

Attendance

Eric McFadden, Chair	WD8RIF
Rich Post	KB8TAD
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
John Thomas	KC8JWZ
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Kirk Groeneveld	KC8JRV
Jeff Slattery	N8SUZ
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ

Program

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV gave an illustrated presentation: "Hamming in Puerto Rico" in which he described his experiences on that island, including the equipment he used in amateur operation. Especially interesting was his description of the Arecibo Observatory.

Corrections/additions of Minutes

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, gave the minutes from the May 19th meeting. Rich Post, KB8TAD, moved, and Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, seconded a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted. It passed.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the Treasurer's Report. There is \$2113 in the checking account at present. This includes a donation of \$100 from the Bicycle Race State Championships (see below). The Rec Center rental for the Hamfest and a few other items have yet to be paid. That leaves a total of \$1753 of unencumbered funds. Insurance on the two repeaters has not been factored into this.

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, moved that the report be accepted, and Rich Post, KB8TAD, seconded the motion. It passed.

Old Business*The VHF and UHF Repeaters*

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF said that the Yaesu DR-1X repeaters have arrived.

There is an issue with their use with an external controller: only the analog mode can be used when an external controller is deployed and if a digital signal is received while the repeater is transmitting it will lock up. Arcom

offers an ADR Interface:

(<http://www.arcomcontrollers.com/index.php/adr-interface>) which fixes this problem; the “plug-and-play” version is \$175 but the kit is less expensive.

Eric is exploring the means for deploying the DR-1X without an external controller and still satisfying legal requirements for off-channel control (The DR-1X lacks a phone-line input). He will research how others are doing it.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, suggested a means of controlling both repeaters over the internet by adding a Yaesu WIRES interface to the repeater and Intellwave internet service at the repeater site. He will investigate the cost, etc. Eric asked Jim Crouse, KC8OVB to investigate the cost and feasibility of adding DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) internet service to the existing phone line.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, offered to donate a laptop running Windows 7 to the system.

ARRL 10-Meter Contest – December 13-14, 2014

Eric announced that ACARA placed 25th of 36 in the “Local” class of Affiliated Club Competition. Five ACARA participants earned a total 204,814 points. They are:

- John Biddle, W8PG
- Carl Denbow, N8VZ
- Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
- Greg Weinfurtner, NS8O
- Andy Young, KD8WVX

Club Construction / Education Spring Project

The Chair reported that the project wasn't realized. He suggested doing it this winter.

Summer Fox-Hunt Series?

Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, brought up the plans for an easy-to-build tape measure + PVC yagi to be used if the club does fox hunts. The URL for the plans is:

http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm

Red Cross Chapter House antenna party

Jeff, N8SUZ, will be arranging an antenna party to restore the fallen roof-mounted 2m antenna and to install an HF vertical; this will need permission from the Red Cross who has concerns about the roofing warranty. No date has been set for this.

The June Picnic – Tuesday, June 16, 2015

The following people attended:

D.J. Amireh, KE8BCX
John Biddle, W8PG
Gary Carter, KD8MSR
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ & Kathy Curtis
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Kate McFadden, KD8KNC & friend
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Vickie McFadden, KC8MAJ
Bob Moore, KC8KSM & wife
Richard Post, KB8TAD, Edie Post, & son Daniel

A drawing was held for an ARRL \$25 Gift Certificate using the names of all who volunteered at the Athens Hamfest; Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, won.

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

The Chair described the event. The set up was Class 1A, CW/SSB HF+6M, at the Athens County Fairgrounds with the Third Sun Solar demonstration trailer, Athens 9-1-1 Center 50' mobile crank-up tower, and a 40' mast supplied by Bob Dixon, W8ERD from OSU. Eric presented a slide show of the event.

Eric described it as the "Field Day from Hell" with high winds, rain, cold overnight temperatures, and a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) that disrupted HF communications. Nevertheless, there were 559 QSOs with 950 Bonus Points for 2,852 points total.

Thanks to all participants:

DJ Amireh, KE8BCX
Gary Carter, KD8MSR
Jim Crouse, KC8OVB
Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Constantine Faller, KC8JXA
Mike Hansgen, K8RAT
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Bob Moore, KC8KSM
Rich Post, KB8TAD
John Thomas, KC8JWZ
Andy Young, KD8WVX

The Chair gave special thanks to Drew McDaniel, W8MHV for the use of his call sign, and for providing the PX3, and KXPA100 amplifier for the HF CW/SSB station. Also, he thanked John McCutcheon, N8XWO, for providing the entire 6m station including the logging computer.

