

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of September 16, 2008 (as amended)

In Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	Greg Broadhurst	KC8JWY
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
	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 7:33pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

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

The Treasurer's Report was presented by treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. He stated that the Recreation Center has not submitted a bill for use of the facility for the hamfest. Jim will provide Drew with necessary documentation so Drew can apply for the tourism grant funds. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Old Business

Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that repeater building floor and door repairs were accomplished by Brian Cornwell. Eric reported that following said repairs, wind damage occurred to the new storm door. Eric repaired said damage himself and installed a hasp and clip to prevent similar damage from occurring again.

Packet Nodes

Eric McFadden reported that he has purchased and received the two Polyphasor devices for the two packet nodes located at the repeater site. The installation of these devices is awaiting resolution of the issue with the DX node.

The DX node is still off the air following a complaint by the Athens PD that the transmitter was interfering with their repeater. Jim Crouse reported that the transceiver is currently with Bill Warthman who has been asked to check transmitter on a spectrum analyzer. Jim will contact Bill again about this. Drew will inquire about borrowing the spectrum analyzer if Bill is unable to check the transmitter.

*** Correction *** The DX node transceiver, an ICOM IC-2200H, is still in the possession of Jim Crouse. He

is waiting for Bill Warthman to find time to check it out.

Drew asked if the interference to the Athens PD repeater has gone away with the DX node out-of-service. The answer to that question is not known.

Field Day

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that the ACARA's Field Day 2008 effort at the Athens County Fairgrounds was a success. Participation was good. Several guests visited in response to the media publicity efforts. Many contacts were made despite Saturday's bad weather.

Eric McFadden reported that one of the visitors gave the club a military AN-GRA4 mast system. The AN-GRA4 is an aluminum forty-foot guyed mast that can be used to support one end of a horizontal dipole or the center of an inverted-vee. It can also be loaded as a vertical.

Ohio QSO Party

John McCutcheon reported that club participation in the recent Ohio QSO Party contest was very good.

New Business

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

The "Ohio State Parks on the Air" is a new event sponsored by the Portage County Amateur Radio Service. John McCutcheon reported that the ACARA's combined operation/picnic at Strouds Run State Park was a success. Fifty contacts were made with hams at 31 other state parks. The 40/80-meter low-mounted dipole provided very good coverage of the whole state of Ohio.

Jim Crouse distributed a very nicely done report on the ACARA effort.

Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, had invited Dennis Powell of the Athens News to attend. Dennis Powell did visit and shot several photos and spent considerable time talking with members. The September 15 issue of the Athens News contained an article by Dennis Powell about the event, the ACARA, and Amateur Radio. The article can be seen online here:

<http://athensnews.com/opinion/mudsock/2008/sep/15/view-mudsock-heights-statewide-amateur-radio-conte/>

Ohio University Amateur Radio Club

Drew McDaniel reported that he received an email from Grant Shorton, K6PLR, who is trying to compile a

history of the OU club and to revive it. Grant and others have been discussing this on HF nets and email. Ted Jacobson has also been involved in this discussion to some degree.

Drew explained that he was the club advisor in the early 1970s when the station was located in the penthouse of Clippinger Hall. He reported that Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O, who had been advisor more recently, had renewed the station call sign, W8PZS, which is still current.

Drew asked what does the club wants to do to help revive the club. John Biddle suggested that the only way the ACARA could have much involvement with a revived OU club would be for the OU club advisor to be a member of the ACARA. When it was pointed out that an advisor needs to be an employee of OU, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, who is a full-time faculty member, volunteered to be an advisor.

In part of the email exchange, Ted had suggested space for the club be found in the old Baker Center. Drew suggested that university policy entitles all officially sanctioned student organizations space in the new Baker University Center; such space would give the OU club good visibility to other students.

It was agreed that the main problem in reviving the OU club is identifying students who are hams or who have interest in Amateur Radio. Drew suggested that in the late fall, a portable station be operated in the Baker University Center to help identify interest and to promote the winter licensing class.

John McCutcheon asked if something can be submitted to the OU Post to help gauge student interest.

Jim Crouse suggested the licensing class be held in the Baker University Center if there is student interest. John McCutcheon suggested that because Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, is the primary force behind the licensing class, the class should probably remain at the high school.

John McCutcheon suggested a "visit a shack" night for interested students.

Drew pointed out that a major problem with university clubs is that students are already busy with classes, etc.

2009 Hamfest

Drew McDaniel proposed April 26, 2009 as the date of the 2009 hamfest. This date is the traditional date for the hamfest, the last Sunday in April. A motion was made to accept this proposal and it was seconded. The

proposal passed unanimously.

Nomination of Officers for 2009

After discussion, it was proposed that the existing slate of officers be nominated. A motion was made to accept the proposal, it was seconded, and the proposal passed unanimously.

Program

Drew McDaniel presented a brief travelogue on his summer travel to Mongolia, South Africa, and Australia.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm by president Drew McDaniel.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.