

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of September 21, 2010 (amended)

In Attendance: John Biddle W8PG
Jim Crouse KC8OVB
Bob Curtis KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow N8VZ
John McCutcheon N8XWO
Drew McDaniel W8MHV
Eric McFadden WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery N8SUZ
John Thomas KC8JWZ
Pete Wickman KD8MZA

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 May, 2010 meeting were presented by secretary Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

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

Old Business

Field Day 2010 -- June 26-27, 2010

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported on the ACARA's participation in the ARRL Field Day. Twelve ACARA members and a guest made 351 CW QSOs and 105 SSB QSOs in class 1A for a score of 1,614 points. The group used 20m and 40m vertical delta-loop antennas in addition to the customary dipoles. On Saturday evening, the club provided a hamburger dinner.

Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA) -- June 23-26, 2010

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported on the ACARA's communication support of the 2010 GOBA bicycle tour which was in Athens June 23 through 26. John reported that the event ran very smoothly.

Pelotonia -- August 21-22, 2010

John McCutcheon reported on the ACARA's communication support of the 2nd annual Pelotonia bicycle tour. John reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, and Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, did excellent jobs as net control and Hocking College rest-stop operator, respectively. He also thanked Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, for providing bicycle-mobile "taillight" service on Sunday as the event was leaving town. John reported that Pelotonia leadership hasn't yet figured out exactly how to run their event. He encouraged ACARA members to participate next year: "They need us!"

(Amendment to above paragraph: The second sentence had said "John reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, and Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, did excellent jobs as net control.")

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

John McCutcheon reported on the ACARA's participation in OSPotA at Strouds Run State Park. The group erected an 80/40m trap dipole but made contacts only on 80m SSB. John calculated that a total of 34 State Parks were available to work; of these the group worked 28 State Parks, 85% of those available. As has become traditional, at 5 o'clock during this event, the club held a potluck/cookout, with the club providing burgers and brats and members bringing other items to share.

Ohio QSO Party -- August 28, 2010

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reported on the ACARA's club-entry in the ARRL Ohio QSO Party. Jim reported that four members have already submitted logs. Jim asked that those who haven't already done so, please submit their logs before the September 28 deadline and to make sure to list the club as "Athens County ARA". Submit logs as instructed on the Ohio QSO Party web site: <http://www.ohqp.org/>

New Business

Repeater

Eric McFadden reported that the repeater was off the air for the first two days following the September 16 tornado/storms that struck Nelsonville, The Plains, and Athens. Eric and Ted Jacobson visited the site Thursday evening following the storms to verify that it was loss of power that took the repeater off the air, not a problem with the repeater system itself. Eric explained that if commercial mains fail, the ACARA building should receive emergency power from the 9-1-1 system generator. In this case, the generator wasn't functioning. Ted was later able to verify through Doug Bentley, KC8PNE, that the generator had failed to start and that the vendor will soon visit to diagnose and repair the unit.

Eric asked if the club should consider purchasing its own emergency back-up system in case this situation should occur again, suggesting a 1KW or 2KW Honda inverter-type generator could be kept off-site until needed; this generator could also be used for Field Day or other events.

Jim Crouse, John McCutcheon, and Drew McDaniel suggested that before we purchase a generator, we contact Doug Bentley to determine what steps the 9-1-1 organization is taking to ensure the generator won't fail the next time. Eric agreed to contact Bentley.

This item was left open for further discussion.

Holiday Dinner

Jim Crouse suggested it might be time to choose the date for the December Holiday Dinner so that a reservation can be made. Drew reported that the traditional third Tuesday falls on the 21st this year. It was agreed that Lui Lui should be the first choice for venue. Drew reported that he will attempt to make a December 21 reservation at Lui Lui.

Tornado

Jim Crouse reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has been contacted by the Athens EOC for communicators to support the volunteers who are clearing debris along Metheny Road Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week. Jim reported that positions need to be staffed in two shifts at three locations. Jim had a schedule and asked for volunteers to sign up.

Nomination of Officers

The September meeting is traditionally when officers for next year are nominated. Ballots will be mailed to arrive before the October meeting. Ballots will be counted at the October meeting.

Here are the names of those who were nominated:

President -- Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Vice-president -- Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Secretary -- Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Treasurer -- Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Newsletter Editor -- Pete Wickman, KD8MZA
Webmaster -- Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Packet Node Trustee -- Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Repeater Trustee -- Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Program

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, showed and demonstrated his three "trail-friendly radios", a Doug Hendricks PFR-3, a BD4RG HB-1A, and an Elecraft KX-1. All three rigs are miniscule, multi-band CW-only, low-power transceivers. Two have built-in antenna tuners. Drew is trying to decide which one of these rigs to take with him to Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was adjourned by President Drew McDaniel at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.