

Athens County Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of February 21, 2012

In Attendance:

John Biddle	W8PG
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow	N8VZ
John McCutcheon	N8XWO
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
John Thomas	KC8JWZ

Following the social gathering at 7:00pm the meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

In the absence of secretary Pete Wickman, KD8MZA, the minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting were distributed by Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. The minutes were accepted as distributed

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, distributed the financial report. Jim reported that the club received a \$150 gift from the "old" marathon committee. The club currently has 37 paid members. The treasurer's report was accepted as distributed.

Old Business

ACARA 145.15 MHz Repeater

Eric McFadden reported that the new antenna and sundry items have arrived and that the feedline was shipped on Monday, February 20 and should be delivered this week. Jim Crouse will contact the climber once the feedline has arrived.

Linked 440MHz Repeater at Athens 9-1-1 Site

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he has contacted the Ohio Area Repeater Council concerning the club's acquisition of this repeater. Jeff does not yet have keys to the gate or access-code for the building door yet; he will contact Scott Warner at the 9-1-1 Center for these.

Old Business (cont'd)

Midwinter Potluck – February 11, 2012

Eric McFadden thanked Jim Crouse for arranging the use of the Red Cross chapter house for the potluck. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that 14 attended the potluck.

Jim reported that the club was not charged for the use of the facility. Jeff Slattery moved that the club make a \$40 donation to the Red Cross. The motion was seconded by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ. The vote passed unanimously.

ACARA Hamfest – April 29, 2012

Eric McFadden reported that Allen Sellers, KB8JLG, has declined to oversee the hamfest VE session this year. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has agreed to oversee the VE session with help from SCARF. Jeff already has two VEs from SCARF committed. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, agreed to serve as a VE at the session. Jeff stated that he will not require pre-registration—walk-ins are OK. Jim Crouse suggested we might want the larger room at the Community Center for the test session. Eric agreed to contact Rich Campitelli and ask for the larger room.

Drew McDaniel passed around the flyer and postcard and asked for corrections or additions.

In response to a question from Drew, Eric confirmed that the hamfest has been sanctioned by the ARRL. Eric reported that he will order the promotional materials from the ARRL.

Eric reported he will contact Universal Amateur Radio for door prizes. Jim Crouse reported he will contact R&L for door prizes. Drew McDaniel confirmed that he will purchase an HT for a door prize. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported he will announce the hamfest on various online forums.

Eric asked if he should again invite Dovetail Solar to bring their solar demonstration trailer to the hamfest. It was agreed he should. John McCutcheon confirmed he will run the mobile check-in station on solar power provided by the trailer. Drew McDaniel suggested we ask Dovetail if they would like to make a presentation at the hamfest. Eric will contact Dovetail Solar.

John McCutcheon agreed to pick up and return the highway cones. Eric McFadden will contact the city to reserve the cones.

Jim Crouse will invite the Red Cross to again provide the food concession.

Old Business (cont'd)

Athens City Tower Ordinance

Eric read a report from Ted Jacobsen, W8KVK:

The much-discussed "Wireless Telecommunications Title" to the Athens City Code is now scheduled to be introduced for first reading by the full Athens City Council this coming Monday (Feb. 20). This 26 page MS Word document is [attached](#) for your reference, and the Amateur Radio 'Exclusion' remains intact at the top of Page 7, Section 43.06(D), specifically excluding (among others):

"FACILITIES EXCLUSIVELY FOR PRIVATE, NON-COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION RECEPTION AND PRIVATE CITIZENS BANDS, LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO AND OTHER SIMILAR NON-COMMERCIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS."

This language was modified slightly to close a loophole which would have permitted construction of a large Amateur Radio tower and then leasing space on it to a commercial entity.

Following the third reading by the full Council, the public will have 30 days to petition for a referendum to revoke or modify the ordinance. If no such petition is forthcoming, the ordinance will become effective at the end of the 30 days.

Eric reported that House Bill 158 ("PRB-1 for Ohio") passed the Ohio Senate's State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee February 15, 2012 after the sixth reading of the Bill. The Bill will now proceed to Ohio Senate Floor for a full vote.

