

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association -- Amended

Minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2010

In Attendance: John Biddle W8PG
Gary Carter KD8MSR
Jim Crouse KC8OVB
Bob Curtis KD8FRQ
John McCutcheon N8XWO
Drew McDaniel W8MHV
Eric McFadden WD8RIF
Kate McFadden KD8KNB
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, 2010 meeting were accepted as distributed.

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

Old Business

Hamfest -- Sunday, April 25

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported that the Athens County Tourism Board no longer offers tourism grants. Instead, they provide promotional time on Time-Warner cable. The Tourism Board does still offer "sponsorships" and they are accepting applications now. Drew asked if he should apply for a sponsorship to help cover promotional expenses. The members voted that he should.

Amateur Radio Licensing Class

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, announced that there are now three students participating in the class.

The exam session will be on March 15, at 6pm at the Athens High School. The exam session is open to anyone interested in testing and exams for all classes of license will be given.

February Potluck -- 5:30pm Saturday, February 20, at Red Cross

Drew McDaniel reminded the membership of this upcoming social event. Members and their families may gather at the Red Cross Chapterhouse (100 South May Ave., Athens) at 5:30 and eating will begin at 6pm. Bring a dish to share, tableware, and beverages. John McCutcheon will be screening "My Little Chickadee".

Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, had nothing to report about the

repeater.

Athens Marathon -- Sunday, April 11

Eric McFadden distributed a document with ideas for the use of the Marathon Committee Grant. Eric suggested the purchase of an self-contained APRS station, a 2m rig for the golf cart, and ARRL reflective vests. This document can be viewed in PDF format here:

http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/text/acara/WD8RIF_Athens_Marathon_Committee_Grant.pdf

The self-contained APRS station is a Byonics Micro-Trak AIO and includes an 8-watt 2m transmitter, GPS receiver, TinyTrak3 APRS encoder, and battery holder in a weather-proof enclosure and the cost is \$275 with the optional but necessary programming cable. Eric stated that the purchase of this device would allow Eric to move the APRS away from the Marathon voice-net and would allow his current APRS station to be used on the golf cart. After discussion, Eric made a motion that the club purchase one Byonics Micro-Trak AIO with whip antenna and programming cable for \$275. John McCutcheon seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

Eric's document suggested the purchase of a Yaesu FTM-10R weatherproof dual-band transceiver for use on the golf cart but he mentioned that members he has spoken to prefer brands other than Yaesu and that the FTM-10R is considerably more expensive than a traditional 2m-only mobile transceiver. John Biddle, W8PG, stated that he has no problem with the club continuing to use his very old 2m mobile rig on the golf cart but he has concerns about it being damaged in the case of rain. Jim Crouse made a motion that the club purchase one ICOM IC-2200 or IC-8000. The motion was seconded by Bob

Curtis,

KD8FRQ. The vote passed unanimously.

Eric's documented suggested the purchase of a quantity of reflective vests for use by members working at Marathon and other public-service events. The ARRL sells reflective vests in orange and in green with the words "Radio Communications" on the back for \$14.95 each. Jim Crouse stated that he found a similar vest to be very useful while working Pelatonia in

2009.

John McCutcheon suggested that vests could be "signed out" to members so as to be readily available to those members. Drew McDaniel made a motion that the club purchase fifteen (15) of the orange reflective vests from the ARRL. John Biddle seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Eric McFadden will forward to Jim Crouse the details about the Byonics device. Jim will order the Byonics device, the 2m mobile rig, and the reflective vests.

Jim Crouse mentioned that the Marathon Committee is meeting on Monday the 22nd. He will forward the details to Eric McFadden.

John Biddle suggested that the club consider purchasing magnetic signs for use on automobiles but no motion was made to investigate a purchase.

ACARA Logo

Eric McFadden presented to the membership the logo he had designed following last month's discussion. He explained that he had come up with several variations and had discussed these via email with the club officers who narrowed the choices down to one to be presented to the club. The members liked the design and approved its adoption as the official logo of the Athens County Amateur Radio Association. A small version of the logo can be seen here:

http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/text/acara/acara_logo_04_277x300.gif

Eric will contact Tom Wolf of the Marathon Committee to ask to have the new logo added to the back of the marathon t-shirts.

New Business

Ohio University Amateur Radio Club

Bob Curtis reported that the OU club has two new Technician Class licensees and a new General Class licensee.

Ohio University Bicycle Race -- April 10, 2010

Eric McFadden reported that the club has been asked to provide communications support for an upcoming US Cycling Federation Collegiate Bicycle Race that the OU Cycling Team is sponsoring on Saturday, April 10. The race begins and ends at Lake Hope and consists of a loop approximately 20 miles in length. The race starts at noon and will finish by 3pm although clean-up activities might continue through 5pm. The course is very hilly and the roads will not be closed to vehicular traffic. Cell phone coverage in that area is very poor.

Two deputies and one SEOEMS unit are committed to this event. One deputy and the SEOEMS unit will remain at Lake Hope. The second deputy will be stationed at the most dangerous point of the course.

The OU Cycling Team is asking the ACARA to provide one operator to be located at Lake Hope and a second to operate mobile while driving the course. The event might be able to provide gas-money to those ACARA members participating.

A map of the course can be viewed here:

<http://www.mapmyride.com/ride/united-states/oh/zaleski/523809510>

Discussion about ACARA support of this event ensued. It was

noted that this event occurs the day before the Athens Marathon. It was noted that the AcARA's 145.15MHz repeater has only very poor coverage in the area of Lake Hope. Eric suggested that a 2m simplex net might work well enough. Jim Crouse suggested that the Vinton County club be contacted both to inquire about use of their repeater and to seek additional operators. (Correction: The Vinton County repeater is on 147.105 MHz, positive offset, and PL tone 88.5Hz.)

will Jim Crouse agreed to talk to the Vinton County group. Eric not promise anything to the OU Cycling Team until Jim has spoken with the Vinton County group.

Field Day 2010 -- June 26-27

Last month Eric McFadden suggested that since the ACARA lacks enough operators to field a competitive class 2A Field Day effort the club might field the usual class 1A HF-only effort and a second class 1A VHF/UHF station using a separate callsign for the express purpose of exposing members and visitors to frequencies and modes not represented at the main station. Eric reported that he has studied the Field Day rules and could find no prohibition against two operations sharing the same location.

Programs

Eric McFadden gave a presentation on his participation in the 2010 "Freeze Your B___ Off" QRP wintertime field day earlier this month. The presentation can be viewed in PDF format here:
[http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/text/acara/WD8RIF_FYBO_2010.p](http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/text/acara/WD8RIF_FYBO_2010.pdf)
df

Eric McFadden showed a video of Steve Galchutt, WGOAT, and his pack-goat, mountain-top Field Day 2009 effort.

The meeting was adjourned by President Drew McDaniel following the programs. (The time was not recorded.)

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.