

Minutes 2018-05-15 (Amended)

Program

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, made a well-received presentation, "What's in the QRP bag?"

Attendance

Michael Baxla, KE8ICP

John Biddle, W8PG

Joshua Cash, KE8EAS

Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ

Tyler Hooker, AK5HT

Andy Young, KD8WVX

Corrections/additions of Minutes

The minutes of the April 17, 2018 meeting were distributed. No amendments or corrections were noted. Andy Young, KD8WVX, moved to accept the minutes as distributed. Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, was not in attendance and the Treasurer's Report was distributed by Vice-President Josh Cash, KE8EAS. Andy Young, KD8WVX, made a motion to pass the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Tyler Hooker, AK5HT. The motion passed.

There were questions, however, about the repeater fund and the members present were not sure if this was the true bank balance with all funds accounted for. We will seek that information at the next ACARA function.

Club President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, sent the following report via email:

The club attempted to sell the KB8ER estate equipment at the Athens Hamfest. The Aston RS-20 power supply and the Drake low-pass filter from the KB8ER estate did sell at the Hamfest, as well as a Pyramid PS-20 power supply donated by John Biddle, W8PG, and a Realistic DX-300 shortwave receiver donated to the club by the daughter of Don Anderson (KA8NHX?) (SK) in 2017.

Following the Hamfest, Eric took the remaining items from the KB8ER estate to Universal Radio in Worthington. Universal was not interested in purchasing the amplifier and Eric was dissatisfied with the offers made for the transceiver (\$250), antenna tuner (\$120), and Yaesu SP-107 speaker (\$20) and declined the offers. Eric sold the Yaesu SP-107 speaker from the KB8ER estate to Mike Hansgen, K8RAT, for \$30 following the visit to Universal Radio.

The ICOM IC-718 transceiver, Ameritron AL-811 amplifier, Drake MN-2000 antenna tuner, and Heathkit HN-31 "Cantenna" dummy load from the KB8ER estate remain available for purchase (<http://www.ac-ara.org/?p=513>). Eric will attempt to sell these at the Union County (Marysville) "TailGate & TrunkFest" on June 9 and perhaps at the Monroe (Michigan) Hamfest on June 17.

Old Business

VHF Repeater

VHF Repeater Trustee Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, reported via email that he will coordinate with tower-climber George Fitz and 9-1-1 Coordinator Brian Davis to move the repeater antenna to the 9-1-1 tower.

UHF Repeater

UHF Repeater Trustee Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email there is no change with the status of the UHF analog repeater. (Amended)

VHF DMR Repeater

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that no progress has been made on the proposed VHF DMR repeater. (Amended)

Jeff included in his email report that Justin Drummond has a complete UHF DMR repeater, minus an antenna, available; Jeff says Brian Davis of Athens County 9-1-1 thinks he has space on the 9-1-1 tower for a UHF antenna. (Amended)

APRS Digipeater

There was no report on the digipeater. (Amended)

Red Cross Antenna Session

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that no date has been selected for the antenna work at the Red Cross of Southeastern Ohio. (Amended)

ACARA Website & Email Changes

Webmaster Tyler Hooker, AK5HT, reported that he has installed a new theme on the website. He would love for the group or any individuals to contribute to the website. He would like to add the following:

- blog posts
- a Facebook feed
- pictures of the club, antennas, members, club involvements

Tyler mentioned creative artwork for purchase is expensive, but he will get a few images he likes and get together a quote if that's an option the club wants to pursue.

Tyler would also like to see information from club members for different themes, examples such as "your favorite mode", "radio etiquette", "you're not a 'real' ham unless...", among other topics.

Athens Hamfest – Sunday, April 29, 2018

ACARA President, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, sent the following report via email:

The 2018 Athens Hamfest has come and gone and even before I see preliminary numbers, I have to call our event a major success. I wish to thank everyone who volunteered their time to work the event—without our dedicated volunteers, the Athens Hamfest just wouldn't happen.

I also want to thank Drew McDaniel, W8MHV, for donating a Yaesu FT-70DR handheld transceiver as a major door prize and Carl Denbow, N8VZ, for donating a Baofeng UV-82X handheld transceiver as an hourly door prize.

I did something new this year. As I was determining how to disburse the door prizes we received from Universal Radio, R&L Electronics, the ARRL, Debco Electronics, N3FJP Software, RF Connector Guy, and others, I pulled aside a \$25 ARRL gift certificate to be awarded to one of our Hamfest volunteers. As the Hamfest was winding down, I made a ticket for each of our volunteers and asked Jane Yonally, KB8YPM, who was at our event representing the ARRL, to draw a winning ticket. She agreed and the volunteer who won the \$25 ARRL gift certificate was Miles McFadden, KD8KNC, who had manned the East Gate for just about the entire period of the Hamfest. Congratulations, Miles! A prize-draw for the Hamfest volunteers is something I should have thought of doing years ago and it is something I plan to do every year from here on out.

I received several unsolicited comments praising our Athens Hamfest and I received no negative comments about the event. This is a testament to the work of our volunteers. Again, thank you very much for helping to make our Hamfest a success!

