

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of February 15, 2011 (amended)

In Attendance:	John Biddle	W8PG
	Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
	Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
	Carl Denbow	N8VZ
	John McCutcheon	N8XWO
	Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
	John Thomas	KC8JWZ

Following the social gathering at 7:00pm the meeting was called to order at 7:42 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

The minutes of the January 18 meeting were distributed by co-secretary Eric McFadden. The minutes were accepted as distributed

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. Jim reminded the members that annual dues are due.

Old Business

Midwinter Potluck

Eric McFadden thanked Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, for organizing the potluck and John McCutcheon, N8XWO, for the film, "The Bedford Incident", he presented on 16mm projector.

Jim Crouse reported that he hasn't been billed yet for the use of the Red Cross Chapterhouse.

Ham Licensing Class

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported another student has joined the class but the high-school student had to drop out because of conflicts.

Eric McFadden confirmed testing is on March 14 and that sufficient number of volunteer examiners are available.

Athens Hamfest – May 1, 2011, at the Athens Community Center

Eric McFadden reported that he has confirmed that Allen Sellers and his group will provide VE testing at the hamfest.

Eric McFadden mentioned that some members have expressed a desire to offer large prizes in addition to or in place of the usual \$100 and two \$50 bills. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, agreed that he would like to see the club give away a radio. John McCutcheon prefers the cash prizes. Carl suggested we keep the cash prizes but give away a radio through a special drawing from tickets sold just for this prize. Jim Crouse suggested the sales of such special tickets will hurt the sale of regular extra tickets. Jim also suggested that the profit margin on handhelds and VHF mobiles is very slim and the club won't save much money on a radio purchase.

Jim Crouse mentioned that he has spoken with the proprietor of R&L who is willing to sell the club gift certificates at a discount.

Carl Denbow suggested we replace the \$100 1st prize with a radio. John McCutcheon suggests we give away both the \$100 and a radio with no special tickets for the radio.

In a discussion of how other small hamfests pay for their major prizes, John Biddle, W8PG, suggested that the amount we pay for the use of the Community Center might be significantly higher than what the other clubs pay.

Carl Denbow made a motion that the club offer a Grand Prize of a radio, value not to exceed \$200, which he will pay for, to the holder of a regular ticket; the club will judge interest in the additional prize this year to determine whether the club provides a radio as a grand prize in subsequent years. John McCutcheon seconded the motion. The issue passed by voice vote unanimously.

Eric will contact Fred Osterman at Universal Radio to learn prices and will coordinate with Carl in the purchase of the radio.

Jim Crouse emphasized that a person needs to be assigned the task of selling extra tickets. He explained that last year Sharon Perry wasn't able to work the hamfest and sales of extra tickets was dramatically reduced when compared to previous years.

Eric McFadden reported he will order the free publications from the ARRL. He asked if the club should purchase other ARRL items (magnets, frequency charts, pens, etc.); the consensus was that these aren't necessary.

Eric McFadden will contact Universal Radio to ask for a donation of door prizes. Jim Crouse will contact R&L to ask for a donation of door prizes. Jim Crouse will contact DX Engineering to ask for a donation of a door prize (added). Carl Denbow will contact AES

to ask for a donation of door prizes. Jim Crouse reported that MFJ stopped responding to requests for door prizes several years ago.

ARRL Field Day – Saturday/Sunday, June 25-26

Eric McFadden reported that the Field Day rules now permit all Class A entries qualify for a free VHF/UHF station. John McCutcheon agreed to provide radios, antennas, and a mast for a VHF station but he emphasized that this station should not be allowed to draw operators from the HF station.

Eric McFadden asked about the Field Day location, suggesting it might be time to find a better location than the Athens County Fairgrounds. Most members present find the fairgrounds to be an adequate and convenient location. Eric agreed to contact Reid Hart of the Fair Board to inquire about reserving the Kiwanis shelter and to learn of any fee for the use thereof.

Carl Denbow asked about the caboose on John Cornwell's (NC8V, SK) property and suggested the club might consider doing field day there again.

John McCutcheon suggested members be alert for possible Field Day locations.

Eric McFadden reported that he will act as Field Day chairman and will put together a small committee to discuss the issues and report back to the membership. John McCutcheon and John Thomas, KC8JWZ, agreed to serve in this committee.

New Business

Athens Marathon 2011 – Sunday, April 3

Jim Crouse reported that the first meeting of the new marathon organizing committee is the 5:30pm, Wednesday, February 16 at the Community Center. He and Eric McFadden plan to attend.

Jim Crouse reported that over 150 runners have already registered for the marathon.

Eric McFadden asked for suggestions for a marathon net control operator. He reported that he has already asked Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, of his interest via an email but hadn't yet received a reply. John McCutcheon suggested Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, might be interested in serving as net control. Eric McFadden suggested Mike Cooper, KC8WMY, might be interested in serving as net control. Eric agreed to contact both men.

Eric McFadden confirmed that it was Bill Warthman, WD8LWC, who bicycled with the last runner last year. Eric agreed to contact Bill this year.

Bobcat Marathon

Eric McFadden asked Jim Crouse if he knew anything more about this event. Jim did not.

Program

Eric McFadden showed the two stations he has put together for Athens Marathon support: a waterproof APRS tracker for the golf-cart and his bicycle with 2m voice radio and APRS tracker.

The meeting adjourned by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Respectfully submitted by Eric McFadden, co-secretary.