

Athens County Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2013

In Attendance:

John Biddle	W8PG
Tim Creamer	
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Zach Holl	
John McCutcheon	N8XWO
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Robert Moore	KC8KSM
John Thomas	KC8JWZ

Following the social gathering at 7:00pm the meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Zach Holl, Board President of ReUse Industries, made a 30-minute presentation on ReUse Industries' upcoming Fix-It Workshops. Mr. Holl is looking for volunteers to help people repair electric/electronic devices at the Fix-It Workshops. Mr. Holl's hand-out describing the planned Workshops is available [here](#) in PDF format. Those interested in volunteering should contact Mr. Holl at zacharyholl@gmail.com.

In the absence of Secretary Hans Hake, KD8NLI, the minutes of the May, 2013 meeting were distributed by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, distributed the financial report. The club currently has \$1,863.27 in unencumbered funds. The Treasurer's report was accepted as distributed. Jim also reported that the ACARA received a thank-you card from the organizers of the Athens Marathon.

Old Business

ACARA 145.15 MHz Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he and Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, set up a listen-only EchoLink node to allow Eric to monitor the repeater in his office in the basement of Ohio University's Parks Hall. The node uses Eric's laptop computer and ICOM handheld transceiver and has since been relocated to the house of Jim Crouse, KC8OVB.

Eric McFadden reported that he visited the repeater site and removed Ted Jacobson's Ringo Ranger antenna from the rear of the building. Eric returned the antenna and one 10' section of mast to Ted. The second 10' section of mast was Eric's property. Ted had loaned the ACARA the antenna and mast while the club was trying to diagnose antenna/feedline performance issues.

Old Business (cont'd)

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

On behalf of UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, Eric McFadden reported that Jeff had met with Athens 9-1-1 Director Dan Pfeiffer on July 17. Jeff learned that the County will be installing a new MARCS system in the building and removing unneeded antennas and feedlines; he was told that the ACARA will need to remove unneeded items from the building and move the repeater equipment into a county-provided rack. Jeff also learned that Frontier will be installing new multi-line telephone cables; Jeff requested one pair be run to the UHF repeater.

Jeff and Eric visited the repeater site in August and moved the repeater into the county-provided rack and identified and labeled the ACARA's feedlines. They discovered inconsistencies in the original feedline labels and need to borrow a UHF-capable antenna analyzer to verify which antennas the feedlines are connected to. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, thinks his analyzer might cover the 440MHz band.

Currently, the UHF repeater utilizes a homebrew EPROM-based controller. Jeff would like to replace this with the ACARA's retired ACC RC-96 controller. Eric delivered the RC-96 controller and manual to Jeff.

Eric showed a photo of the repeater in its new rack.

APRS Digipeater

Eric McFadden reported that the digipeater currently is using a DCI Model 146-4H 4-pole bandpass filter that is the property of Ted Jacobson, W8KVK. This device is used to limit out-of-band RF energy at the site from reaching the digipeater's receiver. Ted would either like this device back or would like to sell it to the ACARA for \$175. The DCI Model 146-4H is currently available new for about \$400. John Biddle, W8PG, made a motion that the ACARA purchase Ted's DCI Model 146-4H filter for \$175; the motion was seconded by John McCutcheon, N8XWO, and the vote passed unanimously.

June Picnic – Thursday, June 20, 2013 at Dairy Lane Shelter House

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reported that the June Picnic was a fine picnic. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that attendance was lower than anticipated but the food was good.

Old Business (cont'd)

Field Day – June 22-23, 2013

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the ACARA participated in class 1A and made 555 QSOs and earned 1050 bonus points for a score of 3092 points. Dan Pfeiffer and the Athens 9-1-1 center provided the 50' trailer-mounted tower which was used to support the HF antennas. Third Sun Solar provided their solar-demonstration trailer which was used to provide power to both the HF and VHF stations.

Eric provided the QSO breakdown by band:

Band	CW	SSB
80	131	0
40	174	25
20	137	35
15	21	1
6	3	28
Total	466	89

Eric reported that Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast were provided by Constantine Faller, KC8JXA, and his Athens' Own mobile kitchen. Treasurer Jim Crouse reported that the club has not yet been billed for this. Eric thanked John McCutcheon, N8XWO, again for his gift to the club of \$100 toward the cost of the catering.

Eric reported the following members participated in Field Day:

Gary Carter, KD8MSR
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Hans Hake, KD8NLI
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Roy Plant, KD8PKV
Rich Post, KB8TAD
Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O

John McCutcheon reminded the members that Bob Moore, KC8KSM, was also at Field Day. Eric agreed but explained Bob was reported as a guest since he wasn't yet a member of the ACARA.

