

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB meeting minutes, April 14, 2015.

Nice before meeting get together at La Casita restaurant. Keith brought the Amateur Radio “Shack Tow” chateau to the meeting to show the club members and as a test drive with its “new” trailer chassis.

Meeting called to order promptly at 7PM by president John (AD6NR).

Attendance: Gordon (KD6TLE) did an update of his return to the area after a 6 year stay in Oregon. He has now settled in Independence, one house away from his previous residence there. Walt (K6BDI) had also returned from his travels. Terry (K6UN) had news that he was nearing the close of escrow to buy the house in Independence that he has been renting for the past 6 years.

18 members and two guests attended the meeting.

Treasure's Report: Terry (K6UN) reported \$60 in dues added and \$17 from 50/50 drawing. Expense of \$51.06 for the estimated power bill. Silver Peak was upgraded to an automatic “smart” meter last year. It operated very well for about a month, then quit. We have not had a true meter reading since then. Total bank balance is \$2,215.14.

Minutes: Done by Adrian (N6ZA) last month. Secretary (NW6C) was in Colorado. Approved as amended – slight correction changing the proposed building on Silver peak to a State project.

Member Awards: John handed Terry his 100 DXCC (Distant Transmitter Century Club) certificate. Terry earned it for contacting at least 100 distant countries. Terry said his toughest contact was India, which he eventually worked on the 10 meter band. Terry also received an award for 1st place, low power, Orange Section, in the recent DX contest.

Events:

1. Transmitter hunt – Jackie and Phil (KA6HGI and K0RVD) were the low mileage winners last month, with Earl in pursuit. Jackie stated that there was no way that she could hide the transmitter this month, and with the whole club also busy in other activities, it was decided to postpone the next transmitter hunt.
2. High Frequency net are being promoted by Keith (W6KRF) on Thursdays and Sundays.
3. ARRL Rookie Roundup is to be on April 19th.
4. “BARC and SARC (Sierra Amateur Radio Club) in the park” on April 25th. This is an informal meeting and swap meet with the Ridgecrest area amateur radio members at the public park in Lone Pine. It should be well under way by 11AM. Keith will be there much earlier to help get things arranged. Jeff (AA7GK) gave a rundown of the truckload of electronic items that would be taken to the meeting – all of it in need of new homes. Lots of open frame power supplies, microwave hardware, project boxes, components, and some test equipment were some examples. An amplifier good from DC to 1GHZ was spotted. It was hoped to raise some money for our club from this material. Terry will try to contact some microwave enthusiasts about these parts prior to the meeting.
5. Wild West Marathon is coming to Lone Pine on May 2nd. Communications volunteers are needed.
6. Volunteer Exams also on May 2th, at the Salvation Army facility, West Line Street, Bishop.
7. NVCON (Nevada Convention) goes from May 1st through 3rd.
8. ARRL Field Day June 26 to 28. Plans are to set up at Kurt's cabin on Lone Pine Creek. Mono band antennas instead of the tri-bander. Plenty of band filters. Maybe a GOTA (Get On The

Air) station. Probably SSB (Single Side Band) and CW (Morse code) only for HF. HF digital machine modes, mainly PSK, are interesting, but have badly detracted from scoring on the other modes. Category 3A (three transmitters, auxiliary power) was the favored choice for our group. There was little points difference between 2A and 3A, while allowing more opportunities for operators with the additional transmitter. Motion made, seconded, and approved to spend up to \$200 \$250 of the BARC's funds for Field Day food.

9. Mule Days, May 21 – 24. We will need volunteers to present display, 9 AM to 5 PM. Special Event Station call of W4M (We for Mules) has already been reserved.
10. June Lake Triathlon, July 11, will need 6 to 8 operators. Maybe June Mountain could be used for a portable repeater site.
11. The Wedding of the Waters is the 4th weekend of October. Station will be set up at Keeler.
12. Tioga Pass Run, September 13th. About 6 stations are needed to cover the footrace from Lee Vining to the Yosemite entrance station.

Intermission at 7:45 with with 50/50 tickets handled by Rich (KD6YLW). Walt brought in a 6m transceiver that needed a home. Terry thought he could give it one. Jim (K6JNX) brought in a set of 440 MHZ handy-talkies in a multi-bay charger for evaluation. After Jeff gave some specifics about their capabilities, Jim decided to do some more checking on their source before turning them loose.

Old Business: A 40 meter net? Phil was hoping to come up with some suggestions, but he had to get his HF rig repaired. It had been repaired and was being returned to him. He should have more to report next month.

New Business:

1. Nevada ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) has asked BARC to install a packet station on Silver Peak. Apparently their hospitals are set up with this mode for emergency communications. We should be able to honor this request. Checks will be made to see that it doesn't interfere with other equipment. Jeff notices that the 146.94 repeater was slightly desensed when the APRS packet transmitter keyed up.
2. Mazourka Peak work party? Kurt (W6PH) drove to the Peak to do some reconnaissance. He was joined by Adrian, who had ridden to the peak on his bicycle. The 2m repeater antenna doesn't seem to have been touched in years, is fed by a conventional coaxial cable, and appears to be OK. There are other antennas at the sight that have been abandoned and should be removed. Several 440 MHz antennas should be checked out. They may be useful for the planned UHF repeater link. Power wiring is a mess and needs to be straightened up. There are solar panels that have been disconnected and apparently abandoned in place. A really tall ladder would be helpful. Bill (KK6HTM) said that he had one. Bob (W7WOW) had sent a note to Kurt offering to help with radio sight improvements, convinced that Mazourka Peak for years had a good path to Fish Lake Valley. He helped Kurt with propagation testing between Fish Lake Valley and Mazourka. Kurt is going to come up with an agenda and date for a work party. It shouldn't take too many volunteers.
3. How about BARC having its own Video/Computer projector? The Salvation Army meeting room unit had failed and been replaced by a wall mounted display. This did not really have a large enough display to make a presentation to the room. Terry volunteered to check out specifications and prices on projectors.

50/50 drawing was won by John, who donated his share, \$43, back to the club.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

Jon, NW6C, BARC Secretary.