

## Athens County Amateur Radio Association

### Minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2013 – Amended

#### In Attendance:

Don Carter	KA8PJQ
Gary Carter	KD8MSR
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
John McCutcheon	N8XWO
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Bob Moore	KC8KSM
Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
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.

**Program:** *The Wouxon X1M Transceiver*, presented by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

In the absence of Secretary Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ, the minutes of the October 15, 2013 meeting were distributed by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, and Don Carter, KA8PJQ, each notified Eric of errors which Eric McFadden will fix. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, made a motion that the minutes be accepted as amended; the motion was seconded by Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. The vote passed without dissent.

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, distributed the financial report. The club currently has \$1,102.02 in unencumbered funds. John Thomas, KC8JWZ, moved that the report be accepted; the motion was seconded by Bob Moore, KC8KSM. The vote passed without dissent.

#### Old Business

##### ACARA 145.15 MHz Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported the repeater appears to be working well but that he needs to visit the site soon to perform winterization. He hopes to visit the repeater site the weekend of November 23-24.

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

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

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the UHF repeater is performing well except for a possible intermittent receiver-sensitivity issue. Jeff is in the process of making the cables to allow use of the club's RC-96 repeater controller. Jeff is still trying to contact the builder of the repeater to determine exactly what antennas are on the tower. Jeff has been working on registering the repeater with the Ohio Repeater Council. Jeff reports that the MARCS system has not yet removed the unused antennas and feedlines from the tower.

### **Raffle of repaired IC-2100H APRS transceiver**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that as was decided at last month's meeting, the club will be giving away by raffle the club's repaired IC-2100H radio that had been used in APRS-node service. Eric confirmed with Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, that Jeff Slattery has been reimbursed the cost of the repairs to the radio.

Raffle tickets are now available for purchase and cost \$10 each. The winning ticket will be drawn at the ACARA Holiday Dinner so long as at least eleven tickets have been sold. (If eleven tickets have not been sold by that date, the drawing will occur at the first ACARA meeting following the sale of the 11<sup>th</sup> ticket.) Those interested in purchasing tickets may contact Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, or Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, to do so.

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported on the club's support of this event:

"Run Like Hell" 5K Race for Cystic Fibrosis on the OU Section of the Athens Bike Path.  
Saturday, October 19, 2013

Simplex net conducted on 146.400MHz. Coordinated by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ – Net Control. Operator volunteers: Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; Miles McFadden, KD8KNC; Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ; Bob Moore, KC8KSM; Jim Crouse, KC8OVB. Volunteer hours reported to ARRL: 14.

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

### **Bobcat Trail Marathon – Sunday, November 3, 2013**

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported on the club's support of this event:

Bobcat Trail Marathon at Burr Oak Lake State Park. Sunday, November 3, 2013

Simplex net conducted on 146.400MHz. Coordinated by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ – Net Control. Operator Volunteers: Ted Jacobson, W8KVK; John Thomas, KC8JWZ; Bob Moore, KC8KSM; John McCutcheon, N8XWO; Robert Peoples, N8UVM (SCARF); Jeramy Duncan, KC8QDQ (SCARF); Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; Miles McFadden, KD8KNC. Volunteer hours reported to ARRL:80

### **Antenna Party at Red Cross of Southeast Ohio (Athens County Chapter) – Saturday, November 2, 2013**

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, made the following report:

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF; Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV; and Lance Groeneveld, KD8KMZ, all of ACARA, assisted three communications team members from the Red Cross of Central Ohio (Columbus Chapter) to erect a low band 6-meter VHF antenna on 47.42MHz for installation of a base radio capable of communicating with the local Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) and other Red Cross vehicles on the National Red Cross frequency. The ERV is used to distribute food and cleanup supplies during a disaster. Also erected a second 2-meter AR2 Ringo to be used for secondary 2-meter voice or packet/APRS operations. This will probably be replaced later with a dual band Ringo AR270 or something similar. The Columbus Chapter is also working on getting an HF radio for Athens. Jeff plans to bring his Hustler 5BTV antenna from the high school to set up on the roof to use with this radio once it is arranged. Volunteer hour reported to ARRL: 16

## Old Business (cont'd)

### ARRL Field Day (June 22-23, 2013) Results

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the results of the 2013 ARRL Field Day are now available in the December issue of QST and online ([link](#)).

