

**Athens County Amateur Radio Association**  
**Minutes of the meeting of 15 November, 2011**

In Attendance:

Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Rich Post	KB8TAD
John Thomas	KC8JWZ
Pete Wickman	KD8MZA

Following the social gathering at 1900, the meeting was called to order by President Eric McFadden WD8KVK at 1933.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Crouse KC8OVB distributed the financial report. The club is solvent into December, having received 36 early membership renewals and around \$1000 in donations following the request for funds to replace the repeater antenna. Unencumbered balance was \$838.28. The report was accepted as distributed.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the meeting of 18 October, 2011 were distributed by President Eric McFadden WD8RIF. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

**Old Business**

ACARA 145.450 Repeater

Jim Crouse reported that Radio Frequency (RF) Systems had declined to provide us with the antenna he had requested, and that he had contacted the manufacturer in Louisiana who would manufacture one at the originally quoted price, but shipping costs would increase \$300. Total time from order to delivery would be approximately 4 weeks for the antenna and all the associated parts, and he plans to complete this order in the near future. The ACARA wishes to thank Jim Crouse for his efforts in organizing the repeater repairs. Eric McFadden will perform winterizing maintenance on the repeater in the next two weeks.

440Mhz Repeater

No new information has been received regarding this issue from the Hocking Valley ARC.

"Copper Cactus" J-Pole Party

On 24 October, Jeff Slattery N8SUZ organized a club event to construct collapsible 144/440 copper J poles. Eight antennas were built. In attendance:

Patsy Cartwright KD8FSK  
Jim Crouse KC8OVB  
Bob Curtis KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow N8VZ  
Eric McFadden WD8RIF  
Miles McFadden KD8KNC  
John Thomas KC8JWZ  
Pete Wickman KD8MZA

Photos of the event were presented. The construction was remarkably well organized, and the ACARA wishes to gratefully thank Jeff for the effort he expended on the project.

#### EZ Hang Slingshot Donations

Two members have indicated their intention to donate toward the purchase of an EZ Hang, but as yet no funds have been received.

#### ACARA Field Day

As listed in this month's QST, the ACARA improved dramatically this year, placing 4<sup>th</sup> in the state of Ohio in Class 1A, 35<sup>th</sup> overall. We placed in the 77<sup>th</sup> percentile of all entries.

#### Athens Tower Ordinance

The ordinance has now been moved to the City Planning and Development Committee with the exclusion for Amateur Radio towers still in place. It will subsequently receive three public readings before being voted upon, and we need to remain vigilant that the exemption remains in place. Thanks to those who were able to attend the meetings.

#### Bobcat Trail Marathon

The ACARA radio support for the 2011 Bobcat Trail Marathon was a success. Operation of the simplex net worked well. Weather conditions were good. On behalf of the organization, Brandon Huff thanked the ACARA for its assistance, and invited the club to return for the event in 2012. The proposed dates for the 2012 Bobcat Trail Marathon are 28 October or 4 November.

#### Participants:

Jim Crouse KC8OVB  
Bob Curtis KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow N8VZ  
Ted Jacobson W8KVK  
John McCutcheon N8XWO  
Eric McFadden WD8RIF

Miles McFadden KD8KNC  
Jeff Slattery N8SUZ  
John Thomas KC8JWZ  
Pete Wickman KD8MZA

### 2012 Officer Election Ballots

Two additional ballots have been received for the 2012 officer elections. The ballots contained write-in votes for John McCutcheon N8XWO and Ted Jacobson W8KVK, both for Repeater Trustee. These votes do not alter the outcome of the election.

### New Business

#### ACARA Holiday Dinner

The ACARA will hold its customary holiday dinner again this year. Eric McFadden will make reservations at Liu Liu for 20 December, with the club paying for punch and hors d'oeuvres and the executive committee will determine an alternate date should the 20<sup>th</sup> prove unworkable.

#### ACARA Hamfest 2012

29 April is the proposed date for this year, and the event has received ARRL sanction and added it to their calendar. The availability of the Athens Community Center will be ascertained. Either Dovetail or Third Sun Solar should be invited to attend again this year. Future updates will be provided as appropriate.

#### ACARA 10-Meter Contest

Planning for the club event continues. We have secured access to the OU club station and will operate under its callsign, W8PZS. We are still looking for participants for the contest, and Pete will send out an email soliciting volunteers. Participants will be able to enter their personal QSO's for the NC8V trophy contest this year.

#### Scholarship Letter

Kirk Groeneveld KC8JRV has submitted a letter to the ACARA soliciting our support for his daughter Linsey Groeneveld KD8KNA in pursuit of amateur radio related scholarships. The club expressed its full support, and will follow up with Kirk to see how it can help.

#### ACARA License Class

The annual Technician license class will run from 9 January to 12 March 2012 at Athens High School, with the exam occurring on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in volunteering to assist Jeff presenting material should contact N8SUZ.

#### Field Day 2012

Early discussion of planning for Field Day 2012 should begin. The club will contact Scott Warner regarding use of the 911 trailer mounted tower again, as well as Third Sun Solar to see if their solar station will be available again. If we secure the use of the trailer again, the club could also explore alternative staging sites. We could also considering adding a directional antenna to the array. A variety of possible locations were briefly discussed, and the topic was left asking members to consider alternative locations.

#### February Potluck

The ACARA will again hold its potluck dinner, asking attendees to bring a dish to share and table service. Jim Crouse will explore gaining access to the Red Cross building again this year, with 11 February as the primary date and 18 February as the alternate.

#### Program

Eric McFadden presented two short videos on the 3Y0X DXpedition to Peter I island off the Antarctic coast.

Pete Wickman gave a presentation on the Buddipole antenna, a portable rigid dipole that operates on 2-40m. Additional information is available at (<http://www.buddipole.com/>).

Meeting adjourned 2133 by President Eric McFadden.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Pete Wickman.