

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2010

In Attendance: John Biddle W8PG
Gary Carter KD8MSR
Jim Crouse KC8OVB
Bob Curtis KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow N8VZ
Rich Post KB8TAD
John McCutcheon N8XWO
Drew McDaniel W8MHV
Eric McFadden WD8RIF
Charlie Tholin KD8NLH
John Thomas KC8JWZ

Following the 7:00pm social gathering, the meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Vice-President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

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

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. Rich Post, KB8TAD, asked if the club is required to file with the IRS under the new rules. Jim confirmed that the club does need to file and he has been doing so.

Old Business

Athens Hamfest

Jim Crouse distributed a printout of the hamfest financial statement. He reported that attendance was down a bit from 2009 and that the club saw a profit of just under \$500. He reminded the membership that this year the club did not receive financial assistance from the Tourism Board and that for this year's event new tickets were purchased. Jim also noted that extra-ticket sales were down as compared to previous years.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported that Debco, who bought twelve tables, was pleased with the hamfest; Carl thinks Debco is likely to return next year.

Carl Denbow asked if indoor vendor set-up should be allowed only after 7am to give the club time to prepare the venue between 6am and 7am. He noted that other hamfests have this sort of policy. This will be discussed prior to next year's event.

Eric McFadden thanked those who worked the hamfest.

Carl Denbow thinks some of the indoor vendors might not have purchased tickets, leading to a reduction in attendance numbers.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, stated that mobile check-ins seemed down this year.

Ohio University Radio Club

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, reported that the OU Radio Club now has four members and a functional radio station in Stocker Center. None of the members were licensed initially, but now all four are. Three hold General Class licenses and the fourth holds a Technician Class license. The station consists of an Atlas 210 HF transceiver and a Hustler 6-BTV vertical antenna on the roof. The students' project this year is to communicate using the PSK-31 digital mode. Next year the project will be to communicate using Slow Scan TV (SSTV).

Bob invites any OU-affiliated ham to operate the station in Stocker Center. Those interested should contact Bob via email. (Find his address here: <http://ac-ara.org/members.html>.)

ACARA June Picnic -- Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Jim Crouse reported he has reserved the shelter on Dairy Lane for the picnic.

Members and their families will meet at 5pm and eat at 6pm. The club will provide burgers and brats. Members are asked to bring a dish to share, their table service, and beverages.

John McCutcheon reminds members that this event is the best potluck of the season.

Repeater

Eric McFadden reported that he's done nothing at the repeater site since the last meeting. He asked John McCutcheon if coverage seemed normal during the Hamfest mobile check-in; John reported that it was.

5PM 6AM Net

John McCutcheon reported that the weekly 6m AM net still has strong participation. The net meets Sundays evenings at 5pm on 50.4MHz and is an informal roundtable. While the initial intent was for participants to use vintage tube-type amplitude-modulation (AM) gear, everyone is encouraged to participate with whatever equipment they have that will generate an AM signal on the 6m frequency of 50.4MHz.

Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA)

Jim Crouse reported that GOBA will be in Athens June 23-25. Those members who would like to help the club provide communications support to this large event should contact Jeff Slattery via email. (Find Jeff's address here: <http://ac-ara.org/members.html>.)

John McCutcheon reported that he will have his camper and portable station set up at the Athens County Rec Center for this event. The local simplex net at this location will be on 146.46MHz.

Learn more about GOBA: <http://www.goba.com/>

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ARRL Field Day 2010 -- June 26-27, 2010 at Athens County Fairgrounds

Eric McFadden reported that the Field Day Committee met and defined the club's planned participation in this year's event.

The club will again be participating in Class 1A; the transceivers will be running approximately 100-watts. Because Contantine Faller, KC8JXA, will be unable to provide his large solar-charged battery back this year, the transceivers will be powered by a generator.

The main SSB rig will be an ICOM IC-746 with an ICOM IC-735 as back-up. The CW rig will be a 100-watt Elecraft K2 with, it is hoped, a Ten-Tec Omni D as back-up.

The antenna farm will consist of an 80m/40m fan dipole, a 10m/15m/20m/40m trap dipole, and a 40m full-wave vertical delta loop.

Set-up begins at 10am on Saturday, June 26. Tear-down begins at noon on Sunday, June 27. Many hands are needed for both set-up and tear-down; please help if you are able.

Field Day is the biggest operating event of the calendar. It's a low-pressure, fun, event that allows hams to set up stations out-of-doors and improve communications skills. All members are strongly encouraged to visit the ACARA Field Day site to operate or just to watch.

New Business

Pelatonia -- August 21-22, 2010

Jim Crouse reported that the Pelatonia comes to Athens this summer on Saturday, August 21 and leaves on Sunday, August 22. The club will again be providing communications support for this event. Keep this weekend open and watch for an email closer to the date.

Learn more about Pelatonia: <http://www.pelatonia.org/>

Ohio QSO Party -- August 28, 2010

Jim Crouse reported that the Ohio QSO Party occurs on Saturday, August 28 this year. Please plan on helping the club put Athens County on the air for this event. Watch for an email closer to the date.

Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPota) -- Saturday, September 11, 2010

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. This event is an excellent, low-pressure, introduction to HF operations and outdoor operating. Please help the club put Strouds Run State Park on the air--keep the date open and watch for an email closer to the date.

Program

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, gave an excellent presentation on sunspots. The members present learned about the make-up of our local star, how sunspots form, and how sunspots affect radio communications on Earth.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-President Eric McFadden at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.