

Athens County Amateur Radio Association

Minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2015

In Attendance:

John Biddle	W8PG
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Carl Denbow	N8VZ
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Eric McFadden	WD8RIF
Robert Moore	KC8KSM
Rich Post	KB8TAD
John Thomas	KC8JWZ

Following the social gathering at 7:00pm the meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Silent Keys:

The following members were remembered:

Gary Hudson, KD8IMS

Gary passed away on the evening of Saturday, February 28. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB sent a condolences card and \$50 in lieu of flowers on behalf of the ACARA.

<http://www.athensnews.com/ohio/article-44483-gary-l-hudson.html>

(Gary's obituary is attached to the end of these minutes.)

Charles (Chuck) Bennett, WB8CEE

Chuck passed away on Wednesday, March 4. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, sent a condolences card on behalf of the ACARA.

<http://www.athensnews.com/ohio/article-44504-charles-bennett.html>

(Chuck's obituary is attached at the end of these minutes.)

Program: Carl Denbow, N8VZ, and Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, made a presentation on the new Elecraft *PX3 Panadapter* for the KX3 transceiver.

In the absence of Secretary Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, the minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting were distributed by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, made a motion that the minutes be accepted as distributed; the motion was seconded by Carl Denbow, N8VZ. The vote passed without dissent.

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, distributed the financial report. The club currently has \$2,046.25 in unencumbered funds. Jim estimates approximately \$400 in 2015 dues will yet be collected; he will send emails reminding members to pay their dues.. John Thomas, KC8JWZ, moved that the report be accepted; the motion was seconded by John Biddle, W8PG. The vote passed without dissent.

Old Business

ACARA 145.15 MHz Repeater

Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that Clyde Baker, N8CCM, has an old commercial VHF repeater and possibly a set of cavities to give away. Eric doesn't think the club should accept this with the idea of using it to replace the existing repeater RF deck but if the cavities are available the club might wish to use them along with the club's existing Yaesu FTR-2410A as a portable repeater for emergency use.

Eric distributed spec-sheets on the Kenwood THR-750 and Vertex-Standard VXR-7000 VHF repeaters:

Kenwood TKR-750

VHF-only, 16-channel, 10-50w, 19" rack-mount, DC

Requires PC, software, & cable to configure (N8SUZ has software and cable)

Approx. \$1,150

Vertex-Standard VXR-7000

VHF/UHF, 16-channel, 10-50w, desktop, AC-DC

Requires PC, software, & cable to configure

Approx. \$1,190

Eric informed the membership of a special promotion by Yaesu offering the DR-1X VHF/UHF C4FM digital repeater for \$500. This program is called the "DR-1X Installation and Upgrade Program". Eric distributed spec-sheets on the DR-1X along with information on Yaesu's *System Fusion* system, and details on the promotion.

Yaesu DR-1X

VHF/UHF, frequency-agile, 10/20/50w, 19", AC-DC

Can be programmed from the front-panel

\$500 until March 31, 2015

Eric explained that the DR-1X can be configured to serve as an analog FM repeater and be interfaced with our existing CAT-300 repeater controller. Eric reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had suggested via email that the club apply for two DR-1X repeaters, one for the VHF repeater and one for the UHF repeater. Eric explained that the special promotional price is good only until March 31, 2015.

Old Business (cont'd)

ACARA 145.15 MHz Repeater (cont'd)

After discussion, Rich Post, KB8TAD, moved that the club apply for two DR-1X repeaters, one for the VHF repeater and one for the UHF repeater. The motion was seconded by Carl Denbow, N8VZ. The vote passed without dissent.

The “DR-1X Installation and Upgrade Program” requires payment by credit card. Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, volunteered the use of his credit for this purchase. Jim provided his credit card information. Eric will mail the applications to Yaesu at the earliest possible opportunity.

ACARA 440MHz Repeater

The purchase of a Yaesu DR-1X *System Fusion* repeater was approved—see above.

ACARA/ARES Presentation to Athens Fire Department – Tuesday, March 17

Eric McFadden reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, had made an ARES presentation to the Athens Fire Department at the Columbus Road Fire Station that morning. Also attending this presentation were Jim Crouse, KC8OVB; Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

After the presentation, Jeff reported via email to Eric, “I do think they are very interested in our capabilities to help in a disaster or larger scale event when other systems are overwhelmed. I was glad to see that they are willing to make some adaptations to allow easy hookup of our equipment. It really helps having Paul Schulz as a ham operator on the department. He seemed really excited about networking with us.”

February Potluck – Saturday, February 28

Eric McFadden reported that the February 21st potluck has been postponed due to weather until Saturday, February 28. Participation was down relative to previous years. The entertainment chosen by Eric for the potluck—Twilight Zone episodes “The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street” and “The Shelter”—were well received. At this evening’s meeting, Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggested Twilight Zone episodes might be very suitable entertainment for other ACARA potlucks.

