

## **Athens County Amateur Radio Association**

### **Minutes of the meeting of January 15, 2013 (as amended)**

#### **In Attendance:**

John Biddle	W8PG
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow	N8VZ
Andrew Kuhn	WA8LIV
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Rich Post	KB8TAD
John Thomas	KC8JWZ
Greg Weinfurtner	NS8O

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

In the absence of Secretary Pete Wickman, K8PAW, the minutes of the November, 2012 meeting were distributed by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, reported one typographical error which President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, will correct in the online edition of the minutes. With this one correction, the minutes were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, distributed the financial report. The Treasurer's report was accepted as distributed.

#### **Old Business**

##### **ACARA 145.15 MHz Repeater**

Jim Crouse reported he has been noticing loss of repeater performance. Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, said he will visit the site to check the heater.

##### **ACARA Linked 440MHz Repeater at Athens 9-1-1 Site**

In the absence of UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, no report was given on this repeater.

## **Old Business (cont'd)**

### **ARES/FEMA Training**

Eric McFadden reported that Jeff Slattery held IS-200 training in a classroom environment on November 29, 2012; this session was attended by six amateurs, all of whom passed the course:

John Biddle	W8PG
Robert Clark	KD8FNL
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Chris Howerth	KD8RYJ
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Miles McFadden	KD8KNC

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, reported he is working through the IS-700 material. Eric McFadden reported that he and his son Miles, KD8KNC, have earned the IS-700 certificate using the online material.

### **Club Callsign W8UKE Renewal**

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported he has sent the paperwork in to renew the club's callsign, W8UKE. Carl reminded the gathered members of Craig Farrar, W8UKE (SK), in whose memory the club uses the call.

### **ACARA Holiday Dinner**

Eric McFadden reported that the Holiday Dinner at Lui Lui on December 18, 2012 was a success. The dinner was attended by eleven members and guests.

### **Technician License Class**

Eric McFadden reported that the Technician License class is underway. No students attended the first session on January 7 but one student did attend the January 14 session. The class content will be compressed to allow the test to remain on March 11. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Drew McDaniel, W8MHV; and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF are the instructors.

## **New Business**

### **Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Saturday, March 16, 2013**

Eric McFadden reported that the club will again be supporting the Lake Hope Bicycle Race. Jeff Slattery is organizing our support of this event. Those interested in participating should contact Jeff. (Visit <http://ac-ara.org/> for Jeff's email address.)

### **Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 14, 2013**

Eric McFadden reported that the club will again be supporting the Athens Marathon. This year, the marathon is two weeks later than it usually is.

Eric reminded the membership that the Athens Marathon is the club's showpiece public-service event.

Amateurs wishing to participate in the ACARA support of the Athens Marathon should contact Drew McDaniel (Visit <http://ac-ara.org/> for Drew's email address.)

### **MS-Walk – Saturday, April 20, 2013**

Eric McFadden reported that the club will again be supporting the MS-Walk. The MS-Walk is a low-pressure event that gives the club good public exposure while allowing members to hone simplex-net and APRS skills. Those interested in participating should contact Jeff. (Visit <http://ac-ara.org/> for Jeff's email address.)

### **Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 28, 2013**

Eric McFadden reported he applied for and the club has received ARRL sanction for the hamfest. Eric further reported that he has reserved the use of the Community Center for the event and the cost will again be \$300.

Eric reported that Ted Jacobson suggested the club might offer QSL-Checking at the Hamfest. Eric asked the members for thoughts on this. The consensus seemed to be if the club can bring in an accredited QSL-Checker at no cost or very little cost we should do it. Eric volunteered to inquire of the ARRL the possibility of bringing in a QSL-Checker.

Jim Crouse reported that Jeff Slattery will again be managing the VE Testing session.

Drew McDaniel reported he will again donate an HT to the club for use as a door prize.

Eric McFadden volunteered to contact Universal Radio for door prizes.

The members present decided to offer a \$100 bill and one \$50 bill as the main prizes.

## New Business (cont'd)

### ARRL Field Day – June 22-23, 2013

Drew McDaniel volunteered to contact the Fair Board to reserve the use of the Kwanis Shelter.

Greg Weinfurtnr reports he might be able to secure the use of a wood-burning Stirling Engine generator for the club to use.

Eric McFadden volunteered to contact Scott Warner of Athens 9-1-1 to secure use of the mobile tower.

### Presentation of NC8V Memorial Trophy

The NC8V Memorial Trophy is presented annually in memory of John Cornwell, NC8V (SK), to the club member who achieves the highest score in the ARRL 10-Meter Contest. Eric McFadden reported that this year three members submitted scores:

Greg Weinfurtnr, NS8O	266 QSO	71,896 pts	CW/SSB
John Biddle, W8PG	115 QSO	10,488 pts	SSB
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	9 QSO	352 pts	CW QRP

Eric McFadden presented the NC8V Memorial Trophy to Greg Weinfurtnr, NS8O.



Greg wants to encourage club members to participate in contesting and has issued a challenge: for the 2013 ARRL 10-Meter Contest the total of all club member scores exclusive of Greg's score will be compared to Greg's score. If Greg's score is the higher score, he wins the challenge; if the combined club score is the higher score, the club wins the challenge. Regardless of who wins the challenge, the highest scoring club member exclusive of Greg will win the NC8V Memorial Trophy. (This paragraph revised 2013-02-20.)

## **New Business (cont'd)**

### **February Potluck – 6pm Saturday, February 9, 2013**

Jim Crouse reported he has reserved use of the Red Cross Shelterhouse (100 South May Ave., Athens) for the potluck.

Drew McDaniel confirmed that he will provide an amateur radio themed DVD for entertainment.

Eric McFadden will coordinate with John McCutcheon, N8XWO, for a 16mm short for entertainment.

Members and their families are invited to meet at 6pm, bringing a dish to share and their own table-service and beverage.

### **Red Cross Full Emergency Drill – Tuesday, June 11, 2013**

Jim Crouse reported that the Red Cross will be performing a full emergency drill on Tuesday, June 11. This drill will be in the Athens area, will involve a chemical spill, and will require the setting up of at least one shelter. These exercises occur only every two or three years and are good training for emergency operations.

All amateurs able to participate in this drill should contact Jim Crouse. (Visit <http://ac-ara.org/> for Jim's email address.)

## **Program**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, gave a short presentation on the many versions of the venerable J-37 military straight key. Eric's collection of J-37 keys can be seen here:

[http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/radio\\_equipment.htm](http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/radio_equipment.htm).

Information on the various versions of the J-37 can be found here: <http://k6ix.net/J37Keys.html>.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.