

Athens Country Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2011 – as amended

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

Following the social gathering at 7:00pm the meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

The minutes of the February 15, 2011 meeting were distributed by co-secretary Eric McFadden. The minutes were accepted as distributed

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reported that he has filed the IRS 990-N form (for non-profits) and that the ACARA now has 44 paid members. He distributed the financial report which was accepted as distributed. (Correction: changed "990m" to "990-N".)

Old Business

Ham Licensing Class

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that at the end-of-course testing session on March 14 both students passed their Technician Class tests. In addition, two walk-ins tested, one earning his General Class license, and the other his Extra Class license. Special recognition goes to Jeff Slattery's wife, Jan, for completing the course and earning her license

President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, thanked those involved in the license class: John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Drew McDaniel, W8MHV; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; and Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

Athens Marathon 2011 – Sunday, April 3

Eric McFadden reported that the second Byonic Micro-Trak AIO has arrived and is being tested. (The Micro-Trak is a self-contained APRS tracker that includes a GPS receiver, TinyTrak 3 APRS encoder, 2-meter transmitter, and 8-watt amplifier in a weather-proof Pelican case.)

Jim Crouse and WD8RIF attended the marathon planning meeting to indicate the club's participation in the event. They confirmed that the ACARA logo will appear on the tee-shirts.

Eric went through the list of assignments to confirm participation and shirt sizes. Eric said he will leave the tee-shirts and safety-vests at the Eclipse Mining Town aid station the morning of the event and communicators may pick them up there on their way to their assignments. Eric reported that a net control station and taillight-bicyclist need to be identified.

Jim Crouse reported that the marathon packet-stuffing will happen the evening of the Thursday prior to the marathon. He and Eric McFadden will attend and Eric will pick up the tee-shirts.

Red Cross

Jim Crouse reported that the club was not charged for use of the Red Cross facilities for the February Midwinter Potluck. Drew McDaniel made a motion that the club make a \$40 donation to the Red Cross. The motion was seconded by John McCutcheon. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

Eric McFadden reported that the May 1 date is now clear, the Ripley Hamfest being moved to May 15.

Drew McDaniel agreed to handle indoor tables the morning of the event since Carl Denbow, N8VZ, will not be able to attend the hamfest. Carl will continue to handle table reservations leading up to the event.

Eric McFadden agreed to work the main table handling general announcements.

Jim Crouse confirmed that the Red Cross will provide food.

John McCutcheon reminded Eric McFadden he needs to contact the City Garage to reserve the 30 traffic cones which John will pick up the evening before the hamfest.

Eric reported that a walkthrough of the venue will occur in the week before the event. Watch for an email announcement with date and time.

Eric confirmed that he will have the postcards printed. Drew will provide him with the newest PageMaker document to take to the printers. Printing of flyers for distribution at other hamfests will be handled ad hoc.

Jim Crouse confirmed that he will send comp-tickets to regional ham clubs and tickets for additional chances to win a door prize will be sold at \$1 each. Jim will contact Allen Sellers to determine how many tickets he and his VE group need.

Eric McFadden will determine if he and Jim Crouse have sufficient tickets. If not, Eric will have new tickets printed.

Eric went through the assignment list and confirmed participation among the members present. He also made a list of operators to contact.

Repeater

Eric McFadden reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, informed him that the Athens County 9-1-1 system now owns the former SEOEMS tower at the repeater site and planning is underway to move the county radios and antennas to this tower. This might include moving the 9-1-1 system out of its current concrete building and the city police might move their radios out of the ACARA building into the vacated concrete building. Given that the city police is currently paying the ACARA electric bill and that the ACARA repeater might lose connection to 9-1-1 system generator, the club needs to be a part of discussions. Ted suggested the club contact Leonard (Doug) Bentley, KC8PNE, Chief of Operations, in writing. Eric agreed to send this letter to Mr. Bentley and to serve as point-of-contact.

John Biddle, W8PG, suggests the club learn what the electric bill currently is.

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

Eric McFadden reported that Carl Denbow has volunteered to provide and operate a PSK station. The club will operate the event in class 1-A. The Field Day Committee will meet soon and begin to plan for the event.

New Business

MS-Walk – Saturday, April 16

Jeff Slattery announced that walkers and volunteers need to register at the Community Center at 9am on Saturday. The walk starts at 10am and goes from the Community Center to the church on South Green Drive and back to the Community Center and should be finished by 11am.

Jeff reported he has commitments for most of the needed stations but can use a few more operators. Those interested in helping should contact Jeff.

Other Public Service events

Eric McFadden reported that Ted Jacobson had sent him an email with a list of events the club might wish to support:

OU Athletes In Action First Annual Triathlon – May 7; the bicycle portion runs out SR 56 to New Marshfield and back.

(<http://www.hfpracing.com/events/2011/386-ouaiatriathlon>)

2011 Pelotonia – August 20-21 (<http://www.pelotonia.org/>)

Strouds Run Trail Run 5-mile and 10-mile – September 11

Cat Scratch Train Run, Burr OAK – November 5

(<http://www.oneworldtrailrunning.org/cat-scratch-trail-run/>)

Bobcat Trail Marathon Race, Burr Oak – November 6

(<http://www.oneworldtrailrunning.org/bobcat-trail-marathon/>)

Jeff Slattery agreed to coordinate with the organizers of the Bobcat Marathon.

Additional discussion ensued but no other commitments were made.

Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPOTA) – Saturday, September 10, 2011

John McCutcheon reminded the membership of the Ohio State Parks on the Air event

(<http://parks.portcars.org/ospota/>) coming up in September.

June Picnic – Tuesday, June 21

The members chose to hold the picnic on June 21 at the traditional location at Dairy Lane and South Park. Jim Crouse agreed to make the reservation. (Correction: changed improper date to June 21.)

Program

Drew McDaniel showed the remains of a homebrew carrier-operated-relay (COR) after it was struck by lightning.

Jeff Slattery presented on ARES in Ohio and made ARES ID-cards for those members present.

The meeting adjourned by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, at 9:43.

Respectfully submitted by Eric McFadden, co-secretary.