

ACARA MINUTES 2014-09-16

Attendance:

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O
Lowell Jacobs, KD8WVY
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
John Biddle, W8PG
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Hans Hake, KD8NLI
Andy Van Fossen, KD8 ZIO
Chuck Bennett, WB8CEE
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
John Thomas, KC8JWZ
Robert Moore, KC8KSM
Gary Hudson, KD8IMS
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ

Program

NS8O – operating as W1AW/8 during Ohio QSO Party Greg described his operations as W1AW/8 during this 100th anniversary of the ARRL. He passed around some of his logs. He had lots of contacts especially on 30 meters operating 100 watts CW. He described his experience as interesting, fun and time consuming.

WD8RIF – evolution of the modern HT Eric showed HTs starting with the larger ones from the 70's with discrete components soldered to the motherboard and using crystal control for the operating frequency. The second HT was one from the 80's made with a few integrated circuits, fewer discrete components and using decade switch frequency selection. The third HT shown was a more modern Yaesu exhibiting no discrete components and touch-pad entry synthesized frequency selection. Each unit was passed around so attendees could view the differences in circuitry.

Corrections/additions of Minutes

It was moved by N8XWO and seconded by NS8O to approve the minutes as posted online and distributed at this meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

KC8OVB reported that there was not much financial activity over the summer with no checks issued. It was moved by W8MHV and seconded by N8XWO to approve the treasurer's report. The report concluded by distribution

of a few Ohio Repeater Directories and mention of the flyers for the Parkersburg Hamfest on October 11, 2014.

Old Business

VHF Repeater – Eric reported that the 2 meter repeater is working OK and asked if anyone had noticed any problems. No one reported any problems.

UHF Repeater – Jeff reported that the 440 repeater is also working OK during checks. He has contacted Justin Drummond about what we thought was the controller. Turns out it is the link controller for the 220 MHz radio. Justin thinks the main controller is internal. He is working on finding the documentation for the GE internal controller so we can get the call sign changed.

Field Day – June 28-29, 2014

Eric presented a slideshow from our Field Day 2014 operations.

WD8RIF:

The ACARA participated in the 2014 ARRL Field Day with 100-watt stations at the Athens County Fairgrounds with the callsign W8MHV.

The club participated in class 1A, meaning one transmitter, club or non-club group, power output of 150 watts or less. A total of 604 QSOs and 970 bonus points resulted in a score of 3,152 points, a score that may be an ACARA record. The ACARA earned bonus points for 100% Emergency Power, Media Publicity, Public Location, Public Information Booth, Alternate Power, W1AW Field Day Bulletin, Educational Activity, Site Visitation by an Elected Official, Site Visitation by a Representative of a Served Agency, Youth Participation, and Web Submission.

The operation took place at the Athens County Fairgrounds. Power for both the HF station and the 6m VHF station came from the Third Sun Solar Power solar-demonstration trailer. Dan Pfeiffer of Athens County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center provided the 50' trailer-mounted tower to support the 80m/40m HF antenna.

Athens Mayor Paul Wiehl visited on Saturday morning and presented the Proclamation for Amateur Radio Appreciation Days.

Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, and Sunday lunch were provided by Miles McFadden (KD8KCN) and his mobile kitchen. This was made possible by a generous donation by John McCutcheon, N8XWO.

Participants:

Gary Carter, KD8MSR
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Lance Groeneveld, KD8KMZ

Mike Hansgen, K8RAT
Lowell Jacobs, KD8WVY
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Robert Moore, KC8KSM
Rich Post, KB8TAD
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
John Thomas, KC8JWZ
Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O
Andy Young, KD8WVX

Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPotA) – September 6, 2014

Eric presented a slideshow of pictures from club member operations at Strouds Run, Forked Run, Jackson Lake and Lake Alma State Parks. Photos courtesy of Eric McFadden, Chuck Bennett and Andy Young.

N8XWO reported on the club's Strouds Run operation as W8UKE from the first shelter at Strouds. Several club members operated throughout the day. Most contacts were on 40 meters. Setup was an Icom 7410. A total of 71 QSOs were logged with 40 of 77 parks contacted. John passed around a map of those parks which showed the ability to contact just about anywhere else in Ohio from the Strouds/Athens area. More contacts might have been made but there was a crash of the logging computer. It is thought, that it was heat related since the laptop power supply had been out in direct sun for most of the day. The operation concluded with the obligatory cookout with potluck which was enjoyed by all. The aim is to work all parks next year.

N8SUZ reported on his operations with Andy Young, KD8WVX (logger) as N8SUZ from two different parks. Jackson Lake outside of Oak Hill was activated from the noon (local) start until around 1700 for a total of 69 contacts and 34 parks contacted for 2,346 points. They then packed up and moved operations to Lake Alma between Wellston and Hamden after a detour around the Wellston Coal Festival Parade. They operated the last hour and 40 minutes of the contest from there with 36 total QSOs and 15 parks contacted for 540 points. All contacts from both parks were on 40 meters using an Icom 706MKIIG at 100 watts on battery power into Jeff's portable 75/60/40 NVIS antenna system.

