

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of April 20, 2010 -- as amended

In Attendance: John Biddle W8PG
Jim Crouse KC8OVB
Bob Curtis KD8FRQ
Hans Hake KD8NLI
John McCutcheon N8XWO
Drew McDaniel W8MHV
Eric McFadden WD8RIF
Kate McFadden KD8KNB
Charlie Tholin KD8NLH
John Thomas KC8JWZ

Following the 7:00pm social gathering, the meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

The minutes of the March, 2010 meeting were presented by Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. Jim reported that he has renewed the club's state incorporation status which had been allowed to lapse. Jim is going to verify the address associated with the club's 501(c)(3) filing.

Old Business

Athens Marathon

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, thanked the twenty-two hams that helped the ACARA provide communications support at the Athens Marathon. Jim will be taking comments to the Marathon Committee. Contact Jim via email with comments. (Visit the ACARA website <http://ac-ara.org/> and click on "Links to Our Members" to find Jim's address.)

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, commented on the lack of medical support at this year's Marathon and suggested the club should have first-aid kits to deploy with members at events such as the Marathon. Jim Crouse replied that he is uncomfortable with this idea because it might cause liability issues with the club or individual members and feels medical assistance should be the Marathon Committee's responsibility (last portion added). Jim suggested those who are interested might seek first-aid training through the Red Cross.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, showed the weather-proof station he put together for the Marathon golf-cart using the recently-purchased Icom IC-2200H 2-meter transceiver and a Motorola speaker provided by John Biddle, W8PG.

Jim Crouse thanked Eric for his work on the bicycle-mobile and golf cart-mobile stations. Eric replied that a great

deal of the hard work was done by Ted Jacobson and his brother. Ted arranged for additional digipeaters at the Monk Road crossing and at the new 911 tower on Columbia Road and he and his brother developed web and mobile-device "apps" to allow tracking of the race leader on cell phones and other mobile devices. In addition, Carl Denbow, N8VZ, deployed an APRS digipeater at the full-marathon turn-around and helped assure the success of the APRS tracking.

Athens Hamfest -- Sunday, April 25, Athens County Recreation Center

Drew McDaniel reported that twenty-one tables have already been reserved. He commented that one retailer, Debco Electronics, has reserved twelve tables.

Drew reported that ARRL Ohio Section Manager Frank Piper, KI8GW, will be attending the Hamfest and will be setting up a display.

Drew invited members to join him on a Rec-Center walk-through on Thursday, April 22. Watch for an email with the time.

Drew passed around a worker sign-up sheet. He expressed some concern about getting enough members to work the Hamfest and will be calling individual members this week.

Eric McFadden will be contacting Ron Chapman, Sr., for the PA system.

Jim Crouse has confirmed that the Red Cross will be providing food at the Hamfest and that they will again need the kitchen.

Jim Crouse requested (had said "stressed") that the entire parking-lot rownearest the Rec-Center building should be kept available for handicapped parking.

Drew McDaniel will contact the city to reserve thirty highway cones. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, will pick the cones up.

Jim Crouse will bring money for making change and the prize money. The major prizes this year will again be a single \$100 bill and two \$50 bills. Jim will bring dollar coins for call-in prizes.

Eric McFadden has made initial contact with Fred Osterman of Universal Radio for door prizes and will call again on the 21st.

Jim Crouse reported that R&L has sent two antenna fixtures for door prizes. (added)

Drew has confirmed that the Lancaster club will be providing VE testing at the Hamfest. Jim Crouse reported that a glitch at the ARRL has the ARRL website showing testing to be at

9am; the testing actually will start at 10am. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, noted that the hamfest poster states that pre-registration is required to test but lacks contact information. Drew stated that he will correct this for next year's event.

Drew stated he has the two banners and he will bring them to the event.

John McCutcheon stated emphatically that members should be at the Rec-Center by 6am on Sunday to work.

Field Day 2010 -- June 26-27

Eric McFadden reported that this coming week he will arrange a meeting with of the Field Day committee (consisting of himself, Drew McDaniel, John McCutcheon, and Jim Crouse) to begin finalizing Field Day plans. Eric suggested that a visit to the Athens County Fairgrounds to look at antenna options is in order.

Repeater

Eric McFadden reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, visited the repeater site to work on the APRS digipeater and also opened the building vents, uncovered the equipment rack vents, unplugged the repeater heat-lamp, and checked the repeater phone line. Eric said Ted reported that the building appears to be in good shape and that the storm door was properly closed and latched when he arrived. Ted said there were no signs of mice in the building but numerous roach-like insects were seen; Ted sprayed insect spray around the base of the racks, door sill, and baseboards.

Eric said that Ted reported that there is no bulkhead lightning protection on the "SEOEMS tower UHF fee" into the Athens City repeater rack. This is a hazard to both the city's and the ACARA's equipment. The ACARA APRS node is also currently without bulkhead lightning protection. Eric said he will work with Jeff Slattery to install the Polyphasor device previously purchased for this purpose after which point the club can approach the city about their lack of a protective device.

Addendum: Ohio University Bicycle Race

Eric McFadden forgot to mention this at the meeting. The collegiate-level bicycle race that was to have occurred on Saturday, April 10, and that the ACARA had committed to support, was canceled because of untimely road construction on SR278.

Eric wishes to thank all those who had agreed to help support this event.

New Business

ACARA June Picnic -- Tuesday, June 15 (corrected date)

Jim Crouse reported he will reserve the shelter at Southside Park (on Circle Lane at Dairy Lane) for the picnic. As before, the club will provide burgers and hot-dogs. Members are asked to bring a dish to share, table-service, and their own beverages. Members will meet at 5pm and eat at 6pm.

Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPotA) -- Saturday, September 11

Jim Crouse announced that the "Ohio State Parks on the Air" event is on Saturday, September 11 this year. He will reserve the shelter at Strouds Run State Park.

MS-Walk

Jim Crouse reported that five hams provided communications support to the MS-Walk on Saturday, April 17. The hams that participated were Jim Crouse, Jeff Slattery, Pete Wickman, and Kirk and Linsey Groeneveld.

Jim reported that the organizers were pleased with the support provided and are likely to ask for support again next year.

Program

Eric McFadden showed and described the radio systems used on the bicycle-mobile and golf cart-mobile stations in support of the Athens Marathon. Both mobile stations carried two radios, one for voice communications and one for APRS tracking. Details on the bicycle-mobile station can be seen at Eric's website:

<http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/bicycle-mobile.htm>

The meeting was adjourned by President Drew McDaniel at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.