Eric reported that the ACARA Field Day site was visited by Athens Mayor Paul Wehl who presented the Proclamation for the Amateur Radio Appreciation Day. The proclamation can be viewed [here](#).

Old Business (cont'd)

ARRL Field Day – June 22-23, 2013 (cont'd)

Eric reported that the ACARA Field Day site was visited by ARRL Ohio Assistant Section Manager Connie Hamilton, N8IO, who helped the club earn the 100 bonus points for “Message Origination to Section Manager”.

Eric presented a slideshow of photos from Field Day.

My Neighbor’s Keeper Bike Tour – July 21, 2013

On behalf of Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, Eric McFadden reported that the club supported the “My Neighbor’s Keeper” fund-raiser bicycle tour. Bob Curtis and Eric both mentioned that the roads chosen by the organizers weren’t ideal.

Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPotA) – Saturday, September 7, 2013

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported that the club’s participation in OSPotA this year was a success and provided the following comparison between last year’s effort and this year’s:

	QSOs	Parks Worked	Score
2012	71	27	1,917
2013	62	37	2,232

John attributed much of the improvement in the number of State Parks worked to the use of the club’s full-size 80m/40m fan-dipole Field Day antenna instead of the trap-dipole used in previous years

Eric McFadden reported that the following participated in set-up, operations, or tear-down:

Gary Carter, KD8MSR
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Bob Moore, KC8KSM
Rich Post, KB8TAD

Eric McFadden presented a slideshow of photos from OSPotA.

(Learn more about OSPotA here: [official website](#))

New Business

Run Like Hell 5K Costume Run for Cystic Fibrosis – Saturday, October 19

On behalf of Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, Eric McFadden reported that the ACARA will be providing communications support for the upcoming “Run Like Hell 5K Run for Cystic Fibrosis” on the evening of Saturday, October 19. Runner check-in starts at 7:30pm. The Run starts at 8:30 and should be finished by 9:30. The Run starts at the end of Mill Street and proceeds along the bike path. Communications will be on 146.400MHz simplex. Those wishing to help should contact Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

Bobcat Trail Marathon – Sunday, November 3, 2013

On behalf of Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, Eric McFadden reported that the ACARA will be providing communications support for the upcoming “Bobcat Trail Marathon” around Burr Oak Lake. The race begins at 7am; close-in operators need to be on-station by 6:30am or 6:45am. Communications will be on 146.400MHz simplex. Those wishing to help should contact Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ.

ACARA Equipment Inventory

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reported that he, Eric McFadden, and Ted Jacobson have been working to bring up-to-date the ACARA’s equipment inventory list. Jim asks any member who has in his possession any items of club equipment to please contact him.

New Business (cont'd)

Non-Profits Day OU Football

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that he received the following email from Jessica Vaeth, Marketing Associate, Ohio Athletics, and an associated piece of postal mail:

I would like to inform you about a great fundraising opportunity that your organization can participate in. On Saturday October 26 we are holding Non-Profits Day during the Ohio Bobcats football game against Miami! This is an excellent fundraising opportunity for all our local non-profit organizations and only requires three simple steps:

1. Ask for an amount of tickets that we will provide to you for no up-front cost
2. You then sell the tickets to friends, family, and supporters at a face value of \$20
3. You then owe just \$7 per ticket to Ohio University Athletics and keep \$13 per ticket in fundraising for your organization. All unsold tickets will just then be returned at no cost!

I have attached a flyer to this email explaining the fundraiser. If you would like tickets, want to participate during a different game, or have any other questions do not hesitate to contact me at jessv@ptd.net. I can also be contacted at 740-593-1630.

Thank you for your support of Ohio Athletics!

Jim Crouse suggested this would be a good, risk-free, way for the club to earn some money.

Eric McFadden asks any club members who think they could sell some tickets to please contact him soon so he can arrange to get the tickets.

Nominations of Officers for 2014

The following members were nominated for officer positions for 2014:

President	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	(incumbent)
Vice-President	Drew McDaniel, W8MHV	(incumbent)
Secretary	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ Randy Mace, KB8AYZ	
Treasurer	Jim Crouse, KC8OVB	(incumbent)
Newsletter Editor	Hans Hake, KD8NLI	(incumbent)
Webmaster	Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ	(incumbent)
Packet Node Trustee	Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ	(incumbent)
VHF Repeater Trustee	Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	(incumbent)

Eric McFadden will contact all nominees via email and notify Jim Crouse by October 1 of those who accept the nominations; Jim Crouse will then prepare and mail ballots.

The meeting was adjourned by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. (The time was not recorded.)

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.