Old Business (cont'd)

Club Construction / Education Spring Project

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reported he hasn't made progress yet on designing a multi-band trap dipole for club members to build.

This topic was tabled until next month.

License Class and Test Session

Eric McFadden reported that one student, Jesse Riggs, stayed with the class through the end. Unfortunately, Jesse hadn't felt ready and didn't test at the March 9 test session.

Two people attended the March 9 test session. Scott Green, KD8KZG, successfully upgraded from General to Extra Class. The other attendee failed to pass his Technician test but indicated he would be ready to test again at the Athens Hamfest.

VEs who participated in the test session were Jim Crouse, KC8OVB; Jason Licht, KG8JL; John McCutcheon, N8XWO; and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. Also in attendance was Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, who is not yet a VE.

New Business

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

Jeff Slattery had reported via email to Eric McFadden that all positions are assigned except two. He asked Eric to ask Jim Crouse if Jim could work Station 4 at 2 Mile Road and SR278; Jim will be unable to work the event. Greg Weinfurter, NS8O, has not yet confirmed availability to work Station 3A on 2 Mile Road between SR328 and SR278.

Iron Furnace Trail Run – Saturday, April 4, 2015

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

Jeff Slattery had reported via email to Eric McFadden that all positions are assigned except one. He asked Eric to ask Bob Moore, KC8KSM, if Bob could work the King Hollow short loop off of SR278; Bob consented to work this location. Jeff could use an additional operator to work the Backpack Trail trailhead on SR278.

New Business (cont'd)

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 19, 2015

<http://www.athensmarathon.org/>

Eric McFadden reported he and Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ, attended the first Marathon Committee meeting on March 12:

- The marathon start is moving to the former Howard Hall site and the half- and full-marathon turn-arounds are being moved up-course a bit to get rid of the lap-and-a-half at the end at Pruitt Field.
- Porta-johns will be deployed at additional locations this year including Armitage, Monk Road, half-marathon turn-around, and full-marathon turn-around.
- The golf-cart is confirmed.
- Dr. Lionsberger is dedicated SAG and will be dispatched by the Race Director via cell-phone; our net-control will alert the Race Director when and where SAG is needed.
- Every aid station will have two OU nursing students and a Heritage College medical student.
- Deadline for shirt-sizes is March 26.
- Next meeting April 2, 5:30-6:30, Rec Center 2nd floor; Eric will attend.

Eric reported that APRS will be deployed as it was last year with the generous help of Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, and Rob Jacobson, KB9AFT. The following will be bicycle-mobile, APRS equipped:

- Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, riding with the full-marathon male leader
- Tim Creamer, KD8YBE, riding with the full-marathon female leader
- Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, riding with the last runner

Eric reported that Andy Young, KD8WVX, will be installing a temporary APRS digipeater on his Lemaster Road property for the Marathon.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, asked via email if Bob Moore, KC8KSM, could again work the Monk Road aid station; Bob agreed to work that location.

New Business (cont'd)

ACARA Hamfest – Sunday, April 26, 2015

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported that the Jackson Hamfest is Saturday, April 25, the day before the Athens Hamfest.

Eric reported that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK; Rob Jacobson, KB9AFT; and Jim Crouse, KC8OVB have been working on the Email Notification Project. Email addresses have been discovered and/or generated from the 2012, 2013, and 2014 attendees list. Ted provided the following tabulated results via email:

2014 Hamfest Attendees: (excluding ACARA members)

Total records: 162

Total emails: 129 (80%)

Postage savings: \$43.86 + printing & label expenses

Postcards needed: 33

2013 Hamfest Attendees: (excluding ACARA members)

Total records: 92

Total emails: 37 (40%)

Postage savings: \$12.58 + printing & label expenses

Postcards needed: 55

2012 Hamfest Attendees: (excluding ACARA members)

Total records: 92

Total emails: 44 (48%)

Postage savings: \$14.96 + printing & label expenses

Postcards needed: 48

Eric reported that Ted and Rob are now processing the new ARRL member data for additional postal addresses. Jim Crouse reported that the ARRL has sent club information and the list of hams by zip code; this data is being used to generate postal addresses.

Eric will order new tickets in a distinctive color and with a field for an email address.

Eric reported that he and Jim Crouse have submitted an application for the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau 2015 Tourism Development Program "General Sponsorship Award"; for this application, Ted Jacobson had provided a map with cities to which postcards will be sent. Eric reported that award recipients had been selected on March 17 but notifications have not yet been made.

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported via email to Eric McFadden that he has arranged with the city for the parking cones.

New Business (cont'd)

ACARA Hamfest – Sunday, April 26, 2015 (cont'd)

John McCutcheon, N8XWO, reported via email to Eric McFadden that he will again provide the station for the mobile check-in net and asked if John Thomas, KC8JWZ, can again help operate that station. John Thomas agreed to operate the station.

Eric reported he will contact Ron Chapman, Sr. for use of his PA system.