Lake Hope Bicycle Race State Championships – Sunday, July 19, 2015

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ who was Net Control for the event, gave a report. It went very well. All corners of the course were covered. The race officials were happy with the information we provided. David Rohrer from Team Athens thanked us, and on behalf of their board gave us a donation of \$100, which will be used for hors d'oeuvres at the Christmas party.

Ohio State Parks on the Air (OSPota) – Saturday, September 12, 2015

URL reference:

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

John McCutcheon, N8XWO reported by email that the group at Stroud's Run made 64 contacts. 27 of these were at Ohio state parks, giving us a score of 1728. It was noted that the rainy weather kept many groups from manning their state parks, which lowered the maximum possible score. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ reported that he and Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ, went to Jackson Lake State Park, where they made 78 non-duplicate QSO's, and reached 33 state parks, for a total score of 2574. They reached several we never contacted before; Malabar Farm, for instance.

Summer VE Session.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ reported there was a summer test session. Two people took the test, but there were no new licenses.

New Business

Autumn VE Session

Jeff Slattery will hold another test session on October 19th at 7:00 PM here at the Red Cross Chapter House.

Buckeye Trail Association Full Marathon – Saturday, October 24, 2015

Jeff said he could not be Net Control for this event due to a scheduling conflict. He will ask Mike Cooper, KC8WMY, to do it. It will run from Lake Tecumsey along the Buckeye Trail to Burr Oak Lodge. Jeff thinks we can use a combination of the Glouster repeater and Simplex for communication.

Susan G. Komen First Annual Race for the Cure – Sunday, October 25

Jeff said that ACARA has been asked to support this event which starts at noon and will run on the bike path, city streets, and campus streets. This is the day after the Buckeye Trail Marathon and the expected date of the

“Run Like Hell 5K” for Cystic Fibrosis, which might not be held this year. Jeff will email some information out when he gets more details.

Bobcat Trail Marathon – Saturday, November 7, 2015

Note: the May minutes gave the wrong date.

URL:

<https://www.westernreserveracing.com/events/bobcat-trail-marathon/>

Jeff will coordinate this. He wants people to tell him if they can do their usual stations. Several responded that they could.

ARRL Field Day – June 25-26, 2016

The Chair brought up problems experienced last year with using the KX3/KXPA100 on HF for SSB, mostly from feedback from the amplified speakers getting back into the microphone. Andy Young, KD8WVX, has volunteered to serve as HF SSB Captain and will provide an HF SSB rig, logging computer, and interface. Eric wondered if Andy will need help with the interface cable.

Furthermore, Eric speculated that with two HF rigs, a 6m rig, and three logging computers, it might be worth trying to build a local-area-network at the FD site. He asked: does anyone have experience building adhoc LANs? Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, volunteered to provide cables and an Ethernet router.

The Chair also said the Athens County Fairgrounds is not an ideal location for FD. Club members should start looking for a better location, one where we can make proper use of the 50' tower to swing an HF or VHF beam; unless someone will provide a camper or large tent, we need a location with a shelter-house, and the shelter should be large enough to allow for separation between the stations and the non-operators. Last year the spectators' conversations were a distraction. Unless we try to arrange for (free?) use of port-a-potties, we'll need restrooms. Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV, suggested West State Street Park as a possibility. Jeff Slattery suggested a cabin at Burr Oak State Park but it was suggested this might be too far from Athens for members.

Eric further asked if we should procure an HF yagi & rotor? He has available an aged Mosley TA-33 but it needs to be serviced. John Thomas, KC8JWZ, might have a suitable rotor.

New Officer Nominations

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Nomination</u>
President –	WD8RIF	WD8RIF
Vice-President –	W8MHV	W8MHV
Treasurer –	KC8OVB	KC8OVB
Secretary –	KD8FRQ	KD8FRQ
Newsletter Editor –	KD8NLI	KD8WVX
Webmaster –	N8SUZ	N8SUZ
Packet Node Trustee –	N8SUZ	N8SUZ
Repeater Trustee –	WD8RIF	WD8RIF

Members not present may nominate someone (including themselves) by sending an email to Eric: wd8rif@arrl.net.

Adjournment.

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB moved and John Thomas, KC8JWZ seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at **9:18 PM EDT**

Respectfully Submitted, Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