

Athens County Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2013 (amended)

In Attendance:

John Biddle	W8PG	
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB	
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ	
Andrew Kahn	WA8LIV	(last name corrected)
John McCutcheon	N8XWO	
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF	
Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ	
John Thomas	KC8JWZ	
Greg Weinfurtner	NS8O	

Following the social gathering at 7:00pm the meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

In the absence of Secretary Pete Wickman, K8PAW, the minutes of the February, 2013 meeting were distributed by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. 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

Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Bill Warthman, K8WJW, verified proper alignment and performance of the repeater's Phelps-Dodge #49701 cavities.

Eric reported that Bill speculated that the repeater amplifier might be generating "garbage" which might be de-sensing the repeater's receiver. He recommended the amplifier temporarily be bypassed as a test. Eric reported he has bypassed the amplifier and the repeater is now running "barefoot" at 8-watts output.

Eric reported that Bill Warthman plans to purchase a VHF-capable spectrum analyzer at the Dayton Hamvention this year; Eric will ask Bill to use his new spectrum analyzer to verify clean output of the repeater amplifier.

Eric suggested that if amplifier proves to be operating properly and the sensitivity problem remains the problem is probably in the aging repeater RF-deck itself; Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O, agreed to check out the Yaesu repeater RF-deck if this proves to be the case.

Old Business (cont'd)

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

There is no news about the UHF repeater.

License Class /VE Test Session – Monday, March 11

Eric McFadden reported that circumstances conspired to prevent both of the License Class students, Tim Creamer and John Boudinot, from being able to attend the VE Test Session on March 11.

There were two walk-ins at the Test Session: Jamie Underwood and Don Carter, KA8PJQ. Jamie earned his Technician license; Don upgraded from Novice, through Technician, to General. Both Jamie and Don were extended a one-year free membership in the ACARA. (Don is the brother of ACARA-member Gary Carter, KD8MSR.)

The club thanks the following members who served as VEs at the Test Session:

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

The club thanks the following members who served as teachers during the License Class:

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

(Amended: removed Bob Curtis incorrectly listed as serving as VE.)

Old Business (cont'd)

Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Saturday, March 16

Eric McFadden reported that the following club members provided communications-support to the Lake Hope Bicycle Race:

Mike Cooper, KC8WMY (net control)
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Randy Mace, KB8AYZ
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Bob Curtis asked that in the future the net be provided with more complete information prior to the event: when each race is to start, the significance of the riders' numbers, etc.

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 14, 2013

Eric McFadden reported he has been attending the Marathon Committee meetings.

Eric reported that the ACARA is listed as an event sponsor on the Marathon poster and the club logo will appear on the event t-shirt.

Members should anticipate being contacted by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, or Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, soon to confirm their participation.

MS-Walk – Saturday, April 20, 2013

Jeff Slattery reported he is still looking for volunteers for this low-pressure event.

Volunteers are asked to report to the Community Center *gymnasium* at 9am for sign-up prior to proceeding to their assigned locations. The Walk will start at 10am and should be finished around 11am.

Those interested in participating should contact Jeff. (Visit <http://ac-ara.org/> for Jeff's email address.)

Old Business (cont'd)

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 28, 2013

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reported he has asked David Underwood, KC8RYL, if the Red Cross Chapter is planning to operate the food concession; he said David thought so but needs to confirm with the Disaster Action Team chairman.

John McCutcheon reported he has completed the paperwork for the use of the city's parking cones. He will follow-up personally on or about April 1.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, reported via Eric McFadden that he has received queries about table-rentals but no one has reserved tables yet.

Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, reported via Eric McFadden that there's a new battery store, The Battery Post, in Athens that the club might wish to approach about participating in the hamfest. The store is located on East State Street, just across the road from the Athena Grand Cinema, and is owned by Tina Johnston. Eric will visit The Battery Post and invite her to attend the hamfest.

Jim Crouse reported he has ordered postcards and will buy postage this week. He will try to arrange a "lick and stick" session this coming Friday, the 22nd. Eric volunteered himself and his family to prepare the cards if the Friday session falls through.

Eric McFadden will contact Ron Chapman, Sr., N8HEK, about the club's use of his PA system before the end of this month.

This event is the club's big annual event and many volunteers are needed for it to be successful. Members should anticipate an email from Eric McFadden to confirm their ability to work the event.

June Picnic – Thursday June 20, 2013

Eric McFadden suggested it was time to select the date and location for the club's June Picnic.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, said that Tuesdays in June aren't good for him and made a motion that the June picnic be held on either Monday, June 17 or Thursday, June 20; this motion was seconded by John Thomas, KC8JWZ. Discussion revealed that Thursday, June 20 was the preferred date; a vote on selecting Thursday was held and the issue passed unanimously.

Eric McFadden asked Jim Crouse to reserve the Dairy Lane shelterhouse for the evening of Thursday, June 20.

Members are asked to arrive about 5:30. Members are asked to bring a dish to share and their own table service and beverage.

Old Business (cont'd)

Membership Renewals

Jim Crouse reported that he will soon be sending out "last reminder" emails about the need to renew memberships.

Jim reported that the club currently has 34 members; 13 prior members have yet to renew.

ARRL Field Day – June 22-23, 2013

Jeff Slattery reported the club might be able to use the Nelsonville EMS Station's low-power driver-information transmitter and signs Field Day weekend. He will coordinate with Dan Pfeiffer, captain of the Nelsonville EMS station.

New Business

Bill Arnott, W8WHA (SK)

Jim Crouse reported that former member and former EMA Director Bill Arnott, W8WHA, died on February 28, 2013.

ACARA T-Shirt

John McCutcheon suggested the club should have an official t-shirt, bright yellow or orange, for wear at public-service events and Field Day. He further suggested the club might keep a dollar from each sale of each shirt for the club treasury.

Eric McFadden agreed to investigate the possibility of having such t-shirts made.

New Business (cont'd)

Resignation of ACARA Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Eric McFadden reported that Pete Wickman, K8PAW, has extended his resignation as ACARA Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

Eric McFadden said he is willing to continue taking meeting minutes until the next election.

Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O, expressed interest in taking over as Newsletter Editor next year.

Eric McFadden reported that Hans Hake, KD8NLI, had expressed interest in taking over as Newsletter Editor when Pete originally announced he wouldn't be able to serve out his term. Eric will contact Hans to see if he is still interested.

Program

There was no program following this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.