

Attendance

John Biddle	W8PG
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Carl J. Denbow	N8VZ
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV

Program

Due to anticipated weather related low attendance the scheduled program, N8VZ/W8MHV demonstration of the Elecraft PX3 panadapter, has been postponed until the March 17 meeting. However, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, demonstrated a straight key made for the Czech military.

Corrections/additions of Minutes

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, passed out the minutes from the last meeting. There were no corrections. Jim Crouse moved and Drew McDaniel seconded that the minutes for 1/20/15 be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the Treasurer's Report. We are in good financial shape, especially with the donation of the Athens Marathon Committee (see below under the VHF repeater). John Biddle moved that the report be accepted. Carl Denbow seconded. The motion passed.

Old Business**VHF Repeater**

On February 13, Eric requested via email that the Athens Marathon Committee consider making a donation to the ACARA toward the purchase of a new RF deck for the VHF repeater. (*See email attached at the end of the minutes.*)

On February 13, Lisa Simons of the Athens Marathon Committee delivered to the ACARA a donation of \$1,300.

UHF Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he now has new lock-codes from Dan Pfeiffer of Athens 9-1-1. When the weather improves, Jeff will visit the site to try to diagnose operational problems. He is awaiting delivery of software he needs to re-program surplus public-service transceivers for use as back-up for the UHF repeater.

February Potluck

This is scheduled for Saturday, February 21 at the Red Cross Chapterhouse
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, announced that we will meet at 5:30pm; and eat at 6pm. Attendees should bring a dish to share and their own table service and beverage. Eric, WD8RIF will be bringing a DVD for entertainment.

Club Construction / Education Spring Project

This item was tabled because there were not enough members present to discuss it.

The License Class

This has been held on Mondays starting Jan 5 at the Red Cross Chapterhouse.

At the start there were five participants, but in the last few sessions only one was attending. In the Feb. 9 class, no one came due to bad weather. The Feb. 16 class was canceled for the same reason.

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, asked if we could hold it during some other season of the year ? Also, he suggested we should make the first session more motivational. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, could talk about his experiences on emergency service. John Biddle, W8PG, and Eric, WD8RIF would be willing to talk about DXing, Carl, N8VZ would like to talk about using digital modes, such as PSK31. Others could also talk about their experiences in amateur radio. The nuts and bolts of Chapter 1 would be postponed to the second class.

There can be more discussion on this at a later time.

New Business

The Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Sunday, March 29, 9am to 5pm

Jeff, N8SUZ said via email the ACARA website (<http://www.ac-ara.org/>) has a page with assignments and maps. The assignment sheet was passed to members present to confirm or change their participation.

The Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 4, 2015, 9am to 1pm

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that the ACARA website (<http://www.ac-ara.org/>) has a page with assignments and maps. Members should go there to sign up for a spot, or confirm last year's posting.

The website of the Trail Run is below:

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

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 19, 2015

Jeff, N8SUZ, wrote via email that anyone wishing to confirm their Marathon assignment should let Eric know at the meeting or tell Jeff.

Eric, WD8RIF reported that there is no Marathon Committee meeting scheduled yet.

ACARA Hamfest – Sunday, April 26, 2015

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB and Ted Jacobson, W8KVK are in charge of using email to advertise the Hamfest. Ted wrote via email that we need to identify volunteers to find email addresses using QRZ.com and Ted's online email-verification tool; volunteers will be asked to work through blocks of 25 call signs at a time—simple work but time-consuming.

The deadline to give Ted the email addresses is March 8.

Ted provided a map of cities where postcards will be sent.

Eric, WD8RIF and Jim, KC8OVB have submitted an application for the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau 2015 Tourism Development Program's "General Sponsorship Award".
Eric submitted the event to the calendar at AthensOhio.com.
He also delivered flyers to the Mansfield Hamfest.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ

APPENDIX

Subject: Athens County Amateur Radio Association
From: William McFadden
To: Simons, Lisa M
Cc: Jim Crouse, Drew McDaniel
Date: 2015-02-13 13:10

Hello, Lisa.

Last year I learned that the Athens Marathon Committee is trying to identify worthy local organizations to support with financial contributions. Please allow me to direct your attention to the Athens County Amateur Radio Association (ACARA).

The ACARA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization supporting public service and emergency communications in Athens County. The ACARA has provided communications support to the Athens Marathon every year for over two and half decades and also provides communications support to the MS-Walk, the Run Like Hell 5K Run for Cystic Fibrosis, the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA), the Bobcat Trail Marathon, and other community events.

In addition to providing communications support for public service events, the ACARA stands ready to provide communications support during emergencies. The Athens Chapter of the American Red Cross is the primary agency served by the ACARA but the ACARA also maintains close relationships with the Athens County Emergency Management Agency and the Athens County 9-1-1 Center.

The ACARA maintains three radio repeater systems which are critical to the ACARA's ability to effectively support public service and emergency events. Without these repeaters, the ACARA would be hard-pressed to provide effective communications support to the Athens Marathon.

In 2009, the ACARA received a donation in the amount of \$1,500 from the previous Marathon Committee. This money was used to purchase high-visibility vests for our operators, a radio to be used on the Marathon golf-cart, and a GPS-enabled tracker to be used by the radio-equipped bicyclist riding with the full-marathon lead runner. The remainder of the donation was later applied toward the cost of replacing the antenna of the club's primary repeater, a project that cost the ACARA approximately \$3,200, including the cost of a professional tower climber. In 2012, the ACARA received a donation in the amount of \$150 from the Marathon Committee.

Individual amateur radio operators are forbidden by federal law from earning money through their use of Amateur Radio. All ACARA members who support public service events such as the Marathon and who stand ready to help in an emergency do so entirely as volunteers. Most of the equipment used by these operators was purchased by those operators and is maintained by them using their own funds. The ACARA tries, through its repeater systems and other projects, to provide the basic infrastructure for ACARA members and other Athens-area radio amateurs to participate in public service events and emergency communication.

In 2015, the ACARA will be replacing its primary repeater's RF-deck, which is expected to cost approximately \$1300. Any support in this endeavor the Marathon Committee could provide would be very greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration,

W. Eric McFadden,
President, Athens County Amateur Radio Association

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William Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Athens, Ohio