

## **Athens County Amateur Radio Association**

### **Minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2013**

#### **In Attendance:**

Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Carl Denbow	N8VZ
Andrew Kahn	WA8LIV
John McCutcheon	N8XWO
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
John Thomas	KC8JWZ

Following the social gathering at 7:00pm the meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

In the absence of Secretary Hans Hake, KD8NLI, the minutes of the March, 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 prior to the Athens Marathon he had returned the repeater's 35-watt amplifier to service and that the repeater tested well during the ACARA's April 8 2m net. However, on the morning of Saturday, April 13, the repeater sensitivity issue appeared to have returned and Eric removed the amplifier from the circuit. The repeater worked very well for the entire period of the Athens Marathon on April 14 with just one series of reset-beeps heard prior to the start of the event that was likely a station working a distant repeater (DX). Eric reported he will leave the amplifier out of the circuit until after the Athens Hamfest on April 28.

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

There is no news about the UHF repeater.

## Old Business (cont'd)

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

Eric McFadden thanked the 26 operators who helped the ACARA provide communications support of the event:

John Biddle, W8PG  
Tim Creamer (no call)  
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ  
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV  
Lance Groeneveld, KD8KMZ  
Linsey Groeneveld, KD8KNA  
Royce Holliday, KC8THI  
Chris Howerth, KD8RYJ  
Andrew Kahn, WA8LIV  
Robin Kinney, KG6DI  
Randy Mace, KB8AYZ  
John McCutcheon, N8XWO  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF  
Kate McFadden, KD8KNB  
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC  
Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ  
Roy Plant, KD8PKV  
Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ  
John Thomas, KC8JWZ  
David Underwood, KC8RYL  
James Underwood, KD8UHN  
Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O

Eric McFadden reported that the repeater worked well throughout the event; no operators had trouble hitting the repeater from their assigned locations and no stations had trouble hearing the repeater.

Eric McFadden reported that the APRS network worked extremely well. The main digipeater and i-gate were at the Athens High School; portable digipeaters were deployed on The Ridges, at Glen Ebon Road (Robin Kinney, KG6DI), and at the full-marathon turn-around (Carl Denbow, N8VZ).

Eric McFadden reported that several recently licensed hams including Chris Howerth, KD8RYJ, and James Underwood, KD8UHN, got significant amounts of “mic time”.

Eric McFadden reported that the Race Director, Lisa Simons, thanked the club for their invaluable support of the event.

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

### **Athens Marathon (cont'd)**

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported that this event is the club's premiere venue for promoting itself to the public. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, suggested the club might procure durable signs identifying Amateur Radio and the ACARA to deploy at the stations.

Eric McFadden is collecting comments/suggestions to present to the Marathon Committee at the post-Marathon meeting.

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

Eric McFadden reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, is still looking for two volunteers for this low-pressure event. Those interested in participating should contact Jeff. (Visit <http://ac-ara.org/> for Jeff's email address.)

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.)

### **Club use of *Dropbox***

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, expressed dissatisfaction with the club's use of *Dropbox* to share files. It was suggested that a *Yahoo! Group* might be a better solution.

## Old Business (cont'd)

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

John McCutcheon reported that has confirmed availability of parking cones from the city; he will pick them up and deliver them to the Community Center.

Eric McFadden reported he will contact Ron Chapman, Sr., N8HEK, about use of Ron's PA system.

Eric McFadden reported he will contact Rich Campitelli at the Community Center to schedule a walk-through on Wednesday, April 24. Eric will email the membership with details.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, confirmed that he has the ticket barrel and will deliver it to the hamfest.

Jim Crouse confirmed the club has a sufficient quantity of tickets.

Eric McFadden reported that Universal Radio is sending door prizes. Jim Crouse reported that R&L has sent door prizes. Drew McDaniel confirmed he will provide an HT as a major door prize. The club is providing one \$100 bill and one \$50 bill as major door prizes.

There was significant discussion about call-in prizes. John McCutcheon suggested additional prize tickets be given in place of the traditional dollar coins. After discussion, the members present eventually settled on the dollar coins and smaller items from Universal Radio.

Jim Crouse reported that the Red Cross will be providing the food concession. Eric McFadden asked if the club should offer Constantine Faller, KC8JXA, the opportunity to sell food in the tailgate-area without charging him the entry-fee. Several members were concerned that an additional sanctioned vendor would hurt sales of food by the Red Cross and since the money earned by the Red Cross at the hamfest is used to maintain and improve the Chapterhouse's Amateur Radio station, this situation should be avoided. John McCutcheon made a motion that this year the Red Cross would remain the only sanctioned food vendor at the hamfest; Carl Denbow seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. Eric McFadden reminded the membership that were Constantine and his helpers to pay the regular \$5 entry fee Constantine would be permitted to sell his food in the tailgate-area.

Carl Denbow reported that he has reserved twelve tables for three vendors, including ten tables for Amateur Accessories. It was noted that because of confusion caused when Eric McFadden listed an improper price for tables when he registered the hamfest with the ARRL, Carl has been charging less for tables than what had been published. The members decided that it would be best to continue charging the lower price.

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

### **Athens Hamfest (cont'd)**

Eric McFadden will contact the membership via email soon to sign up volunteers to work the event. Carl Denbow will contact Sharon Perry, WB8TEP, to ask her personally if she would again like to work the event.

### **June Picnic – Thursday June 20, 2013**

Jim Crouse reported he has reserved the use of the Dairy Lane Shelter and has paid the deposit.

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

### **ARRL Field Day – June 22-23, 2013**

Drew McDaniel reported that he has reserved the use of the Athens County Fairgrounds through the Fair Board; the club is not being charged for the use of the grounds.

Eric McFadden reported he will contact Scott Warner, KD8KND, about use of the 9-1-1 Center's mobile crank-up tower. Pending confirmation by Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O, of the availability of the Sterling Engine generator, Eric McFadden will contact Third Sun Solar about use of their solar demonstration trailer to power the stations.

John McCutcheon agreed to serve as VHF Captain and Educational Bonus Captain. Eric McFadden will contact Roy Plant, KD8PKV, to ask if he'll serve as Satellite Bonus Captain.

Carl Denbow volunteered to copy the ARRL Field Day PSK-31 Bulletin. Eric McFadden said he will copy the CW Bulletin.

Eric McFadden asked for suggestions for a member to serve as Mess Captain. John McCutcheon announced he will donate \$100 to the club toward paying Constantine Faller and *Athens Own* to cater the event with Constantine's mobile kitchen. Several members agreed to donate money to cover the difference if the charge for this were to exceed \$100. Eric McFadden will extend an invitation to Constantine.

## **New Business**

### **Appointment of ACARA Secretary/Newsletter Editor**

President Eric McFadden reported that he has appointed Hans Hake, KD8NLI, to serve as the secretary and the newsletter editor until the next election

## **Program**

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, demonstrated and described the cup-holder radio-mount he devised for his recently-purchased automobile.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.