

Athens County Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2013

In Attendance:

John Biddle	W8PG
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
John McCutcheon	N8XWO
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Rich Post	KB8TAD
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.

Due to a need to leave the meeting early, Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, gave a presentation on the *Raspberry Pi* computer at the beginning of the meeting.

In the absence of Secretary Hans Hake, KD8NLI, the minutes of the April, 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. Jim also reported that he has filed the Form 990N with the IRS.

Old Business

ACARA 145.15 MHz Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the repeater's amplifier remains off-line. He reported that he hasn't heard any strange behavior from the repeater with the amplifier off-line. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reported he heard one instance of what might have been the desense problem recently.

Jim Crouse reported that Bill Warthman, K8WJW, did *not* purchase a spectrum analyzer at the Dayton Hamvention and will be unable to test the amplifier output for spurious radiation.

Eric McFadden reported he will place the amplifier back in-line so the repeater performance can be monitored.

Old Business (cont'd)

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

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he will contact County Commissioner Charlie Adkins, who is currently overseeing Athens County 9-1-1, for access to the UHF repeater building.

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 14, 2013

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, distributed marathon-runner long-sleeve shirts to those members who were present at the meeting.

Eric still has shirts to deliver to those who helped support the Athens Marathon. The shirts are available in the following sizes and quantities:

Full Marathon, red, L – qty 2
Full Marathon, red, XL – qty 9
Half Marathon, blue, L – qty 2
Half Marathon, blue, XL – qty 7

Those interested should contact Eric to arrange pick-up of shirts. (Visit <http://ac-ara.org/> for Eric's email address.)

MS-Walk – Saturday, April 20, 2013

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that eight operators helped provide communications support to the event. The event organizers nearly met their yearly goal through this one event. The organizers were pleased with the communications support and very much liked the APRS display at the start/finish.

Jeff fully expects the club will be asked to support the event again next year.

Old Business (cont'd)

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 28, 2013

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, presented the Hamfest Financial Report. He reported there were 218 attendees. Thanks to the donation of an HT by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, the club was able to spend less money on major prizes.

Jim reported that while at the Dayton Hamvention he spoke with several vendors about the possibility of providing door prizes to our hamfest. At least two, including CQ Magazine, indicated they would be willing to do so.

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked if the club might consider renting the entire gym for future hamfests. It was pointed out that the club already uses all the available rectangular tables in half the gym. John Biddle, W8PG, remarked that the Community Center has many round tables that could be used in the second half of the gym. The cost of renting the entire gym is unknown at this time. The club will reconsider this idea as plans for the 2014 hamfest are made.

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, suggested the club might reconsider the relationship between admission tickets and door prizes. He suggested the regular admission tickets be valid only the major prizes—radios, cash—and additional tickets be sold that would be valid for only the smaller prizes. This idea will be discussed again as plans for the 2014 hamfest are made.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that several hamfest attendees asked if the red mobile check-in tickets were “split-the-pot” tickets; this indicates some level of interest in a “split-the-pot”.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that at the VE session ten candidates took tests and three Technician licenses were earned, two General licenses were earned, and two Amateur Extra licenses were earned. Three candidates earned neither a new license nor an upgrade.

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. The club will provide meat, buns, and condiments for burgers in addition to charcoal.

Old Business (cont'd)

ARRL Field Day – June 22-23, 2013

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he had contacted Athens 9-1-1 Center Director Scott Warner, KD8KND, on the 2nd of May and received confirmation that the crank-up mobile tower would be available for the club's use.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that Scott Warner resigned from his post the morning of the 21st. County Commissioner Charlie Adkins will oversee 9-1-1 Center operations until a new director is hired. Jeff will contact Charlie Adkins to confirm availability of the mobile crank-up tower and arrange delivery, set-up, and tear-down.

Jeff Slattery volunteered to contact Dan Pfeiffer to arrange the use of the low power AM public service announcement system. This system will be deployed on West Union Street; drivers will be notified by sign to listen on 1640kHz for information about the Amateur Radio and Field Day.

Jeff Slattery offered the use of his "When All Else Fails" banner; he will get this Eric McFadden prior to Field Day so it can be prominently displayed at the site.

Eric McFadden reported that in the absence of concrete information concerning the availability of a Sterling Engine generator he will contact Third Sun Solar to inquire about use of their solar demonstration trailer.

Eric McFadden volunteered to serve as HF Station captain. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reminded Eric that the Elecraft K2 is not an ideal SSB contest rig; Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, volunteered his Icom IC-756 for use on SSB.

Jim Crouse volunteered to serve as Press/Media Bonus captain.

John McCutcheon, confirmed he will serve as VHF Station caption and Educational Bonus captain.

Eric McFadden will contact Roy Plant, KD8PKV, about the Amateur Satellite Bonus.

Eric McFadden will contact Constantine Faller, KC8JXA, about the possibility of the "Athens Own" mobile kitchen providing Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast. John McCutcheon confirmed that last month's offer of \$100 toward the cost of this still stands.

New Business

Fall VE Test Session

(The following item was actually discussed during the discussion of the Athens Hamfest, during the “Old Business” portion of the meeting.)

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, asked if the club should consider adding a second VE test session to the club’s calendar. He suggested a test session in the Fall would be appropriate. This idea was met with approval. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked Jeff to determine a date and coordinate directly with the club’s VEs.

Early Club History from W5XW

(The following item was actually discussed during the “Old Business” section of the meeting, prior to Drew McDaniel’s departure.)

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Carl Denbow, N8VZ, had emailed him a PDF of a document ([link](#)) he had received from Robert Wheaton, W5XW. Mr. Wheaton was one of the founding members of the original Athens County Amateur Radio Club in 1956 and his letter described some of the early history of the club.

Carl Denbow thought a reply via postal mail service to Mr. Wheaton from the club president would be appropriate. However, since Eric McFadden’s time in Athens began long after any of the activities mentioned in the letter, Eric asked Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, if he would be willing to compose and send such a reply as Vice-President; Drew agreed to do so.

Circleville/Pickaway County Emergency Drill

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that he was involved in the evaluation of the Circleville/Pickaway County Emergency Drill. Fred Davis, Athens County Emergency Manager, was very impressed with the use of Amateur Television (ATV) from a cherry-picker bucket to transmit live images from above the incident scene.

Jeff asked if the ACARA should add ATV to its emergency tool-kit. Eric McFadden asked Jeff to research the cost of building a portable ATV station that could be deployed quickly.

New Business (cont'd)

Athens County Full Scale Emergency Planning Drill – Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, is looking for operators to participate in the upcoming emergency drill. The drill should last from 8am until 11am, with lunch from 11am to noon, and the “hot-wash” (debrief) beginning at noon. Communications will not be evaluated in this drill.

Jeff expects the biggest need for operators will be to support the Red Cross with Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, coordinating. Jeff reported that Mike Cooper, KC8WMY, will be operating in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Jeff asks that club members mark their calendars and watch for follow-up emails with more detail.

Vinton County Emergency Drill – Saturday, June 15, 2013

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the Vinton County group will probably need additional operators for their upcoming emergency drill.

Jeff asks that club members mark their calendars and watch for follow-up emails with more detail.

Sustainability Bicycle Tour – Sunday, July 21

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reports that the club has been asked to provide communications support for this event. Jeff doesn't yet have full details.

Jeff asks that club members mark their calendars and watch for follow-up emails with more detail.

Program

At the start of the meeting, Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, introduced the club members to the *Raspberry Pi* computer.

Rich Post, KB8TAD, displayed and described his restored Heathkit MR-18 Marine Direction Finder radio ([link](#)).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.