

**Athens County Amateur Radio Association**  
**Minutes of the meeting of 20 March, 2012**

In Attendance:

Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
John McCutcheon	N8XWO
John Biddle	W8PG
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Pete Wickman	KD8MZA
Hans Hake	KD8NLI
John Thomas	KC8JWZ
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB

Following the social gathering at 1900, the meeting was called to order by President Eric McFadden WD8RIF at 1928.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Crouse KC8OVB distributed the financial report. The club is solvent for the foreseeable future, with unencumbered funds standing at \$1171.30 The report was accepted as distributed.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the meeting of 21 February, 2012 were distributed by President Eric McFadden WD8RIF. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

**Old Business**

ACARA 145.450 Repeater

The new antenna and feedline were installed on 9 March. Testing thus far shows a dramatic improvement over performance at this time last year. The club expressed its pleasure with the work of the climber it employed to undertake the replacement.

440Mhz Repeater

Eric McFadden WD8RIF visited the repeater site on 9 March, and reports that it is a nice-looking station equipped with a GE repeater, Alinco 220MHz link, and Regency power supply. A feed line has come free of the tower and is now free in the wind. N8SUZ was asked to determine if we are responsible for the loose cable, so the club can take appropriate action to effect repairs if necessary.

### ACARA Hamfest 2012- 29 April 2012

ARRL gift certificates and other promotional materials have arrived. The club discussed moving the event to a larger room at an additional cost of \$150, and it was decided to remain in the smaller space. We need to determine how many tables will be available for the Hamfest. During the social period before the meeting the club assembled promotional mailing packets, and these are ready for distribution. Postcards for individual Hams need to be ordered soon. The club needs to follow up with Universal Radio with regard to possible door prizes. Finally, the club needs to contact the city to arrange the use of traffic cones for traffic management.

### Hamfest Concessions Letter

The club received a letter from Constantine suggesting we request donations from groups we provide communications support for. However, it was decided that FCC regulations forbid this. The possibility of including Constantine in the concessions arrangements for the Hamfest was discussed.

### Athens Tower Ordinance

The third reading of the Athens Tower Ordinance occurred last Monday, without amendment. The law, which does not apply to Ham radio towers, will come into effect 30 days from the third reading.

### Athens Marathon, 1 April 2012

WD8RIF met with Lisa Simons to try to secure a golf cart for use as an emergency vehicle for the race course, promising to equip it with a Ham. However, the Athens Bikeway Advisory Committee advised that they were prevented by federal law from approving the presence of a motor vehicle on the bike path, so it seems unlikely that permission will be forthcoming.

Tentative station assignments and t-shirt sizes were also discussed.

### MS Walk, 21 April 2012

No new developments for this 5-6 person operation. No problems are anticipated.

### Bicycle Race, Lake Hope, Sunday, 6 May 2012

It is still unclear whether this event is going to happen. WD8RIF indicated that he anticipated a 5-6 person deployment, and will address any new information at the next meeting unless something urgent comes up.

### Field Day 23-4 June, 2012

Drew McDaniel W8MHV secured an agreement with Fairboard-member Paula Carpenter for us to use the fairground again this year. The fire department will once again be holding their annual demolition derby fundraiser, so they will be charging at the door. The club decided to produce a

certificate to be distributed to members and guests to allow them to enter free of charge. The possibility of moving the June picnic to coincide with Field Day, but the idea was not taken up. It was agreed that a VHF station was a good addition to the setup as it offered a lower pressure environment for newer operators.

## **New Business**

### OSU Bicycle Race at Lake Hope 24 March 2012

WD8RIF reports that Nathan Dugan, OSU Exercise Science Club Cycling President to request ACARA communications support for a bike race at Lake Hope. Due to the relatively late notice provided for this event, not enough operators were available and the club was regrettably unable to assist this year. WD8RIF passed along contact information for Rusty Perry KD8DJE (Vinton County Club President) and Tom Coelho N8TJC (Vinton County EMA Manager).

### Disposition of old Repeater Antenna/ Feedline

The old repeater antenna (Superstation 220) appears to be in weathered but usable condition, although it is missing the counterpoise elements. W8KVK has another Superstation 220 in similar condition. W8KVK has supplied dimensions for the counterpoise in case the club wants to have a new one made. N8SUZ suggested Rob Weinfurter could produce them. W8KVK also has two galvanized angle-iron standoffs and a 64" plastic anti-whip brace, suggesting that these parts together would be worth more than individually.

The feed line was offered to W8KVK and N8SUZ for use on the APRS node, but they declined. However, N8SUZ indicated that he could use one of the antennas to create a Coolville remote-receive station to improve support of Red Cross operations.

The club decided to research the values of both the antennas and feedline. One antenna and the feedline is to be sold at the Hamfest, and advertised with an online-ad indicating that the purchaser would have to pick up the items at the Hamfest.

The club also decided to contact N8SUZ to determine the state of his plans for using the second antenna, and determine how to proceed one more information is available.

### Club Picnic 19 June

The club will attempt to reserve the shelter off of Dairy Lane for the annual spring picnic on 19 June.

## **Program**

Before the Meeting

Video: "nanotechnology antenna spray"

After the Meeting

Video: "ARRL Tour of W1AW 2012"

Meeting adjourned 2124 by President Eric McFadden.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Pete Wickman.