

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of March 16, 2010

In Attendance: Gary Carter KD8MSR
 Jim Crouse KC8OVB
 Bob Curtis KD8FRQ
 Carl Denbow N8VZ
 John McCutcheon N8XWO
 Drew McDaniel W8MHV
 Eric McFadden WD8RIF
 Richard Post KB8TAD
 Charlie Tholin
 John Thomas KC8JWZ

Following the 7:00pm social gathering, the meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

The minutes of the January, 2010 meeting were presented by Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, made a correction to the Vinton County Repeater frequency and tone in the minutes. The minutes were accepted unanimously as amended.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. He reported that the Byonics APRS AIO tracker, Icom IC-2200, and reflective vests which were approved at the February meeting were ordered and have been received. Jim has the IC-2200 and the vests; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, has the Byonics APRS unit. The minutes were accepted unanimously as presented.

Old Business

Athens Marathon -- Sunday, April 11

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reported that he has sent an email asking for volunteers and has received several replies. Jim is hoping to get enough volunteers to allow him to schedule the West State Street Park and Armitage aid stations in two shifts.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Constantine Faller, KC8JXA, probably won't be participating this year so a new driver for the golf cart will probably need to be found.

Eric reported that he sent the ACARA logo files to Arnie LaGraff for inclusion on the t-shirts. Eric has not received a reply.

Jim reports that he will send an additional email with assignments. Volunteers will need to coordinate with Jim to pick up their reflective vests prior to the event.

Ohio University Bicycle Race -- April 10, 2010

Eric McFadden reported that the race is expected to have up to 500 competitors in four classes, male and female. One class of riders will ride four laps of the 20-mile loop.

At the meeting, Eric incorrectly reported that the race runs from noon until 3pm. In fact, the race runs from 10am until 3pm.

Eric reported that Jim Crouse has spoken with Rusty Perry, KD8DJE, of the Vinton County club. The ACARA has been given permission to use the Vinton County Repeater (147.105+, 88.5Hz tone) for support of the race. In addition, Rusty said the Vinton County club is interested in helping support this event and can provide two or three operators.

Eric reported that he has driven the race course and will drive it one more time to choose operator locations.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV; Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; and Charlie Tholin have committed to work the event.

Eric reported that the OU Cycling Team has suggested they might be able to provide some compensation in the form of gas-money. The assembled members agreed that this is inappropriate; Drew McDaniel suggested that a donation to the club would be more appropriate although no compensation is needed nor is any expected. Jim Crouse noted that were the Cycling Team to make

a donation to the club it should be split with the Vinton County Club; the assembled members agreed.

Details on the race can be found here:

<http://www.teamathenscycling.com/p/ourace.html>

Amateur Radio Licensing Class

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that the testing session of March 15 ended with both students earning their Technician licenses. In addition, one walk-in upgraded from Technician to General and a second walk-in went from no license to General.

Eric asked Charlie Tholin, one of the now-licensed students, if the class had been beneficial to him; Charlie replied enthusiastically that the class had been very beneficial.

Hamfest -- Sunday, April 25

Drew McDaniel reported that he has applied for Athens County Visitors Bureau sponsorship but hasn't yet heard back from the Bureau.

Drew reminded the members that hamfest-attendees wishing to sleep in their campers overnight before the hamfest should directed to the Walmart parking lot.

Jim Crouse reported that he has sent flyers and free tickets to

W8KVK,

approximately 50 clubs. He is working with Ted Jacobsen, to build the hamfest-mailing address list. He has sent 25-30 flyers each to R&L and Universal Radio.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported that he has listed the hamfest on QRZ.com.

Drew McDaniel reported that the hamfest appears on the ARRL website.

Jim Crouse suggested that the new ACARA logo be included on future mailings. Eric will send the graphics files to him and Drew.

Jim Crouse asked if he should invite the Red Cross to sell food at the the event as in previous years. The members present agreed he should.

Carl Denbow confirmed that he will again be responsible for indoor tables.

Eric McFadden asked if there will a testing session at the hamfest. Drew McDaniel reported that the Lancaster club has again volunteered to run a testing session, asking only that all those testing be required to pre-register. The members agreed that the Lancaster club should be invited to provide a test session. Drew will send free tickets to the Lancaster club.

Field Day 2010 -- June 26-27

Eric McFadden suggested that a small committee be assembled to plan the ACARA Field Day effort. John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Jim Crouse, KC8OVB; Drew McDaniel, W8MHV; and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF agreed to join this committee. Eric will contact these members to schedule get-togethers.

Eric suggested that the club should again look at the wire delta-loop antennas the club used successfully in the mid-90s. Drew suggested that the club's tri-band yagi might be used; John McCutcheon thinks Walt Jones, WT8E, might be storing this antenna.

New Business

Jackson County Hamfest - April 10, 2010

Drew McDaniel reported that the Jackson County hamfest is on April 10, 2010.

Programs

Rich Post, KB8TAD, showed his renovated Navy ARB Aircraft Radio Receiver. Photos and a description of this WWII-era unit can be seen

here:

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

Drew McDaniel gave a presentation on his solar-powered hamshack.

Eric McFadden demonstrated the use of the West Mountain Radio tool for crimping Anderson Powerpoles.

The meeting was adjourned by President Drew McDaniel at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.