

Program

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF showed the group his portable HF station for *National Parks on the Air* activations. It has been developed and tested through sixteen NPOTA activations. He gave much information on the various components. More information and photos are at: http://wd8rif.com/enhanced_kx3_travel_kit.htm. He went on to describe in detail the different activations he has used it for, especially the ones made on his recent trip to Washington DC.

Attendance

Eric McFadden, Chair	WD8RIF
Chad Coffey	AC8VX
John Biddle	W8PG
Robert Moore	KC8KSM
Jim Crouse	KC8OVB
John Thomas	KC8JWZ
Gary Carter	KD8MSR
Bob Curtis	KD8FRQ
Jeff Tikkanen	KE8DNN
Carl J. Denbow	N8VZ

Corrections/additions of Minutes

The March minutes were passed around, as well as the corrected version of the March financial report. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, moved to approve them. John Biddle, W8PG, seconded the motion. The documents were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, passed out the Treasurer's Report. We have total unencumbered funds of about \$1,000.

Robert Moore, KC8KSM, moved to approve the report. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, seconded.

The motion passed.

Old Business

VHF Repeater

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF reported that he ordered an ADR Interface from Arcom on 2016-03-17; it arrived the week of 2016-04-05.

Also, he un-winterized the repeater in late March. During the Athens Marathon, held April 10, due to temperatures in the 30° range, the input lost its sensitivity, so he had to re-winterize it. This solved the problem.

Eric will concentrate on deploying the DR-1X after the Hamfest; he may need some help.

UHF Repeater

The Chair reported that Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has a new repeater and controller for GOBA. He will sell them to us, and deploy them if they work.

Club Construction / Education Spring Project

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV wrote in that he has to postpone the session due to his other commitments. Someone will talk with him about rescheduling.

Iron Furnace Trail Run held Saturday, April 2, 9am – 1pm

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ wrote in that there were six operators, and the event consumed 30 hours, including his preparation time.

Athens Marathon – Sunday, April 10 8am – 3pm

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ wrote in that there were 24 operators, spending 140 hours, including the APRS preparations.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, was told by a timing official at the turn around that they go to about 50 marathons a year, of which about a third have ham support. He said that of all these, our club did by far the best job.

As reported above, the repeater did not work properly at first because of the cold weather, until Eric fixed it.

Eric said he will attend the post-Marathon wrap-up meeting on April 28.

Please send any comments or concerns to Jeff Slattery or Eric.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 24

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF has door prizes from Universal Radio; he spoke with Fred Osterman and it's OK with Fred if the club decides to sell some of the items, so long as the proceeds go to the club. There was a discussion about selling the hard-back books or other donations instead of using them as door prizes. The consensus was that we should not.

Eric has picked up the PA system.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ wrote that the VE session is all set up.

He also indicated that the Masonic Lodge / DeMolay is set up to provide food; they're looking to use the funds for repair projects for veterans.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, reportedly has ordered a Chinese HT as a door prize, which he will donate to the club. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, has another HT donated by R&L.

Carl Denbow, N8VZ will bring the ticket barrel. John McCutcheon, N8XWO will be asked to pick up the cones if they are needed, otherwise, emergency tape may do. There will be a facility walk-through Thursday, April 21, at 3:00 PM.

NPOTA "Light Up the Trail" – Saturday-Sunday, June 4 & 5, 2016

The Chair announced that a group of hams is planning "National Parks on the Air" (NPOTA) activations of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) in all seven states through which the 4600-mile trail passes; information is at: <http://qsl.net/kd8dku/LightUptheTrail.htm>. This would be a great opportunity for members to gain experience running a frequency and working with a pile-up. Each operator would use his own call sign; only ten QSOs need be made in order for an activation to be considered "valid". Operators who have even one valid activation are eligible for a NPOTA Activator certificate at the end of the year.

The NCNST passes through Burr Oak State Park and is easily accessible in several locations. SCARF will be activating NCNST at Dock 2. The ACARA could activate NCNST at Tom Jenkins Dam; both Eric McFadden, WD8RIF and Andy, KD8WVX have experience activating NCNST at Tom Jenkins Dam and the location works well. Eric wants as many members as possible to participate.

ARRL Field Day – June 25-26, 2016

Eric, WD8RIF has confirmed the availability of the Third Sun solar demonstration trailer and of the 9-1-1 mobile crank-up tower.

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV wrote that the demolition derby is not on Field Day weekend, but there will be a horse show in the barns at the other end of the fairgrounds; they are not charging admission, and we won't interfere with each other's operations.

Here are the station assignments:

SSB Captain: Andy Young, KD8WVX

CW Captain: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

VHF Captain: John McCutcheon, N8XWO

The Club needs a Social Media captain to earn the Social Media Bonus:

“Social Media: 100 points for promoting your Field Day activation to the general public via an active, recognized and utilized social media platform (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc). This bonus is available to bona fide Amateur Radio clubs and Field Day groups that welcome visitors to their operation. Individual participants do not qualify for this bonus. Club websites do not qualify for this bonus. Available to all classes.”

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF will ask Andy Young, KD8WVX since Andy is already maintaining the club’s Facebook.

The club needs a Safety Officer to earn the Safety Officer Bonus:

“Safety Officer Bonus: A 100-point bonus may be earned by having a person serving as a Safety Officer for those groups setting up Class A stations. This person must verify that all safety concerns on the Safety Check List (found in the ARRL Field Day Packet) have been adequately met. This is an active bonus – simply designating someone as Safety Officer does not automatically earn this bonus. A statement verifying the completion of the Safety Check List must be included in the supporting documentation sent to ARRL HQ in order to claim this bonus.”

Eric McFadden, WD8RIF will ask Andy Young, KD8WVX, who is an EMT, if he is interested in this position.

The Club needs someone to generate and distribute a press release to qualify for the Media Publicity Bonus. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ volunteered.

The Club needs someone to invite an elected official (mayor?) and see that they come in order to qualify for the Site Visitation by an Elected Governmental Official Bonus. Carl Denbow, N8VZ volunteered.

The Club needs someone to invite a representative of a served agency and see that they come in order to qualify for the Site Visitation by a Representative of an Agency Bonus. Suggestions included someone from the marathon committee, or someone from EMS. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB volunteered to speak with the Red Cross; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF will invite the chair of the Athens Marathon Committee.

We need people to copy the special ARRL bulletin in order to qualify for the W1AW Bulletin Bonus; Eric McFadden, WD8RIF will copy the CW

bulletin. Carl Denbow, N8VZ volunteered to copy the PSK/RTTY bulletin. We need someone to copy SSB.

We need an Educational Activity in order to qualify for the Educational Activity Bonus:

“One (1) 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day Activity operation includes a specific educational-related activity. The activity can be diverse and must be related to amateur radio. It must be some type of formal activity. It can be repeated during the Field Day period but only one bonus is earned.”

Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Sunday, May 22, 9am – 5pm

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ wrote in that he has found only two volunteers, and so has told organizers we can't support the event

New Business

Change of meeting day?

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, noted that there has been very poor attendance this year, because of other commitments of members (season basketball tickets, etc.). He suggested that at the next meeting, we rethink the day of the week for our meetings with the idea of minimizing such conflicts. Carl Denbow, N8VZ volunteered to find out when the OU Basketball home-games will be in 2017. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF volunteered to generate a Qualtrics form to distribute to the membership in the summer to help the club determine if there's a better meeting day.

Adjournment

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB moved that the meeting be adjourned. Carl Denbow, N8VZ, seconded it. All agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