

BARC Meeting Minutes, April 8, 2014.

Meeting called to order by John (AD6NR) at about 7:12 PM. Some delay was caused by the pre-meeting dinner get together at Astorgas restaurant finishing just before 7, then a wait at the register to pay for the meals.

Introductions: 26 people announced their presence, including three past members, a guest speaker, and a perspective Amateur Radio candidate. Dwaine Brazeale (KJ6SLA) and Dan Pruitt (AE6SX) came to the meeting from Fresno, with Tricia as the new prospect. They provided the program for the meeting.

Treasure's report: Terry (K6UN) reported a checking balance total of \$2,440.99 = \$2021.43 general, plus \$419.56 for repeater fund. Income from last month was about \$130 from dues. Expenses were the 2 mo. electric bill of \$87.15, and \$85 for We For Mules (W4M) event insurance.

Minutes: Club secretary Jon (NW6C) was not at the last meeting, so Terry (K6UN) took notes. He typed them up, printed a copy, and sent a copy to John (AD6NR). Terry forgot to bring his copy to the meeting and John didn't have a copy either. Terry volunteered to read directly from his notes if need be. The minutes will be reviewed and sent to the BARC web site in the near future.

Coming events:

1. Club breakfast at Denny's, April 19.
2. Sunday morning net on 3.95 MHz, 7:30 for pre-net, 8 AM for formal check in. Len (WA6IQO) has been doing this lately, but is now working at that time. Bob (W7WOW) took care of the check ins this week.
3. EMCOMM net on 3.985 MHz, 6:30 PM informal, 7 PM official.
4. Wild West Marathon on May 3 (first Saturday). 6 AM until about 1:30 PM.
5. BHS Ultra-marathon is a go! More details later.
6. Amateur Radio Field Day June 28 and 29.
7. BARC and SARC (Sierra Amateur Radio Club out of Ridgecrest), April 26 at about 11 AM, Lone Pine park. Planning on a swap table and pot luck lunch.
8. May 3, 12 noon, is the quarterly Volunteer Exam. It will be at the Line Street Salvation Army facility.
9. May 20 to 25 is Mule Days. BARC is to have special event station W4M on the Tri-County Fairgrounds.
10. Nightly 2 meter net at 8 PM on any access post to the local repeater system.

Program:

Dan (AE6SX) explained his involvement with Amateur Radio communications, then went on to explain how the various organizations worked and where Bishop ARC stood in these organizations. He was first introduced to emergency communications by his father, while his dad was doing emergency communications in response to major flooding in the delta. When Dan decided that he should help with this type of operation, he discovered that the Salvation Army through its SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) program in Santa Clara had handled communications during the Katrina disaster. Sounds like this was just a start to his many duties in helping with Emergency Communications. He is now involved in SATERN, ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service through the ARRL) and RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service by government entities). The Salvation Army Amateur Radio program started when some of the leaders started using Amateur Radio to help during emergencies in 1984. They decided to better utilize this function by initiating an

internal program patterned after the ARRL's ARES. ARRL was primarily formed to provide communications during a major storm event in 1914. 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the ARRL's founding.

One of Dan's major concerns now is the recruitment of the younger generation to Amateur Radio. They need to understand that this can still be a very relevant and rewarding pursuit.

ARES membership is easy to acquire. About the only technical stipulation is that you must be able to operate "off the grid" - without commercial power. RACES can be far more stringent. These programs should be handled under EDS (Emergency Disaster Services) plans. Volunteers with several organizations need to select one primary organization to report to. During an emergency, that primary organization must be contacted, then they can release the volunteer for use by other groups if not needed in the primary one.

Dan will be at Pacificon in Santa Clara.

There has been lots of participation in the ARRL Centennial activities.

Dwaine (KJ6SLA) continued the program with a lecture and power point about disaster services, what the definitions are for various agencies, and some of the volunteer response need and structure. RACES is having less participation in emergencies because of the potential liability issues involved with its sponsors. The Salvation Army is being called on by Counties to fill in the emergency communications (EMCOMM) gap. Locally, Lt. Cathy McCauley would be contacted by the agency in need, then she would activate the SATERN volunteers.

