

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2009 -- corrected

In Attendance: John Biddle W8PG
Jim Crouse KC8OVB
Bob Curtis KD8FRQ
Evan Dickenson K8ELD
Carl Denbow N8VZ
John McCutcheon N8XWO
Drew McDaniel W8MHV
Eric McFadden WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery N8SUZ
John Thomas KC8JWZ

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

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

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

Old Business

Athens Marathon

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, thanked those who helped provide communications at the 2009 Athens Marathon. He reported that there's a Marathon follow-up meeting 6pm, Thursday, April 23 at Abrio's.

City Meeting -- "Protection of Viewsheds"

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that he will represent amateur radio at this Thursday's city meeting. He and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the state-level version of PRB-1 has stalled and that a new version will be introduced soon.

License Manuals

Jeff Slattery reported that he still has six or seven copies of the current ARRL Technician study guides. This edition expires soon. Jeff is going to offer these at \$19/copy to GOBA hams and will bring those remaining to the hamfest.

Website

Jeff Slattery reported that the club's domain name (ac-ara.org) is due for renewal and asked for authorization to renew the domain for five years at \$10 per year. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, made motion to allow this and John McCutcheon seconded the motion. The issue passed unanimously.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, mentioned that QTH.com provides domain name registration and that the company is run by a ham. Jeff explained that he will renew the domain name through the company that's currently hosting the website.

Repeater

Eric McFadden reported that he has visited the repeater site to turn off the heater and perform other spring-time tasks.

Eric noted that the repeater seems to be losing sensitivity and that he hopes to visit the site again soon with equipment to measure insertion-loss of the duplexer and verify condition of the antenna feedline.

John Biddle, W8PG, reminded the members of the history of the repeater at its current location. He noted that Athens city paid for the installation of the antenna and feedline on what was then the ICN cellular tower.

Carl Denbow suggested that a second receiver-site would help with the tower-shadow problem that hurts repeater coverage to the south.

New Business

Ohio State Parks on the Air -- Saturday, September 12

John McCutcheon announced the upcoming Ohio State Parks on the Air event.

Jim Crouse volunteered to contact Strouds Run State Park to reserve the shelter the club used last year for this event.

As was the case last year, this operating event will also be the club's fall potluck.

ACARA Hamfest -- Sunday, April 26, 2009

Carl Denbow reported that twenty-five tables have been reserved but only nine have been pre-paid. He noted that most of the reservations were sent to Drew, probably because the website still mentions Drew as the contact person. Jeff Slattery said he will build a table-reservation web-form for next year's event.

Drew McDaniel reported that the club needs more tickets printed before the event. Union Printing, the company that printed the tickets last year, seems to be out of business. Jeff Slattery suggested Tribune in Nelsonville might be able to do the job. Minuteman Press is at the location of the old Union Printing. John Biddle will

contact Minuteman Press; if they are unable to do the job he will contact Tribune. Kinkos in Athens will be final fall-back although they probably can't print tickets with sequential numbers. John was instructed to order 1000 tickets with numbers starting at 1000.

Jim Crouse reported that the Red Cross and David Underwood will again be providing food at the event. Eric McFadden mentioned that Constantine Faller, KC8JXA, has concerns about this arrangement; Constantine told Eric that the Red Cross lacks a food-service license is thus prohibited by law from selling food at a set price and that the club can be held liable if someone gets sick from the food. Jim Crouse will look into this issue.

Drew McDaniel reported that the event requires thirteen workers and he passed around a worker sign-up sheet. Although Drew will be in Nevada until the Saturday before the event, he will contact members via telephone to seek additional workers. Other members present at the meeting also volunteered to contact specific members.

Eric McFadden reported that Ron Chapman, Sr. has agreed again to allow the club to use his public-address system. Eric will pick up and return the PA system.

Jim Crouse will contact the city to arrange for thirty small highway cones; John McCutcheon will pick up the cones on Friday and will return them on Monday.

John McCutcheon will bring equipment for the mobile-check-in station.

Drew McDaniel will bring the banners.

Carl Denbow will bring the ticket drum.

Drew reported that the shipment from ARRL has arrived.

Eric McFadden reported that he has catalogs and door prizes from Universal Amateur Radio.

Jim Crouse reported that he has door prizes from R&L. (Correction per Jim: sentence had said "from MFJ"; MFJ sent no prizes this year.)

Jim Crouse will bring the major prizes (one \$100 bill and two \$50 bills) and ten dollar-coins.

Drew reported that Rich at the Rec Center all but promised to have the tables set up according to Carl's diagram by 6am Sunday.

Jim Crouse asked if the club will again offer \$5 memberships at the hamfest. Yes, the club will offer the \$5 memberships at the hamfest.

Drew reminded the membership that he will be out of town until the evening of Saturday before the hamfest. Club officers (John McCutcheon, Jim Crouse, Eric McFadden) have Drew's cellphone number in case he needs to be contacted prior to the hamfest.

ARRL Field Day -- Saturday-Sunday, June 27-28, 2009

John McCutcheon confirmed that the club will again participate in Field Day at the Athens County Fairgrounds.

Eric McFadden reported that Constantine Faller might have a conflict Field Day weekend and might not be able to provide his mobile-kitchen although his battery-bank will be made available regardless.

John McCutcheon and Eric McFadden will work together to plan the club's effort.

Program

Due to the length of the business meeting, the video program that was to be the meeting program was canceled.

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

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.