WB8CEE reported on his operations with KD8ZIO from Forked Run State Park at Long Bottom. They used a cross-NVIS for 80/40 up 16 feet on a painter's pole and an Icom IC-7000 at 100 watts on

commercial power. They were set up at a regular campsite on a hillier location at the park. They made a total of 121 contacts with 50 parks and 6,050 points.

Buckeye Trail 5K Fun Run/Walk – September 13

N8SUZ reported on this new, first annual, public service event for ACARA. This fun run/walk is sponsored by the Buckeye Trail Association to help raise money for trail maintenance. There were 23 runners/walkers on a course that started at the Watkins Street ball fields in Nelsonville, went into town, looped through the Public Square to Hocking Parkway out to Hocking College and along the bike path back to Watkins Street finish. We had a total of 10 operators utilizing a simplex net for 15 public service hours. Volunteers: Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, NCS, Eric McFadden, Bike Mobile, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, Bob Moore, KC8KSM, Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ, Bill Warthman, K8WJW, Katie McFadden, KD8KNB, Robert Peoples, N8VUM, Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, and Ted Jacobson, W8KVK.

Donation Request – Athens Marathon Committee

WD8RIF – no donation request has yet been made. This was pending estimates of costs for the repeater building summer project reported on below.

Summer Project – repeater building?

Insulate building, install (solar-powered?) vent fan, install heat (?).

WD8RIF and NS8O visited site to measure, etc., in May. NS8O is to provide estimated materials costs for various schemes. In his haste to get to the meeting, NS8O left his cost estimates at home. He mentioned that some of the proposed methods to insulate the roof could present problems due to collection of moisture between the insulation and roof. The roof is made from OSB board which is adversely affected by such moisture accumulation. Greg is investigating costs of insulating material that will not cause moisture collection.

New Business

Autumn VE Session – Monday, October 20 @ Red Cross

N8SUZ has registered the above date with the ARRL for a fall VE session. Registration will begin at 6:30 PM with testing to start at 7:00 PM. We have at least 4 VEs who have volunteered for the session.

KC8OVB will take care of registration and collection of the \$15 fee. It was moved by Jim Crouse, KC8OVB and seconded by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ that we hold \$5 of the \$7 out of each session fee that the club is allowed to keep for expenses to be used to make a donation to the Red Cross for use of the conference room for the session. This will apply to all VE sessions held at the Red Cross now and in the future. Motion carried.

License Class – January 5 – March 9, 2015 @ Red Cross

N8SUZ has registered the above dates for our annual Technician license classes at the Athens Red Cross with the ARRL. March 9, 2015 is registered for the VE session. Jeff, N8SUZ moved, with John, N8XWO seconding, that Jeff purchase 15 books for the class to be reimbursed by ACARA. Motion carried.

Run Like Hell 5K Costume Run for Cystic Fibrosis
– Sunday, October 26, 4:15PM

N8SUZ reported that this annual public service event has been moved from a Saturday night to a Sunday afternoon. The start/finish has also been moved from the Mill Street ball fields to the Tail-Great Park area on Shafer Street across from the Convocation Center. Jeff, N8SUZ will operate net control from the start/finish area. The organizers are not sure whether they will use a loop in the course over to The Ridges area first. The rest of the course will follow the old path backwards with the turnaround being either at the Mill Street ball fields or the old South Green Assembly of God Church. Jeff confirmed operation assignments with those present. Operators should be on location by 4:00 PM.

Bobcat Trail Marathon – November 2, 7AM @ Burr Oak State Park

N8SUZ reported that we have been again asked to support the Bobcat Trail Marathon on November 2. This event is also sponsored in part by the Buckeye Trail Association. No changes in course or location assignments are anticipated this year. Jeff confirmed operation assignments with those present. Close in assignments need to be on location by 6:45 AM. Late assignments should be on location by 8:00 AM.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 26, 2014

Hamfest VE Session already registered at ARRL by N8SUZ.
Session will start at usual time of 10:00 AM with registration starting at 9:30 AM.

New Officer Nominations – The following slate of officers for 2015 was proposed. Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ has had a change in her family babysitting days and feels she cannot continue as Secretary. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ volunteered to be placed on the ballot to try out the job for this next year. The remaining current officers consented to be placed on the ballot for continuation in their present offices.

Discussion ensued as to how to distribute the ballots. It was decided that we would try sending the ballots electronically as a PDF. Members may return ballots by mail or in person at the next meeting. If sending by mail, the member will be asked to sign the outside flap of the envelope.

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Nomination</u>
President –	WD8RIF	WD8RIF
Vice-President –	W8MHV	W8MHV
Secretary –	KD8PUJ	KD8FRQ
Treasurer –	KC8OVB	KC8OVB
Newsletter Editor –	KD8NLI	KD8NLI
Webmaster –	N8SUZ	N8SUZ
Packet Node Trustee –	N8SUZ	N8SUZ
Repeater Trustee –	WD8RIF	WD8RIF

Announcements/Good of the Order

It was mentioned that a member of the 5 PM, 6 AM Net on 50.4 MHz, recently worked Texas, Florida and Massachusetts using a vertical antenna.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, Secretary Pro Tem