

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2010

In Attendance: John Biddle W8PG  
Greg Broadhurst KC8JWY  
Jim Crouse KC8OVB  
Bob Curtis KD8FRQ  
John McCutcheon N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel W8MHV  
Eric McFadden WD8RIF  
Rich Post KB8TAD  
Charlie Tholin KD8NLH  
John Thomas KC8JWZ

Following the 7:32pm social gathering, the meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Vice President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

The minutes of the September, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented by secretary Eric McFadden.

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

Old Business

Holiday Dinner -- December 21, 2010

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported that he has made a reservation at Lui Lui. As has become the tradition, the club will provide punch and hors d'oeuvres. Members are to meet at 5:30pm for punch and hors d'oeuvres and will order dinner about 6pm.

Repeater

As a follow-up to last month's discussion of back-up power for the repeater, Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden reported that he spoke with Scott Warner, KD8KND, of the 9-1-1 Center. Mr. Warner said that the generator is tested monthly, that they receive notification at the 9-1-1 Center if the generator fails to start, and that they generally are able to visit the generator within an hour if a manual-start is needed.

Mr. Warner said their generator was down for just a few hours, not the 18 or so hours the repeater was off the air. Eric speculated that maybe the repeater building circuit breaker popped when the generator came up and someone from the Athens PD visited to reset the breaker.

Mr. Warner told Eric that in the future if the generator were to fail to start, a representative of the ACARA could phone Mr. Warner and he would talk them through the process of a manual start.

Mr. Warner recommended that the club install a back-up battery on the repeater to bridge the time between loss of AC mains and the generator coming up.

Eric asked if the club wants a back-up battery on the repeater, adding that we used to have one and that the repeater power supply is already configured to float-charge a battery. John Biddle, W8PG, moved that Eric be authorized to purchase and install a gel cell battery. Drew McDaniel, with John's permission, amended the motion to specify a 75Ah or larger gel cell. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

John McCutcheon suggested that Eric look into configuring the repeater to notify users when it is running on battery power.

## New Business

### Athens City Planning Commission

Jim Crouse reported that the Athens City Planning Commission has placed "Telecommunications Towers" on the agenda of the upcoming meeting on Wednesday, October 20. Jim has previously forwarded to the membership an email from Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, that recommended that the ACARA monitor the intent of this discussion. Ted's email reported that the meeting will be televised live on Athens cable channel 15 and will be streamed live on the city's website; a recording can also be viewed after the meeting at the same website.

Eric McFadden reported that in an email to him Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, that he had sent an email about this to Nick Pittner, K8NAP, State Government Liaison, for an update on the status of the Ohio House and Senate versions of PRB-1 legislation. Jeff added in his email that over the summer the state version of PRB-1 had been stalled in the Homeland Security Committee; anything coming out of the Athens Planning Committee should at least be in line with Federal PRB-1 guidelines if not with the Ohio version which is modeled after the Federal law. Jeff's email concluded that Mr. Pittner has a lot of information on this in case the planning commission members need to be educated on the issue.

Greg Broadhurst, KD8JWY, reported that he has been following this for a while and he feels this is more of a zoning issue than an attempt to outlaw Amateur Radio towers. He added that he will be attending the Wednesday meeting and will inform the club of what transpires.

### BLU-MED Demonstration -- 10am, Friday, November 5, 2010

Eric McFadden reported that Ted Jacobson suggested the upcoming BLU-MED demonstration might be of interest to some members and might be an opportunity to publicize Amateur

Radio to the public.

Eric read from the press release that the BLU-MED Response System is a "portable unit that can offer disaster medical facilities of mobile shelter solutions. BLU-MED's facilities include state-of-the-industry portable fabric shelters, which enable communities to rapidly respond to large-scale disasters with facilities when and where they are needed." Perry and Meigs Counties each have one 12-bed BLU-MED facility and Morgan and Scioto Counties each have one 25-bed facility.

The demo is at 10am on Friday, November 5, at Athens County Fairgrounds.

#### Election of Officers

Jim Crouse opened and counted the ballots in the presence of the assembled members. He reported that 22 ballots were received.

For president, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF received 22 votes.

For vice-president, Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, received 22 votes.

For Treasurer, Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, received 22 votes.

For Secretary, the combined nomination of Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, and Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, received 22 votes.

For Newsletter Editor, Pete Wickman, KD8MZA, received 22 votes.

For Repeater Trustee, Eric McFadden received 21 votes; John McCutcheon, N8XWO, received one vote as a write-in.

For Packet Node Trustee, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, received

21

votes; Carl Denbow, N8VZ, received one vote as a write-in.

Two members responded to the ballot's request for suggestions. One member suggested Jeff Slattery come to a meeting and make ARES ID cards for those who want them. Another member stated he would like to know more about Drew McDaniel's overseas work and the kinds of ham radio culture has experienced overseas; also, the member would like to know more about the repeater: manufacturer, power output, flexibility, range, etc.

#### Program

Eric McFadden gave a short presentation on his and Greg Broadhurst's participation in the Adventure Radio Society's "Flight of the Bumblebees" in July. The Adventure Radio Society is an organization committed to the support and integration of Amateur Radio and

outdoor events, and the "Flight of the Bumblebees" is a sprint-type contest in which participants are encouraged to use human-power to reach their outdoor operating locations. Eric and Greg bicycled from their homes to Athens' West State Street Park to participate. Eric carried his station in a trailer behind his bicycle.

Rich Post displayed and demonstrated his recent swap-meet finds, a pair of single-tube QRP (low power) transmitters and a single tube, single transistor super-regenerative receiver. One of the transmitters was built from plans in the August, 1952 issue of QST. Rich describes these transmitters on his website:  
[http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/bapix/6SN7\\_QRP.htm](http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/bapix/6SN7_QRP.htm)

Drew McDaniel showed his nearly-restored Eldico receiver. The receiver is one part of a four-component station, the other components being a transmitter, a power supply, and a phone-patch/control unit. Drew said that Collins collectors have long thought that the Eldico station was a backwards-engineered version of the more famous Collins pieces but in looking at the schematic he came to the conclusion that the Eldico has very little in common with the Collins rigs. Drew did research and was unable to find even a single advertisement in QSTs of the period, the early 1960s, for these pieces. After speaking with a Vietnam War MARS operator Drew concluded that the Eldico stations were built exclusively for government use as MARS phone-patch stations during the Vietnam War. Drew added that the MARS operator told him that MARS operators were very happy when their Eldico stations were replaced with the much more sophisticated Collins stations.

The meeting was adjourned by President Drew McDaniel at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted, Eric McFadden, Secretary.