Rich (KF6YLW) asked, What would happen in a solar or other wide area communications blackout?

The response was that Amateurs always seemed to find a way to get messages through.

The Power Point title was "Preparing Your Congregation/Club for a Disaster". Categorizing the terms "Disaster and Hazard" were examined. Warning systems would be one example of a planned responses to known hazards.

Phases of emergencies were illustrated. The main phase classifications are "prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery." The recovery part may span many years. In one of Dwaine's assignments, the only radio repeater left operational was at the house of an ARRL member. That was put into service at the local command center. Days later, the telephone company responders set up some mobile cell sites. Their initial allotment of cellphones was handed to primary officials in need.

Kurt (W6PH) asked about "the response of the Red Cross in relation to that of the Salvation Army?"

Dwaine responded that they work as a team. Salvation Army concentrates on need for food clothes, and other needs. Red Cross concentrates on shelter and medical teams. Their volunteers are often "cross trained" so that either side can better understand where to send a person with a particular need. Their only competition is for volunteers and financing. By law, neither one can be financed by the government. Primary emergency responders will each set up their own EOCs (Emergency Operationm Centers), then have liaisons in the EOCs of others.

Paul- "You can't help others until your own house is in order".

Dwaine - "Water is critical". This is of real current interest in the Fresno area, as after years of drought, the reservoirs are essentially empty.

Program concluded about 8:45.

More Business:

Phil (K0RVD) handed out copies of his latest scholarship plan for the BARC. This is his response to more involvement of our youth in Amateur Radio. He requested that members take the copies home to review and comment.

Keith reported on incentives for participation in the 3.985 net at 7 PM. Len has earned a place for the final prize drawing for net participation. One stipulation is that contenders operate off the grid at least once a quarter. BARC is being tapped for the grand prize, probably a new economy handy-talky.

Terry asked if other Club members would be interested in buying Field Day tee shirts. He was quoted \$12.50 for the shirts plus \$12.95 for shipping. Minimum order was 6. Sizes from small to 3X. Terry had over six requests written down before the end of the meeting. Email Terry soon if you want to be included on the order. Terry also made a motion for the BARC to buy a Field Day advertising poster. That could be a points boost for our Club. Motion was passed.

Phil asked about having the local four wheel drive club put Field Day on their activities calendar. Agreement from our club that it would be a nice idea.

Kurt stated that he had spare 2 meter transceivers that he would be willing to loan to Amateurs in need, with the promise that they would be used to check into the evening net.

Len stated that he was willing to help anyone that wanted to put up HF antennas. He does this often, working mobile from his pickup truck.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Other thoughts from the Secretary:

The Silver Peak repeater lost most of its hearing about a month or so ago and expeditions to Silver Peak had been postponed until the site was accessible by car. As of this week, the site is accessible, with the snow all but gone. Now just about everyone is busy doing other springtime projects. Our Fresno contingent at the meeting helped to remind us that the Silver to Mammoth link has been down for a long time, and the easiest radio path between Fresno and the Owens Valley is via the link between the Mammoth Mountain repeater and Silver Peak repeater. Fresno has a pretty good path to the Mammoth repeater. One of the delays in re-establishing the Mammoth to Silver link has been the complexity of a double way (Mammoth and Mazourka from Silver) in band linking system. A recent field trip to the Little Lake site has revealed that some serious maintenance is needed there also.

With this information and some time to think on his way home from the DX convention in Visalia, John has come up with a plan! Rotate the original Silver to Mammoth link back to its former position – now pointed to Mazourka. Duplicate that link at Mazourka, pointing it to Silver. Use the same scheme for Little Lake to Mazourka.

Mammoth, Silver, Mazourka, and Little Lake all could use a lot of work. This varies from site cleanup/improvement to radio troubleshooting.

Cheers,
Jon, NW6C.