

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2009

In Attendance: John Biddle W8PG  
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 7:39 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.

Old Business

Ham Radio Licensing Class

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that at the testing session on March 16 seven individuals took the Technician test and all passed. Four of these individuals were children. Drew McDaniel pointed out that this is the first time the class has had a 100% success rate. Five of the new Technicians, including all four of the children, went on to take the General test but none passed.

As has become traditional, all seven of the newly-licensed hams were given a free membership in the ACARA.

Drew McDaniel said that the ACARA greatly appreciates those who organize and support the annual licensing class.

ACARA Hamfest -- April 26, 2009

John McCutcheon asked if the club is in a position to do the VE testing itself, saying that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has volunteered to organize the test session. Drew McDaniel explained that the Lancaster group is already lined up to provide testing at this year's hamfest and that the flyers already reflect that club's requirement for pre-registration. Drew suggested that the club can look at doing the testing itself beginning with next year's event.

Drew McDaniel reported that he received a letter from the Athens County Convention and Visitor's Bureau

(ACCVB) in response to the club's application for a tourism grant. The letter explained that the ACARA's request for a grant has been declined due to limited funds caused by cuts in city funding. The letter went on to invite the ACARA to apply for a "sponsorship". The membership present gave Drew permission to investigate and apply for said sponsorship. The entire letter can be viewed here:

<http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/text/acara/accvb2009.pdf>

Jim Crouse, KC80VB, suggested the club remove the ACCVB logo from the hamfest flyers and postcards if sponsorship is denied.

Drew said he will add a list of door-prize donors to the postcards but needs to know who is providing door-prizes before the cards are printed. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, will contact Universal Radio about support of the event; Jim Crouse will contact MFJ.

The Recreation-Center walk-through will occur on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 21.

ARRL "Leonard Professional Media Award"

Eric McFadden reminded the membership that in February the ACARA nominated journalist Dennis Powell for the ARRL's Herman Leonard award but that Mr. Powell was not selected to be the recipient of the award. Eric read the letter that he mailed to Mr. Powell. This letter can be viewed here:

[http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/text/acara/LeonardAwardDennis Powell12009.pdf](http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/text/acara/LeonardAwardDennisPowell12009.pdf)

Athens Marathon -- April 5, 2009

Jim Crouse reported that he has not yet been contacted by the marathon committee. He said he will attempted to contact someone to verify that the ACARA's services are still requested.

Acting under the assumption that the ACARA's services are still required, Drew reported that there are thirteen positions requiring operators.

John McCutcheonsuggested that someone be assigned to the half-marathon turn-around point for the early portion of the race to ease the collecting of race-leader numbers; he suggested that the person assigned to full-marathon turn-around would have time to first serve at the half-marathon turn-around.

Drew passed around a marathon map and sign-up sheet. He said he will be contacting members not present at the meeting to invite them to help in the AcARA's

communications support of the Athens Marathon. He will also be inviting all the newly-licensed hams to participate; inexperienced operators will be paired with experienced operators.

#### New Business

##### Roosevelt Tower and possible Athens City antenna ban

John McCutcheon reported that he has been attending Athens City Council meetings. His research has disclosed that the city's long-range plan specifically exempts amateur radio antennas and towers from possible outside antenna bans. He explained that the members of the amateur radio community must remain vigilant so that this exemption isn't removed.

##### Jackson Hamfest -- April 11, 2009

Jim Crouse reported that the Jackson, Ohio, Hamfest is April 11 at a new location, the YMCA on Main Street. The club received a flyer and a free ticket to the hamfest. Drew took the ticket and will pass it on to one of the newly-licensed Technicians.

#### Program

Richard Post, KB8TAD, presented on two topics.

Rich's first presentation was a show-and-tell on Conelrad, the first Cold-War predecessor to the modern Emergency Alert System. Rich showed two consumer receivers of the period that had the distinctive triangles at 640kHz and 1240kHz on the dial. Rich also showed a Conalert II, an example of the sort of professional receiver that was required equipment at all commercial AM radio stations of the time.

Rich's second presentation was on his recent antenna project, a 6-meter J-Pole made from wire and a scrap of vinyl house siding. John McCutcheon described the resulting antenna as being "Grube-like".

More about Conelrad and the Conalert II can be found on Rich's website:

<http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/bapix/Conalert.htm>

Details about Rich's 6-meter J-Pole can be found on his website: <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/bapix/6Jpole.htm>

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

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.