Carl Denbow reminded the membership that the ticket drum had been undergoing repair by Chuck Bennett, WB8CEE (SK). Eric McFadden will ask Jeff Slattery to contact Chuck's brother Jon Bennett, KD8ZRQ, to arrange to recover the drum. If the drum can't be recovered in time, or is not yet ready to use, Eric will contact Scott Green, KD8KZG, to ask about borrowing the SCARF ticket drum.

Eric reported he has arranged with Universal Radio for door prizes.

Carl Denbow agreed to contact MFJ for door prizes.

Jim Crouse agreed to contact R&L for door prizes.

The club will again provide \$100 and \$50 main prizes in addition to an HT provided by Drew McDaniel, W8MHV.

Jim Crouse reports that dollar coins are getting difficult to acquire so the club will not be giving dollar coins as mobile check-in prizes. Instead, items from Universal Radio will be used as mobile check-in prizes.

Rich Post, KB8TAD, suggested rechargeable batteries would make nice door prizes and agreed to contact The Battery Post, LLC to see if one or more can be donated to the club for door prizes.

ARRL Field Day – Saturday and Sunday, June 27-28, 2015

Eric McFadden reported that the Field Day 2015 package is available from ARRL; there are no significant rules changes this year.

Eric McFadden will ask Drew McDaniel to reserve the use of the Athens Fairgrounds.

Eric McFadden will contact Third Sun Solar for use of their solar-demonstration trailer.

Eric McFadden will contact Dan Pfeiffer at Athens 9-1-1 for use of their 50' mobile crank-up tower.

New Business (cont'd)

June Picnic – Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Jim Crouse will reserve the Dairy Lane shelter.

The meeting was adjourned by president Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, following a motion by Carl Denbow to adjourn and the vote.

Respectfully submitted by President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF.

Gary L. Hudson

Gary L. Hudson, 65, Athens, went to be with the Lord Saturday February 28, 2015, at Ohio Health O'Bleness Hospital.

Born February 17, 1950, in Mt. pleasant, PA he was the son of the late Curtis Hudson and Anna Frey Pause. Gary was a Navy veteran; he was also a factory and warehouse worker. He was a devoted husband, a member of Athens DAV, and Athens Co. Amatuer Radio Assn., he was a 12 year volunteer at Good Works, loved metal detecting, he was a master diver and avid cyclist.

Gary is survived by his wife Sharon Sinclair Hudson, a daughter Rebekah Jeanne Artman of Colorado Springs, CO.; step children Jennifer Mantei of Fairbanks, AK., David Klingenburg of Athens, Larry McHaffie of OK., and Brittany Lewis of The Plains; grandchildren Samuel and Barbara Artman of Colorado Springs, Co., 15 step grandchildren; siblings Carolyn (Glenn) McFadden of Connellsville, PA., James (Sylvia) Hudson of Winston-Salem, NC., Judy Zipnock of Melbourne, FL., John (Ceil) Hudson of Sugarloaf, PA.; several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a son Gregory Alan Hudson, and brothers Richard and Robert Hudson. Services will be Saturday at 3:00 P.M. at Bigony-Jordan Funeral Home, with Pastor James Bogoniewski officiating. Visitation will be 12-3 P.M. prior to services at the funeral home. Burial will be in The Garden Cemetery with Military Graveside Services, by KT Crossen Post 21, Athens VFW 3477, and Albany VFW 9893. You may sign his register book at www.bigonyjordanfuneralhome.com.

Charles Bennett

ATHENS- Charles "Chuck" Gary Bennett died March 4th after a short illness at the age of 60. Born in Portsmouth, Ohio to Clay & Dana Bennett, Chuck graduated from West High School in Columbus, Ohio before joining the United States Army where he proudly served in the 10th Special Forces in Bad Tolz, Germany during the Vietnam War. After his service, Chuck returned to Ohio where he founded the electronic design and software development company BenaTong with his wife, Victoria Tong.

Chuck helped to develop some of the first commercially available, object oriented computer applications and went on to work as a software developer for Kace and Dell. Most recently he was employed by Ohio University as an IT technologist for the Chemistry and Biochemistry Departments and as a contractor with the OhioSeis Network for earthquake detection, streamlining their data capture and analysis.

He was a U.S. patent holder (for a pipe marking system that he developed for the steel industry), a HAM radio enthusiast, a certified pistol instructor, a hunter, an avid scuba diver, and an outdoorsman. A true friend to many, Chuck was a fiercely devoted husband and loving father.

Chuck was preceded in death by his grandmother, Martha Gary, his parents Clay & Dana Bennett, and by his mother-in-law, Harriett Tong.

He is survived by his wife, Victoria, his daughters Jessica Bennett (Caleb Strait) and Diana Bennett, his brother and sister in law Jon and Ann Bennett and his father-in-law James Tong.

He will be dearly missed by all those whose lives he touched in Ohio and around the world.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Jagers & Sons Funeral Home, Athens. Please share a memory, a note of condolence or sign the online register book at www.jagersfuneralhome.com.