

***Attendance***

John McCutcheon	N8XWO
John Biddle	W8PG
Rich Post	KB8TAD
Robert Moore	KC8KSM
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
John Thomas	KC8JWZ
Lowell Jacobs	KD8WVY
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV

***Program***

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, talked about his participation in the 2015 “Straight Key Night”, which occurred on January 1, 2015. He used a 1957/58 Lew McCoy Novice Transmitter made with vacuum tubes. This transmitter had been beautifully restored by Rich Post, KB8TAD. The basic design for the transmitter appeared in the January, 1957 issue of QST and in the 1957, 1958, and 1959 editions of the ARRL Handbook. Eric demonstrated the transmitter at the meeting by transmitting into a light-bulb dummy load and listening to the signal on his Elecraft K2 transceiver.

Eric also gave a history of the Novice Class License and telegraphy keys and explained how Straight Key Night began in 1971 as an event in which participants could use only straight keys to today’s event in which any manual key (straight key, sideswiper, or bug) could be used and many participants use vintage tube-type equipment.

***Corrections/additions of Minutes***

There were two corrections to the minutes of 11/18/14. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, moved to approve the minutes, as corrected, and John McCutcheon, N8XWO seconded. The minutes were approved

***Treasurer's Report***

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the Treasurer's Report. The dues of \$20 are now due. He will send out an email to this effect. The HVB checking account has \$797.37 at present.

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, moved to approve the report. John McCutcheon, N8XWO, seconded the motion. It was approved.

Jim talked about David Underwood, KC8RYL, who died January 17, and of his contributions to Amateur Radio and to the Red Cross. (See Appendix for his obituary). Drew McDaniel, W8MHV moved and John McCutcheon, N8XWO seconded a proposal that the Club donate \$50 to the Red Cross in his memory. The resolution passed.

***Old Business*****VHF Repeater**

The VHF Repeater trustee, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF reported that the repeater seems to be working fine. He has not yet asked the Athens Marathon Committee for funds to help replace the repeater's RF deck

**UHF Repeater**

This repeater is still not working. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, the UHF Repeater Trustee, was not present to give an update on it.

**ARRL 10-meter Contest – December 13-14, 2015**

Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O at the last meeting, had encouraged everyone to enter this to win the NC8V John Cornwell Memorial Trophy which he had constructed. Greg had withdrawn his eligibility for the Trophy to encourage others. The final statistics from the contest are:

Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O	304 CW	121,600	
John Biddle, W8PG	266 SSB	52,136	*** winner ***
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF	152 CW	31,616	
Carl Denbow, N8VZ	129 SSB	~15,200	
Andy Young, KD8WVX	95 SSB	8,930	

Eric presented the Trophy to John Biddle, W8PG.

### Holiday Party – December 16 @ Lui Lui

Eric said Stephens had to cancel our reservation because they were closed; however, Lui Lui had space for us.

The event was attended by:

Chuck Bennett, WB8CEE & daughter  
John Biddle, W8PG  
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ & Kathy  
Carl Denbow, N8VZ & Jane  
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV & Nancy  
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF & Vickie, KC8MAJ  
Rich Post, KB8TAD & Edie  
Tom Rockhold, N0OGS  
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ & Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ  
John Thomas, KC8JWZ & Twila  
Andy Von Fossen, KD8ZIO  
Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O & Cathy  
Andy Young, KD8WVX & wife

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### License Class

The Class started January 5 at the Red Cross Chapterhouse, and is going well. The test session is scheduled for March 8.

#### Club Construction / Education Spring Project

Last year's project was such a success that the members want a new one to be scheduled sometime in the spring. There were several suggestions given:

Eric, WD8RIF suggested a 14-part 80m CW transceiver  
<http://www.antiqueradios.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=12&t=193042>

Rich, KB8TAD: via email proposed a cheap and easy SDR.  
See the Jan, 2013 QST

Rich also suggested (via email) an AM Broadcast Transmitter  
<http://www.antiqueradios.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=12&t=193042>

Other ideas brought up in the meeting:

Building a manual antenna tuner.

Building wire HF antennas, possibly trapped dipoles. Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, will investigate the construction of the traps.

There will be more discussion at future meetings. No decision was made.

#### February Potluck

This will be on Saturday, February 21 at the Red Cross Chapterhouse.

Eric will get some suitable entertainment such as an episode of the old "Twilight Zone" TV series, which would run about 25 minutes.

#### ACARA Hamfest – Sunday, April 26, 2015

Eric, WD8RIF, registered the event with the ARRL

There was a discussion on means of advertising. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB had talked to Ted Jacobson, W8KVK about using email for advertising. The question: What is the club's feeling on postcards? Jim mentioned that the postcards cost about \$130 to print last year, and \$157 to send. It would cost more this year. Shall we transition entirely to email? Ted feels he can build a significant data base for this. It was decided to do both postcards and email this year. Eric McFadden and Jim Crouse will work with Ted Jacobson to determine what the club needs to do in order to do the email campaign. There will be further discussion on this at the next meeting.

Two items below could not be discussed in depth because Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, who is responsible for them, could not attend:

#### Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 4, 2015

<http://southeasternohiotrailrunners.org/events/iron-furnance-trail-run/>

#### Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 19, 2015

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ.

**OBITUARY OF DAVID UNDERWOOD, KC8RYL**

GUYSVILLE — David Brian Underwood, 63, of Guysville, Ohio, passed from this life on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015. Born in Columbus on April 4, 1951, he was the son of the late Max L. and Nancy Blake Underwood, and was raised in New Lexington, Ohio.

David was the coordinator for the Ohio University College of Business PMBA program. He was a veteran of the Navy, an active reservist, and a veteran of Desert Storm. As a volunteer for the American Red Cross, he acted as government liaison to Athens County. David was an amateur ham radio licensee and an avid photographer. With his son, he was a weather reporter for the CoCoRaHS Network. An enthusiastic gardener, he loved to work with native Ohio plants.

David is survived by his wife, Nellia Monteroso Underwood; and son, James of the home. He also is survived by brothers, Carleton (Amy) Underwood of Zanesville and Max (Christina Andrews) Underwood of Delaware, Ohio; and sisters, Nancy Underwood of New Lexington and Jane Underwood of Fort Thomas, Ky.; as well as a niece, Carys Underwood.

No service will be held at this time. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio, 100 S. May Ave, Athens, OH 45701; or Appalachian Community Hospice, 30 Herrold Ave., Athens, OH 45701.