

## Minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2010 -- amended

In Attendance:	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	John Thomas	KC8JWZ
	Pete Wickman	KD8MZA

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

The minutes of October 19, 2010 meeting were approved as published by Secretary Eric McFadden.

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

### Old Business

#### Field Day 2010

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported on the results of the ARRL Field Day 2010 effort. The ACARA, operating under the callsign W8MHV, made a total of 456 QSOs for a total of 2504 points. This placed the club at 40<sup>th</sup> out of 131 competitors in class 1A. This was close to the previous year's performance. The ACARA placed 4<sup>th</sup> in class in Ohio.

#### Holiday Dinner – December 21, 2010

Plans for the event were reviewed. The party begins at 5:30pm for punch/drinks with dinner at 6pm. Meals to be ordered from the menu. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, confirmed that reservations have been made at Lui Lui Restaurant.

#### Repeater

Eric McFadden reported that the purchase of a backup battery for repeater operation when power fails was accomplished. He reported that the 75Ah AGM battery was received; the purchase price was \$199, shipped. Installation will require fabrication of a cable set and a check out of the repeater system before connection. Winterizing of the repeater will be carried out in the coming.

#### City Planning Commission

Athens Planning Commission will meet tomorrow to discuss communication facilities—towers specifically. Several members who attended or viewed the previous meeting on the access channel reported that it mainly concerned cell phone towers.

## **New business**

Ten meter contest -- 0000 UTC December 11 to 2359 UTC December 12

Eric McFadden mentioned the upcoming ARRL 10 Meter Contest and asked if the club wishes to submit a club entry this year. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, has in years past organized the club entry in this event but is unable to do so this year. Eric agreed to send email to members to learn of interest in participating in a club effort.

ACARA Hamfest 2010 – Sunday, April 24, 2011 (date corrected)

Procedures for ARRL sanction approval, Community Center reservation, and other requirements were discussed. Acting on a previous suggestion by Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, Eric McFadden suggested the club invite Dovetail Solar to set up a demonstration at the hamfest. There was also discussion of a possible Dovetail Solar demonstration at the event. Eric McFadden will contact Rich Competelli of the Athens Recreation Center to reserve the venue for the event. Eric will also contact Dovetail Solar to invite them the hamfest.

Field Day 2011

The assembled members expressed interest in participating in the 2011 event. Eric McFadden, acting on a previous suggestion by Jim Crouse, suggested the club ask Dovetail Solar to supply solar-power for the club's Field Day station. Eric will contact Dovetail Solar.

Eric suggested the club might look for a better location. The advantages and disadvantages of continuing to use the fairgrounds were discussed and weighed. Other alternatives will be studied as the date for the event nears.

Bobcat Marathon.

Eric McFadden reported that acting on a suggestion by Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, contacted the organizers of the Bobcat Marathon, a running race that takes place on the rugged trails encircling Burr Oak Lake. The event organizers welcomed the offer of communications support since the only communications they have now is cellular telephone. The next running of the event was to be November 7, 2010. Jeff was unable to find enough volunteers on such short notice and had to notify the organizers that the ACARA would be unable to help with this year's event.

The assembled membership showed interest in supporting future runnings of this event. The ACARA repeater would not be useful during this event and a simplex net would have to be set up, with net control located at the event Start/Finish at the Burr Oak Lodge. All but one of the remaining stations would require mobile rigs with full-size antennas. A coverage-study before the next event will be needed. It was noted that the same group organizes a similar event around Dow Lake in the spring.

Future Meeting Programs

Topics of interest were solicited from members. Eric reported that he has asked Jeff Slattery if he would be willing to put together a group-build of his collapsible 2m/70cm "copper cactus" j-pole antenna. John McCutcheon suggested Jeff be invited to make and distribute ARES badges.

## **Program**

Eric McFadden presented "A Short History of the Development and Evolution of the Humble CW Key". Eric showed and demonstrated the use of straight keys, semiautomatic "bugs", and iambic keyer paddles. Photos of additional types of keys were shown, as were videos of these keys in use.

The meeting was adjourned by President Eric McFadden at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted, Drew McDaniel, so-secretary; edited and posted by Eric McFadden, co-secretary