



April 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2017 are:

Paul Dostie	(KK6BAF)	– President
Jeff Tong	(AA7GK)	– Vice President
Terry Fenske	(K6UN)	– Treasurer
Gordon Baldwin	(KD6TLE)	– Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Paul at about 7 PM. The meeting was held at the usual venue (Salvation Army) as their new flooring had been installed.

Number in attendance: 12

Treasurers Report.

Terry (K6UN) provided a copy of the BARC Financial Report for March 15, 2017 – April 11, 2017. Expenses for the period are \$116.93 and income was \$291. Ending balance in the checking account is \$1667.60

Old Business – Field Day follow up

Field Day is the 4th weekend in June, the 24th and 25th. Rich (KF6YLW) was ill and not in attendance at the meeting. Two open questions remain:

1. Is Kurt's (W6PH) cabin along Lone Pine Creek available for Field Day this year?
2. Are his portable antenna towers available for the club to use during Field Day?

In discussion, it was suggested that the club needs to decide on a new site for Field Day this year. Locations in the White Mountains were suggested. Jon (NW6C) observed that if setting up in the White Mountains (probably Grandview), it is quite possible that we could operate only some of the day, as we would have to shut down in the afternoon if one of the frequent thunder storms takes place. Another negative for the White Mountain location was the altitude. Some BARC members might wish to participate but for health reasons would not be able to do so at the higher elevation of the campground in the White Mountains. Additionally, doubts were expressed as to whether or not BARC had suitable equipment to try a Field Day event in the wilderness.

Millpond and Diaz Lake were also discussed as possible locations. John (AD6NR) and Paul (KK6BAF) commented that in an actual emergency, it would be most likely for BARC to set up in a location convenient to the served agency being supported. In fact, the emergency communication plan is currently written with the Tri-County Fairgrounds as the hub. With this in mind, Paul stated that he would explore a location for BARC Field Day at the fairgrounds.

Paul (KK6BAF) noted that we are looking for a Field Day Chairperson.

Old Business – Raffle update

BARC continues to plan for a fundraising raffle. Ideally, the proposed plan was to have the winner's name selected during Mule Days May 23-28, 2017. Action on this fundraising initiative is being driven by Terry (K6UN) and Ed (K6END). Terry reported that he and Ed (K6END) have yet to discuss next steps.

Old Business – Fundraising sale of antique electronics in storage with Jon (NW6C)

Mark (W6WWA) shared with John (AD6NR) the process he uses to ship items that he has sold. Mark delivers the item to the local UPS store. While there, he gets in touch with the buyer and gives him the contact information for the UPS store that Mark is at. The buyer then calls the UPS store and stipulates the preferred packing, addressing, insuring and shipping details.

Old Business – 50/50

Paul (KK6BAF) commented that this evening's 50/50 drawing would not take place since neither Rich nor the tickets were available.

Old Business – BARC & SARC in the PARK

As reported by Keith (W6KRF), this year's event will be held April 29th from 11 AM to 4 PM in the park adjacent to the Carl's Junior eatery at the north end of Lone Pine. On Friday April 28th, Keith is overseeing barbeque at Diaz Lake which is at the southern end of Lone Pine. Many BARC and SARC in the PARK attendees have committed to attend the barbeque. Each person should bring the meat of their choice and Keith will assure it is cooked appropriately. The Shacktow will be at Diaz Lake; those attending the barbeque should navigate towards that and the cluster of antennas likely to be in the vicinity. Keith was not at the meeting, so no other information was available.

Old Business – 2017 Wild Wild West Marathon

Keith (W6KRF) and Linda Duarte of the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce noted that the run is a long-standing tradition in the Eastern Sierra. This year, it happens on May 6th. No new updates were provided as Keith was not at the meeting.

New Business – Repeater Site Maintenance

John (AD6NR) stated that he will oversee the needed upgrades to the electronics at the Silver Peak repeater site and that he needs others to step up to address the three phases of work he felt were needed to rehabilitate the Mazourka Peak repeater. Mazourka Peak maintenance work falls into three categories.

Mazourka Peak Task 1

John (AD6NR) stated that we need to be careful about increasing the profile of the repeater site building and associated equipments because of concerns over fees and forest service oversight. There was a discussion about best places to locate the solar panels. Panels placed two units high and mounted on the building are likely to be OK.

We were advised to be wary of using dissimilar metals in mounting the panels to a frame as this may lead to electrolysis and may generate noise. Paul (KK6BAF) has volunteered to head up the work to upgrade the solar power system. John (AD6NR) will provide Paul with all historic studies and recommendations for review. Paul prefers building the panels on the structure.

This work will included these steps at a minimum:

1. Fabricating e and installing additional solar array (600 watts minimum)
2. Designing and fabricating panel mounts and installing panels
3. Mounting array on container
4. Adding additional controller (slave) to increase charging capacity for main battery bank
5. Increasing battery capacity for main array
6. Reconfiguring secondary battery bank and charging system as necessary

Mazourka Peak Task 2

Paul (KK6BAF) asked for volunteers to perform work on the building. There were no volunteers. Paul nominated Rich and Keith to head up this phase of the work. It was noted that the container has as very long lasting weather proofing coating on the aluminum outer skin and we are cautioned to be careful if painting will be done. There is a concern that if an incompatible paint is used, it might damage the coating.

The work will included these steps at a minimum:

1. Building work will include surveying the conditions of existing container supports and determining necessary materials to refurbish and stabilize the container
2. Installing new container supports and tie downs
3. Painting entire container a light tan
4. Reconfiguring wooden shelves and installing 6' open rail rack

Mazourka Peak Task 3

Antenna work needs to be done. Paul (KK6BAF) asked for volunteers and none were forthcoming.

The needed work will included these steps at a minimum:

1. Removing numerous abandoned antennas and feed lines which cannot be reached with a ladder (this work will require renting a portable off road type of man-lift)
2. Installing new 2M antenna and feed line
3. Installing 6M antenna if Dennis (W6IYI) has the repeater ready for re-installation

New Business – June Lake Triathlon

This takes place Saturday June 8th and needs volunteers. Paul (KK6BAF) is coordinating. VHF simplex is needed. Advise Paul if you can help out.

New Business – Presentation by John (AD6NR) and Jeff (AA7GK)

John (AD6NR) and Jeff (AA7GK) demonstrated several aspects of the VHF signal when it is going through a repeater. They talked about:

Quieting - a measure of the level of signal necessary to reduce the level audio noise (when the squelch is open) to a specified amount, usually 12db in an FM receive.

Deviation: The level of modulation used in a FM transmitter (typically ± 4 KHz for an Amateur 2M transmitter).

Signal Strength: The level of on-frequency signal presented to the input to (in this case) and FM receiver (typically measured in microvolts).

Capture Effect: In an FM receiver, a phenomenon in which only the stronger of two signals at, or near, the same frequency or channel will be demodulated, typically about 10db.

Meeting Adjourned at about 9 PM.

Gordon Baldwin KD6TLE
Secretary
Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc.