

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES for April 12, 2016. p 1 of 2.

Meeting called to order by President, John (AD6NR) at 7 pm.

Self Introductions: 18 in attendance, including one new appearance, Jeremy, KB1MWO. Jeremy gave a brief talk about his background, entailing getting his Amateur Radio license originally in Vermont, moving to California in 2008, and now working for the Forrest Service out of Bishop. While not specifically assigned to radio or communications, he does help Jeff (AA7GK) with radio projects, and has had turns at radio dispatch. He is also hoping to obtain an Extra class license.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Terry (K6UN) had a formal report. 13 member renewals added \$275 to the treasury, \$46.86 was spent on power for the Silver Peak site, and \$110 was spent for NPOTA (National Parks On The Air) activities. With \$15 added to the duplexer fund from last months 50/50 drawing, \$1,739.21 is to total account balance.

March Meeting Minutes: Approved as posted.

Upcoming Activities:

BARC and SARC (Sierra Amateur Radio Club) in the Park, April 23. This is the park at the north end of Lone Pine, near Carl's Junior. This includes a traditional radio gear swap meet and lunchtime picnic get together with our radio club to the south. John has some radio gear already selected for this meeting.

Volunteer Exam session, May 7, noon, Salvation Army building on West Line Street, Bishop.

BARC club breakfast and/or Transmitter Hunt? Member response indicated these would not take place this month.

80 meter nets, 8 am Sunday on 3950 KHz and 7:30 pm on Thursday on 3947 KHz: Len (WA6IQO) and Keith (W6KRF) have been handling these. Len reported that they were having 17 to 22 check-ins from Owens Valley and beyond. Olin (WA7YXY), now in Oregon, is one of the regulars.

The International DX Convention in Visalia is on April 15 – 17. John, Olin, Kurt (W6PH), and Hank (W6SX) are intending to be there.

NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) Test: Paul (KK6BAF) is going to set up a test station at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. This test is to start at 9 am on April 16. Propagation will be studied on 3.965 and 7.280 MHz.

Amateur Radio Field Day: Operation is on June 25 and 26, but where the help is really needed is site preparation on Friday the 24. 11 am pacific daylight saving time on Saturday is on the air start time. Paul has volunteered to be the organizer. He has reserved a site on what would normally be the overflow parking area to the west of the main facilities at the Tri-county Fair Grounds. There is plenty of room for antennas (including light poles and trees for support) and no evening curfew time. At least one volunteer, Marilyn (W6MSO) has volunteered to help with the food. Ed (K6END) and Phil (K0RVD) volunteered to help with public outreach. Boy Scouts, 4H, and FFA were suggested contacts, then a new local science group, Earth to Sky Calculus, was pointed out. Towers, directional antennas and antenna rotors would help. Tentative plans are for at least two operating stations plus a GOTA (Get

On The Air) station. This will hopefully be Keith's Shackteau. Jim (K6JNX), Phil and Rich (KF6YLW) are going to tackle the tri-band antenna. John and Terry volunteered to head two of the operating stations. More stations can have advantages, but can also create problems, particularly with interference.

Approval for purchase of a GOTA station banner was secured.

Mule Days and Tri-County Fair: Shall BARC put up a station? General consensus was – Probably not this year. Past experience has shown these endeavors involve a lot of effort with seemingly little return. Terry has reserved the W4M (We for Mules) special event call if someone wants to set up a Mule Days station.

Silver Peak radio site reconstruction: Plans are being finalized by California to build a new radio facility on the top of Silver Peak. When the new tower and structures are complete, the original State building is to be torn down, then that area converted to parking. Terry had copies of the constructions plans to view. Of main concern to BARC is the new massive tower that is to be put up to the west of our building. Also, they will need to remove two of our antenna mounting poles to make room for their new construction. The new massive 80 foot tower will block our propagation path to the south. Some alternatives were discussed as to what we could ask for as reasonable accommodations to help maintain our communications to the south and east. Terry's best idea was to have them install a 40 foot tower to the west of our building that would provide a path to the south around the west side of the new mega tower. The 40 foot height would also allow a similar eastward launching position to what we now have with our existing pole on the east side of our building. Construction is planned for this summer. When the subject of the Forest Service policies and regulations was brought up, Walt (K6BDI) remembered attending a meeting between the Forest Service and the radio site trustees in 1971. At that meeting, the radio site trustees were told by the Forest Service official that all of the facilities on Silver Peak would have to be consolidated into one building by 1981. There obviously has been some changes in management since then. They did limit the new tower to 80 feet, per Forest Service regulation, or it would have been 120 feet.

New Business:

Jon (NW6C) was contacted by a Norm Sayer, who was trying to locate a good sized generator, 10 KW or so, to power an upcoming event. Jon has stored a BARC generator for years that has never really been used for our remote communications, mainly because it is way larger than we need. It is powered by a 4 cylinder flathead motor, with gasoline or LP fuel. It was donated to BARC by Mono County, with the help of Mike (W6HDV). The propane power has never been tested. It has not been started in many years. BARC members agreed that we could part with this generator, hopefully for something more needed, like a good set of batteries for Mazourka Peak.

Batteries for Mazourka? The batteries at the site now are badly sulphated and need to be replaced. Ampere hour ratings were discussed and recommendations for replacement were made. Demise of the current Walmart deep cycle batteries was deemed a shorted cell in one battery that diverted the charging current to that bad battery, and in turn deep discharged and ruined the remaining batteries. There was also no low voltage load disconnect, allowing the repeater loads to keep drawing power from the depleted batteries. That has now been corrected. Paul advised that the fewer components the better the reliability. With that criteria, he recommended two Trojan L16 batteries. These are 6 Volt, 400 Ampere Hour.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47 pm. Jon, NW6C, BARC Secretary.