

Attendance

Eric McFadden, Chair	WD8RIF
Rich Post	KB8TAD
Robert Moore	KC8KSM
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
Drew McDaniel	W8MHV
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Tom Rockhold	N0OGS

Program

Tom Rockhold, N0OGS demonstrated an Alex-Loop antenna. It has a very narrow bandwidth and is good for using PSK31, for instance. It is also very directional. Tom pulled the cover off the bottom section to reveal the variable capacitances inside. Rich Post, KB8TAD demonstrated his home brew power supply which powers a WWII bomber vacuum tube transmitter. The outboard CW break-in circuit Rich designed and built allows the oscillator to turn on before transmission commences.

Corrections/additions of Minutes

There were no corrections or additions offered to last meeting's minutes. Rich Post moved to accept them. Drew McDaniel seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the Treasurer's Report. We have \$1295 of unencumbered funds. We have to pay \$55 for the Repeater Autopatch from Frontier, plus \$3 for Xerox copies. The Community Center rent has been paid.

Rich Post moved to approve the report. Bob Curtis seconded the motion. The motion carried

Old Business

VHF & UHF Repeaters

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, the Repeater Trustee, reported that he hasn't yet determined how to provide off-channel control without using an external controller in analog-only mode. There is still a problem in going between digital and analog mode. He is looking into a DSL, which would cost \$6/month. WIRES-X boxes may solve the problem.

The VHF Repeater is working well, but the UHF Repeater is still dead.

There is still a need to weatherize them.

Club Construction / Education Spring Project

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV talked about building a two band trap dipole (40 – 80 or 20 – 40). The internet has resources to tell how. The trap would be built inside a PVC pipe. We could do this in May, once we find out who is interested and can order parts. It would probably take one afternoon to construct it.

Red Cross Chapter House antenna party

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ was not present, so this item was skipped.

Buckeye Trail Association & Premier Races Full Marathon – Saturday, October 24, 2015

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ wrote via email to thank the following for helping with communications-support:

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
John Thomas, KC8JWZ
Bill Warthman, K8WJW
Andy Young, KD8WVX

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

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ also wrote via email to thank the following for helping with communications-support for this event:

Carl Denbow, N8VZ
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Lance Groeneveld, KD8KMZ
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Jan Slattery, KD8PUJ
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

Bobcat Trail Marathon – Saturday, November 7, 2015

Jeff also thanked the following for helping with communications-support for this third event:

Tim Creamer, KD8YBE
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ
Jeremy Duncan, KC8QDQ
Kevin Gilday, KD8GVM
Kirk Groeneveld, KC8JRV
Lance Groeneveld, KD8KMZ
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF
Miles McFadden, KD8KNC
Bob Moore, KC8KSM
Robert Peoples, N8UVM
Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
John Thomas, KC8JWZ

License Class –

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ also reported via email that classes will be held at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio Mondays at 7pm starting January 11, 2016 with the test session on March 14, 2016.

He wrote that the instructors will be:

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ
Drew McDaniel, W8MHV
John McCutcheon, N8XWO
Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

The Red Cross room has been reserved and the VE Session has been registered with the ARRL.

There was some discussion about the problems with the class in the past. Last year, only one person stayed for all sessions, and no one from the class took the test. Some feel it is a waste of the instructors' time. The Chair decided to have an executive session of the people involved to strategize on changes needed to make the class fruitful.

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 10, 2016

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ will be in charge of populating the Net

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 24?

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF has reserved the Athens Community Center: half of the gymnasium and multipurpose rooms B & C There will be details on our website. There will be gift certificates and door prizes. Members will ask for donated gifts. He has applied for and have received ARRL Sanction

ACARA Holiday Dinner – Tuesday, December 15 at Stephens on Court

Eric has reserved a meeting room at Stephens on Court St.
(<http://www.stephens66.com/>) We will meet at 5:30 and eat at 6:00 PM.
The club will be providing appetizers and non-alcoholic punch. Attendees will order dinner from the regular menu.

ARRL Field Day 2015 Results

The Chair announced that Field Day results have been posted to the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-field-day-2015-results-now-available>) and appear in the December issue of QST.

ARACA placed 23rd of 117 in Class 1A with 559 QSOs and 2,852 points. This was 3rd in OH. An interesting note: the 22nd-in-class made nearly 75% more QSOs but only 160 more points.

The Chair thanks everyone who set up, tore down, or operated that weekend.

ARRL Field Day – June 25-26, 2016

The Chair announced that Drew McDaniel, W8MHV reported that permission was granted by the Fair Board for use of the Fairgrounds and of the large brick building. He further stated that we'll need to make a site-visit to determine how to best use the brick building and where to deploy antennas and feed lines.

We still can entertain any ideas for a new site in future years. There was some discussion, but no conclusions on this.

Eric, WD8RIF still wonders who in the club is interested in renovating W8EOG's Mosley TA-33 for club use? It covers 10, 15, and 20 meters. The instructions for doing this are in the July, 2015 QST, pp39-40. He will ask the newsletter editor to include this request.

Eric said John Thomas, KC8JWZ, has offered a rotor for it.

Andy Young, KD8WVX will provide an HF SSB rig and logging computer. Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, will build a local-area-network (LAN) to allow the three logging PCs to write to one data base.

New Business

2016 Athens County Annual Manual

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ said that he and Drew McDaniel, W8MHV are paying to buy a 1/8-page color listing for the ACARA in the upcoming 2016 Athens County Annual Manual for \$400. Eric, WD8RIF will provide a color “action photo” and the club logo to the Athens News.

The idea is that club members cover lots of community events, but are never recognized by the public for our work. It would be nice for more than the few people at our meetings to know about our efforts. There is a concern that we would be asked to do a lot more, but in the words of Nancy Reagan, we can “Just say NO”.

We will not advertize for new members, but would certainly welcome them.

Emergency Communications.

Tom Rockhold, N0OGS began a discussion about deploying a permanent antenna and a transceiver in O’Bleness Hospital to help in emergency communications. It would cover 2 m and 70 cm. Tom, Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, and Eric McFadden, WD8RIF will look into it. It was noted that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, is ARES coordinator for the region, and should also be involved.

Adjournment

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned: at 9:25 pm.