Josh Cash, KE8EAS, mentioned that the Facebook ads were very successful by way of Likes, Shares, and engagement by potential patrons. Some of the success of the Hamfest may be attributed to this means of marketing. It was suggested that for next year, this type of advertising be considered, possibly with a larger budget if approved. Josh is not seeking reimbursement for the Facebook payment and has requested that \$20 go toward his membership for 2018 and the remaining \$20 be donated to the repeater fund.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, submitted the following report on the Hamfest VE testing session via email:

The combined ACARA/SCARF VE team test session produced one new Tech, one upgrade to General, and two upgrades to Extra:

- New Tech - Kira Staats of Belleville, WV
- Upgrade to General - John Rider, KE8EVB of The Plains
- Upgrade to Extra - Stephen Norris, KE8ICQ of Athens
- Upgrade to Extra - Stephen Cox, KE8IZA of Columbus

Treasure Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, was not present and no Hamfest financial report was presented.

Lake Hope Bicycle Race – Sunday, May 6

http://www.ac-ara.org/?page_id=29

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that seven operators provided communications support to the Lake Hope Bicycle Race for a total of 56 hours. (Amended)

Thunderbunny 50K – Saturday, May 12

<http://www.thunderbunny50k.com/>

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, reported via email that he was unable to participate in the communications support to the Thunderbunny 50K race and doesn't know if any other operators were able to help at the event. (Amended)

Tyler Hooker, AK5HT, reported that one runner in the Thunderbunny 50K collapsed from possible heat exhaustion. No other accidents were noted.

ARRL Field Day – June 23-24, 2018

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

ACARA President and Field Day Chairman Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, sent the following report via email:

I have corresponded with Tony Milluzzi, KD8RTT; the OU students cannot commit at this point to be in southeast Ohio over the summer so the ACARA should plan on a Class 1A Field Day effort with one HF station and the free VHF/UHF station.

I am coordinating with Tony on the possible use of his Elecraft KX3 transceiver and KXPA100 + KXAT100 amplifier for the HF station.

I am coordinating with Tony on OU students setting up and operating a satellite ground station for use with the linear satellites.

Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, has arranged for Athens Mayor Steve Patterson to visit the Field Day site on Saturday, June 23.

I haven't heard yet from John McCutcheon, N8XWO, about his VHF station. I will follow up.

I still need volunteers for various bonuses; watch for emails from me.

Andy Young, KD8WVX, volunteered to serve as Social Media Bonus Captain and will update the Facebook page for Field Day. Andy also agreed to serve as Safety Officer and will be the paramedic on duty for the duration of Field Day.

All Athens Special Event Station

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, was not present and no update was given.

New Business

Jackson Hamfest Date Move?

President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, sent the following report via email:

Carl Denbow, N8VZ, suggested during the April 29 5pm 6AM net that the ACARA should discuss the idea of sending a formal request to Jackson County Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.jacksoncountyar.org/>) asking that they find another date for the Jackson Hamfest.

Discussion point: Does Jackson Hamfest occurring the day before the Athens Hamfest hurt attendance at our hamfest?

Members agreed the Jackson Hamfest happening the day prior to ours does seem to reduce attendance at the Athens Hamfest. Attendees of the Jackson Hamfest may feel they have gotten their equipment and made purchases at Jackson and feel no need to attend the Athens Hamfest. Also, it would be a repeat of vendors—those at Jackson will simply move to Athens the next day if they have unsold items.

The members present felt either moving the Jackson Hamfest to a new date or moving the Athens Hamfest to a new date would be beneficial. If the Athens Hamfest were held before the Jackson Hamfest, that may yield a bigger payout.

ACARA June Picnic

President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, sent the following report via email:

It is time to select a date for the ACARA June Picnic. Is the date June 19 a good date? This is the traditional 3rd Tuesday of the month and Field Day is the following weekend.

Can Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, reserve the Dairy Lane picnic shelter venue for us?

The ACARA has traditionally provided the meat (burgers and brats), buns, and condiments for this event. Are there objections to the club providing the meat, buns, and condiments this year?

All members are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to share, and your own beverage and service-ware.

The members present agreed that the date of June 19 will work fine and they had no objections to the club providing meat, buns, and condiments.

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, was not present to answer the question about reserving the venue.

Ohio State Parks on the Air – Saturday, September 8, 1400-2200 UTC

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

President Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, sent the following report via email:

This year, the Ohio State Parks on the Air operating event falls on Saturday, September 8.

Do we wish to use the same venue (Bulldog Shelter) at Strouds Run State Park this year? Can KC8OVB reserve the shelter for us?

We will need a Captain and gear for the event. WD8RIF can provide the logging PC, 80m/40m fan-dipole, short mast, and 2kW Honda generator. Who can provide an HF rig?

As has become a tradition, this event will feature a potluck dinner. All members, participating in OSPOTA or not, are invited to bring a dish to share.

Watch for additional information as the date of the event approaches.

Jim Crouse, KC8OVB, was not present to answer the question about reservation of the venue.

Vice-President Josh Cash, KE8EAS, agreed to serve as OSPOTA Captain and will provide his Kenwood 480SAT transceiver, power supply, microphone, and CW key to the event.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm following a motion by Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ; a second by John, Biddle, W8PG; and a vote.

Respectively submitted, Josh Cash, KE8EAS, Vice-President