

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2009

In Attendance: John Biddle W8PG
Jim Crouse KC8OVB
Bob Curtis KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow N8VZ
Bill Masters W8ZZO
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 7:31 pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

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

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. Jim reported that the Athens Marathon Committee wishes to present the ACARA with a financial gift in recognition of the support the club has given the marathon. Jim also reported that he has filed the Form 990 with the IRS.

Old Business

Hamfest

Jim Crouse presented the hamfest financial report. There were 347 paid admissions and 18 promotional admissions giving 2009 the second highest number of attendees ever.

Drew McDaniel reported that the ARRL Deputy Director was impressed with the hamfest.

Drew reported that twelve people took exams at the hamfest. Three earned their Extra class licenses, three earned General, and three earned Technician; three failed to pass any exam.

Jim Crouse mentioned that he had allowed one non-profit church group into the hamfest for free because he hadn't known the ACARA's policy on this issue. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, mentioned that this group asked for free admission in 2008, too. Drew agreed that admissions policies need to be placed in writing for the 2010 hamfest.

Drew reported that at least one attendee who tried to camp overnight in the parking lot nearest the tennis courts was made to move by Rec Center personnel. He said that he would add that no overnight parking is available to the hamfest mailings and direct people to the Walmart. He added that in the past he has directed people to camp overnight in the lot nearest the swimming pool and

to his knowledge none have been bothered.

Drew mentioned that he had received an inordinate number of phone calls this year. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, said this was because Drew is the point-of-contact listed on the ACARA website. Rich Post, KB8TAD, said that Drew is also listed as POC on the ARRL website listing.

Drew reported that he had applied for Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau sponsorship prior to the event but hasn't received any sort of response from the Bureau even after contacting them several times.

Carl Denbow mentioned that the O'Bleness Foundation provides grants to organizations that benefit the city of Athens.

Ohio University Amateur Radio Club

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, reported that he has been given space for a station in Stocker and permission for an antenna on the roof. He also has access to money that must be spent within the next two weeks and asked for guidance on what he might purchase. Bob will be working with Engineering students on a project involving digital modes over radio.

Drew McDaniel confirmed that he is donating an HF rig to the OU club.

Bob asked that the club place an announcement in the newspapers regarding Field Day to encourage students to attend.

New Business

Summer Picnic -- Tuesday, June 16

Jim Crouse reported that he has reserved the Dairy Lane shelterhouse for the picnic.

Attendees are to gather starting at 5pm and eating will commence at 6pm. The club will provide hamburger, buns, and condiments. Attendees are to bring their own beverages, table service, and a dish to share.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that he will bring charcoal.

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

John McCutcheon reported that the club needs to reserve the Kiwanis Shelter on the County Fairgrounds. Jim Crouse volunteered to contact the Fair Board.

John McCutcheon and Eric McFadden will verify the condition of the club's military AN/GRA-4 mast assembly.

John will provide several wire antennas.

Drew McDaniel hopes to be able to provide his 100-watt Elecraft K2.

Program

Carl Denbow distributed free copies of the newest Ohio Repeater Directory that he picked up at the Dayton Hamvention.

Carl gave an excellent presentation on digital modes in general and PSK-31 specifically and showed his Flex 3000 software-defined radio. He gave out DVDs of videos by K7AGE on configuring and operating PSK-31. (The videos can be seen online, here:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQpBGh9RMEQ&feature=Playlist&p=8D7C6EBD6E2081E2&index=0&playnext=1>)

(Upon packing up, Carl discovered that someone might have taken an empty DVD case; if you find that your DVD case lacks the DVD, contact Carl to get the DVD.)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm by vice-president John McCutcheon.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.