

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2009

In Attendance: John Biddle W8PG
Garry Bruce KD8FRN
Jim Crouse KC8OVB
Bob Curtis KD8FRQ
Evan Dickenson K8ELD
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 approximately 7:30 pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

The minutes of the January, 2009 meeting were accepted as distributed.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported that he has no news yet about the Athens County Visitors' Bureau grant.

Old Business

Ohio University Amateur Radio Club

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, reported that the advertisement he placed in the paper generated no interest. One of Bob's students who already holds a Technician license has shown interest. Bob will send a note to Engineering faculty.

Drew reported that two of his students have displayed interest in the club. One of them started attending the licensing class but had to drop out due to other obligations.

Bob reported that he will encourage interested students to study on their own for their licenses and toward that end he will talk to Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, about study guides.

Ham Radio Class

In the absence of both John McCutcheon, N8XWO, and Jeff Slattery, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported on the Ham Radio Class. He reported that nine students are attending the sessions. The test session will be on March 16.

ACARA Hamfest -- April 26, 2009

Drew McDaniel reported that the Recreation Center has been reserved and the event is ARRL sanctioned and appears in the ARRL Hamfest Calendar. We have a sufficient number of tickets for this year.

Jim Crouse will send flyers and complimentary tickets to clubs in the region. He reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, will again print mailing labels. Jim will arrange a get-together to prepare flyers for the general mailing.

Winter Potluck -- February 21, 6pm @ Red Cross Chapterhouse

Drew McDaniel reminded the membership of the upcoming Winter Potluck at the Red Cross Chapterhouse on May Avenue in Athens. Members are to bring a dish to share, their own beverages, and their own table service. John McCutcheon will be showing some short films.

Athens Marathon -- Sunday, April 5

Acting chairman Jim Crouse reports that he wishes to pass the chairmanship to another. Eric McFadden volunteered to act as liaison with the Marathon Committee and to attend Marathon planning meetings. Drew McDaniel volunteered to help with worker assignments.

Eric McFadden reported that the Marathon will be using "chip-timing" this year. Each of the runners will have an RFID device attached to their shoe and mats will be placed at the half-marathon and full-marathon turn-arounds and finish-line. This system will not be used to track runners anywhere except at the turn-arounds and finish line.

Eric McFadden reported that he, Ted Jacobson, and Jeff Slattery have been discussing whether the club needs to keep providing the APRS service. Jeff says the APRS has been useful to event organizers at the finish line. Eric will provide lead-runner APRS tracking but Ted will not translate Eric's voice-reports to packet spots as he has done in the past.

ARRL Leonard Award

Eric McFadden reported that he received a reply from the ARRL concerning the club's nomination of Dennis Powell for the ARRL Leonard Award.

Thank you for your recent nomination of Dennis Powell for the ARRL's Leonard Award. There were many good nominations this year and the decision process was quite difficult. In the end, Ted Randall was recommended to the Board of Directors and confirmed as the winner in

their January meeting.

While not a winner, I still want to applaud you and Dennis Powell for the efforts shown in your nomination. It is only with the help of many friends like you that Amateur Radio continues to be the Service we love and able to help so many people in need.

The letter was signed by Allen Pitts, W1AGP,
Media and Public Relations Manager.

Eric will give a copy of the letter to Dennis Powell.

New Business

There was no new business discussed at the meeting.

Program

Rich Post, KB8TAD, showed his restored Signal Corps BC-348Q receiver. This model receiver was used in the B-17 and other multi-engine bombers during World War II. Pictures, description, and period advertisements can be seen on Rich's website:

http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/bapix/BC348Q_2.htm

Drew McDaniel gave a presentation, "Making the Most of Your Radio's Audio", demonstrated how a bass-reflex speaker works, and introduced the software "Spectrogram" which can be used to optimize a receiver's BFO frequency and filters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm by president Drew McDaniel.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.