. John announced that he will provide the HF rig, antenna, mast, feedline, and generator.

Jim and John suggested that this event be combined with a social activity similar to the annual summer picnic. The members present agreed that this is an excellent idea. The club will provide hamburgers and hotdogs; members provide a dish to share, and beverages and serving-ware for themselves. Eating will commence at 4pm.

June Picnic -- June 17, 2008

Drew McDaniel asked about the date and venue for the annual summer picnic. No conflicts were found with the usual third-Tuesday so June 17 was chosen. It was decided to use the shelter at Dairy Lane and Southpark. Jim Crouse will investigate use of the putting course. The club will provide hamburgers and hotdogs; members provide a dish to share, and beverages and serving-ware for themselves. Members are encouraged to arrive at 5pm. Eating will commence at 5:30.

Field Day -- June 28-29, 2008

John McCutcheon reminded the members of the upcoming ARRL Field Day event the weekend of June 28-29, 2008, and encouraged members to come to the event to help set up and to operate.

John reported that the ACARA will again set up at the Kiwanis shelter at the Athens County Fairgrounds. He stated that a completely-solar station might again be possible but he needs to coordinate first with Constantine Faller, KC8JXA.

John, Eric McFadden, and other interested parties will meet prior to the event to work out details.

Drew asked about the possibility of getting a Pepsi banner to hang at the site. John Biddle, W8PG, procured the hamfest banners and will investigate getting similar banners for Field Day.

Program

Jim Crouse provided an ICOM video that highlighted Field Day, the IC-7800 transceiver, and Dayton Hamvention 2004.

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

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.