

Program

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV gave a talk and showed a video about his experiences in getting licensed and operating in Kyrgyzstan after the breakup of the USSR. The story can be found in: “*Hamming in the Kyrgyz Republic*”, his article that appeared in the May, 1996 issue of QST.

There was a special door prize for those who helped in the Hamfest. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF won the drawing for the \$50 gift certificate from ARRL. A second drawing awarded a pocket knife courtesy of Universal Radio to Jeff Tikkanen, KE8DNN.

Attendance

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|----------------------|--------|
| Eric McFadden, Chair | WD8RIF |
| John Biddle | W8PG |
| Robert Moore | KC8KSM |
| Jim Crouse | KC8OVB |
| John Thomas | KC8JWZ |
| Drew McDaniel | W8MHV |
| Gary Carter | KD8MSR |
| Bob Curtis | KD8FRQ |
| Jeff Tikkanen | KE8DNN |

Corrections/additions of Minutes

The April minutes were passed around. The Chair called the question for approval, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, gave the Treasurer’s Report. It included income from the Hamfest, and a \$13.50 donation from one of the vendors who had promised her customers to return a percent of her sales to the club.

Eric, WD8RIF, called the question, and the report was approved.

Old Business**VHF Repeater**

Eric, WD8RIF, after hearing reports at the Athens Hamfest of the DR-1X repeater being “deaf”, asked Bill Warthman, K8WJW, if he could test the sensitivity of our unit(s). Bill can test the repeaters; Eric will coordinate with him to get one or both of the units to him after Hamvention.

UHF Repeater

The repeater trustee, Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, was not here and did not send any report. It seems to be still broken.

Club Construction / Education Spring Project

Drew McDaniel, W8MHV discussed the project. Due to his personal commitments, it has to be postponed until late this summer. He would like a preliminary head count of who is interested. The project is a trap dipole for 20 and 40 meters. Drew will donate the parts.

Athens Hamfest wrap-up

The Chair reported that several attendees complimented Eric on a well-run and successful Hamfest; at least one attendee gave an unsolicited donation to the club.

The Chair sends a sincere “thank you” to all ACARA members who helped make the Hamfest a success! He especially thanked Drew McDaniel for the door prize of an HT.

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, detailed financial statistics from our Hamfests going back to 2011. Profit data was included going all the way back to 1989. The profit this year was over \$1000. 220 tickets were used, some promotional.

The Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau, (ACCVB) will want a report on how their \$250 grant money was spent.

National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) activities

Eric, WD8RIF proposes that we participate in NPOTA “Light up the Trail” weekend June 4 & 5, 2016. This involves activations of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) in all seven states through which the 4600-mile trail passes; info is available 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 over the whole weekend, including overnight. The ACARA could activate NCNST at Tom Jenkins Dam; both Eric, WD8RIF and Andy Young, KD8WVX have experience activating NCNST at Tom Jenkins Dam and the location works well.

Eric has secured permission from the Army Corps of Engineers to use the Tom Jenkins Dam area. Eric proposes ACARA perform two three-hour operations, one on Saturday (10am – 1pm), and one on Sunday (2pm – 5pm); these times would allow those who participate in both to earn credit for two NPOTA activations instead of just one.

Eric would like to see one SSB station on 20m and another SSB station on 40m at each of these operations. He has asked John McCutcheon, N8XWO and Andy Young, KD8WVX if they can provide the gear and mentoring. Eric will provide the generator and power cords.

Eric strongly encourages any ACARA member with an interest in portable operations or Field Day, or any member with little experience working HF, to participate in one or both of these activations.

Robert Moore, KC8KSM, moved to spend up to \$100 on a banner declaring that a group was working on NPOTA. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded it. The motion passed.

ARRL Field Day – June 25-26, 2016.

The Chair went over the preparations for the event.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has arranged for an “Amateur Radio Operators Appreciation Days” proclamation from the Athens County Commissioners. Jeff also asked for a similar proclamation from Athens City, but that has not yet come through. The ARRL Ohio section arranged for an “Amateur Radio Operators’ Appreciation Days” proclamation from Ohio Governor Kasich.

The 911 Tower will be available. The Third Sun Solar trailer also will be used for power.

The following assignments have been made:

SSB Captain: Andy Young, KD8WVX

CW Captain: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF

VHF Captain: John McCutcheon, N8XWO

Social Media captain to earn the Social Media Bonus: Andy Young, KD8WVX; the ARRL specifies:

“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”

Safety Officer to earn the Safety Officer Bonus: Andy Young, KD8WVX; the ARRL specifies:

“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.”

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 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.”

Perhaps there could be a lecture on how to build a dipole.

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, will look into getting a Scout troop to come. He will also do publicity for the event.

Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, is catering the event.

New Business

June Picnic

Eric, WD8RIF, asked if Tuesday, June 21 was a good date. The group agreed that it was. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, will reserve the shelter house on Dairy Lane. We will meet at 5:30PM and eat at 6:00 PM. Club members and their guests are invited. Meat is provided. Bring a dish to share.

King Midget Anniversary Special Event Station – August 11-14, 2016

The Chair announced that Ted Jacobson, W8KVK, is organizing a special event station with multiple operators using the call sign “K8M” in association with the King Midget Jamboree happening in Athens that same weekend. Ted is looking for operators willing to operate as “K8M” during this event. Anyone interested should contact Ted at ted@w8kvk.com.

Ohio State Parks on the Air – Saturday, September 10, 2016

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

The Chair asked if it would be the same venue. Yes, in Stroud’s Run State Park. Jim Crouse, KC8OVB was asked to be a co-captain with John McCutcheon. Jim agreed.

Buckeye Trail Marathon – Saturday, October 1

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, was not present, so could give no details.

Bobcat Trail Marathon, November 6, 2016

This will start at 8:00 AM. No other details are available.

Adjournment

Robert Moore, KC8KSM, moved for adjournment. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 PM.