The ACARA made 555 QSOs and earned 3,092 points. This score earned the ACARA a 16<sup>th</sup> place in Class 1A out of 104 entries, a placement at the 16<sup>th</sup> percentile. The ACARA placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ohio in Class 1A and second in the Great Lakes Subdivision in Class 1A.

For comparison, in 2012 the ACARA placed 33<sup>rd</sup> in Class 1A out of 128 entries (26<sup>th</sup> percentile) and in 2011 the ACARA placed 35<sup>th</sup> in Class 1A out of 149 entries (23<sup>rd</sup> percentile.)

### Club Construction / Education Project

Neither Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, nor Carl Denbow, N8VZ, were at the meeting so this topic was tabled until January. (Drew left the meeting early.)

## New Business

### ARRL 10-meter Contest – December 14-15, 2013

Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O, reported on the upcoming ARRL 10-meter Contest and encouraged all members to participate. The ACARA will be participating as a club and every submitted log helps even if that log contains only a few QSOs.

Greg distributed a primer on the ARRL 10-meter Contest; it is available in PDF format [here](#).

Greg also displayed the *NC8V Memorial Trophy*. This rotating trophy goes annually to the ACARA member who earns the highest score in the ARRL 10-meter Contest.

Those participating must contact Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, after the event with their QSO-count and calculated score so he can supply a list of participants to the ARRL and so he can determine who will take home the *NC8V Memorial Trophy*. Participants are responsible for submitting their own logs to the ARRL; each log in Cabrillo format must include "ACARA" in the header.

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

### **ACARA Holiday Dinner – Tuesday, December 17, 2013**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported he has reserved Lui Lui for this event.

As has become traditional, the ACARA will provide hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic punch; members and their guests will order their dinner from the regular menu.

Members and their guests may arrive at 5:30pm for hors d'oeuvres and punch; orders for dinner will be taken starting about 6pm.

Lui Lui is located at 8 Station Street in Athens.

### **ACARA License Class**

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported he will conduct the ACARA License Class Monday evenings beginning January 6, 2014 and continuing through the March 10 testing session. Jeff is unsure if he will be able to use the Athens High School; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, will see if the meeting room in the OU Facilities Management Building is available or, if not, a room in Grosvenor Hall is available.

### **MS-Walk – Saturday, April 12, 2014**

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the date for the 2014 MS-Walk has been set at Saturday, April 12, 2014. This is the day before the Athens Marathon but since the MS-Walk is a short-duration event early in the day this shouldn't be a problem. Members should expect to be contacted by Jeff as the event approaches. (date corrected)

### **Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 13, 2014**

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported that the date for the 2014 Athens Marathon has been set at Sunday, April 13, 2014. Members should expect to be contacted by Jeff as the event approaches. (date corrected)

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

### **ACARA Hamfest – Sunday, April 27, 2014**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported he needs to register the event at the ARRL and reserve the use of the Athens Community Center.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, agreed to coordinate the testing session and will register the testing session at the ARRL.

There was discussion about admission and table prices. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, suggested those coming to the hamfest for testing shouldn't be required to pay the hamfest admission fee.

With Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, and Carl Denbow, N8VZ, not at the meeting, it was decided that the Executive Committee would decide on admission fee, table fee, and the issue of admission fee for those testing. Eric will convene the Executive Committee after he reserves the use of the Athens Community Center and learns the cost associated with same.

### **February Potluck – 6pm Saturday, February 22, 2014**

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, asked for suggested dates for the February Potluck. After considering the OU Basketball schedule and the day of the week Valentines falls on, the assembled members decided on Saturday, February 22, 2014.

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, volunteered to reserve the use of the Red Cross Shelterhouse for the event.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, will be providing a classic movie on film for the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.