License Class – January 9, 2012 – March 12, 2012

Jeff Slattery reports that two students are currently active in the class. Jeff confirmed that the testing session will be on Monday, March 12, 2012. Several members volunteered to serve as VEs.

Club Purchase of EZ Hang Antenna Launcher Through Donations

Jim Crouse reported the EZ Hang Antenna Launcher has arrived and delivered it to Eric McFadden.

Old Business (cont'd)

Athens Marathon – April 1, 2012

Jim Crouse agreed to serve again as net control. Eric McFadden will again bicycle with the full-marathon male leader. Bob Curtis will again ride with the last runner.

Jim Crouse confirmed that the club will not have a golf-cart this year since the bikeway committee will not allow motorized vehicles on the bikeway. Much discussion ensued regarding this. Jim Crouse and Eric McFadden will discuss this issue with the Marathon Committee at their next meeting.

Eric McFadden will contact members to work the event.

MS-Walk – April 21, 2012

Jeff Slattery will organize the communications volunteers and act as net control. Jeff will again set up a projector to display real-time location of the lead and tail-end APRS units. Eric McFadden agreed to walk or bicycle with the lead.

Jeff reported that worker registration is at 9am and the walk begins at 10am.

Bicycle Race, Lake Hope – Sunday May 6, 2012

Eric McFadden reminded the membership that the ACARA has been asked to provide communications support to the bicycle race at Lake Hope on Sunday, May 6. No further details have been received.

ARRL Field Day 2012 – June 23-24, 2012

Eric McFadden reported that he and Pete Wickman visited several possible Field Day sites on Saturday, February 18: The Ridges, Radar Hill, field on West Union Street at the Habitat for Humanity building and the bicycle path, Strouds Run picnic shelter at lake-level, Strouds Run bridle-path parking area, the repeater site, and the Athens County tower site above Columbia.

Of the visited sites, the field on West Union seemed to offer the best combination of desired features: a tall tree to support one end of the dipoles, space for the 9-1-1 trailer-mounted tower due south of the tree to give the dipoles east-west coverage, public-access, space for operating shelters and the Third Sun Solar PV demonstration trailer, and bathrooms.

Old Business (cont'd)

ARRL Field Day (cont'd)

Drew McDaniel stated his preference to remain at the Fairgrounds. He will contact a member of Fair Board to determine if the club will be required to pay a fee to use the Kiwanis Shelter. (The club had been told at last year's event that thereafter a fee would be assessed.)

John McCutcheon suggested that the Athens High School might be a good location. He and Eric will investigate.

Jeff Slattery suggested The Plains Lions Club recreation area across the road from the elementary school might be a good location and might be kept in mind as a back-up should the desired site not be available.

Eric suggested that with the availability of the 9-1-1 trailer-mounted tower the club might want to find a tri-band yagi to mount on it. He was told that the yagi used at previous Field Day efforts at NC8V is not club property but belongs to Walt Jones, WT8E. Eric has a very old Mosley TA-33 available to him; he stated he would be willing to retrieve it if help were available to restore it to useable condition.

Eric suggested that lacking a directional HF antenna to use on the 9-1-1 tower, the club might consider mounting the VHF array on the tower.

Eric will ask Third Sun Solar for the use of their solar demonstration-trailer.

New Business

There was no New Business discussed at this meeting.

Program

Eric McFadden presented a short presentation on the “Freeze Your B___ Off” winter-time QRP field day effort by himself; Miles McFadden, KD8KNC; and Pete Wickman.

<http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/fybo2012.htm>

Eric McFadden gave a short presentation on the ARRL’s “Diamond DXCC Challenge” event. This is year-long celebration of the 75th anniversary of the ARRL’s DXCC award. Participants try to work stations in 100 of the 231 countries on the original 1937 DXCC countries list.

<http://www.arrl.org/diamond-dxcc>

The meeting was adjourned by President Eric McFadden at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eric McFadden, president.