



## April 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2021 are:

Bill Chezum	W6WWY	- President
Jon Patzer	NW6C	- Vice President
Terry Fenske	K6UN	- Treasurer
Noam Shendar	W6RT	- Secretary

Meeting called to order by Vice President Bill Chezum (W6WWY) at 19:07. Due to the need to observe social distancing, the meeting was held as a directed net over the club's linked 2m repeater system as well as a Zoom online conference.

Number in attendance: 13. They were, in alphabetical call sign order: AD6NR John, K6END Ed, K6UN Terry, KE6IWM Mike, KF6VTV Gaetano, KG6JZJ Dave, KN6IVW Dylan, N6BEV Bev, NW6C Jon, W6RT Noam, W6WWY Bill, WA6IQO Len and WA7YXY Olin.

## Minutes

### Financial Report

Terry (K6UN) reported income from 4 members who paid their dues and a passthrough ARRL membership (where a member signed up and paid through the club). Our ending balance is \$4,978.99.

Ed (K6END) asked if any of this budget is earmarked. The answer is that we have some funds approved for repeater repair.

### Repeater System Status

John (AD6NR) said he is about ready to take audio interface boxes to Silver. We will use the microwave link as a digital link between our repeaters instead of analog UHF radio links. He will be testing them this coming week and we may notice changes in audio levels.

John also said we also need to check all the nuts and bolts on Mazourka and Silver to make sure nothing has come loose during winter. Ground bonding funding has already been approved and will be done this season.

In addition, we would like to mount an antenna on the vacant pole on Silver. Last season Jon (NW6C) and Paul (N6SIT) put in a conduit from our building to this pole.

Another thing John would like to accomplish is putting a UHF repeater on Silver and linked to the UHF repeater on Mazourka.

And, as discussed in earlier meetings, EchoLink is planned, and perhaps an APRS gateway.

### **Bishop Ultramarathon Races**

Noam (W6RT) indicated that the Bishop Ultras will proceed this year after having been canceled last year. They will take place on 5/22. In response to his call for volunteers, the following people stepped up: Mike (KE6IWM), Bill W6WWY, Len (WA6IQO), Tom (K6TLH) as probable, Jon (NW6C), John (AD6NR), Marilyn (W6MSO) and Noam (W6RT). Ed (K6END) will be on parking duty. A number of people said they are probably or are aware of people who are, as follows: Steve (K6SEC), Bob (N7RAP), a Reno volunteer who contacted Noam, Hank (W6SX), Kurt (W6PH) and Dylan (KN6IVW).

Noam also asked who else might be interested. John (AD6NR) suggested the Ventura radio club and SARC.

John (AD6NR) noted that Millpond is critical. It needs to be covered the entire time and needs a generator (John can provide a Honda 2K). Len (WA6IQO) and Bill (W6WWY) volunteered to set up Millpond (power, radios, antenna)

John also noted that Bishop Creek Lodge can't reach the repeater and needs a simplex relay via another aid station.

Noam pointed out that Keith (W7KRF) staffed Millpond at the 2019 race and was wondering if he was interested in returning for it (Noam will find out).

### **Items from the Floor**

Bill (W6WWY) announced that Field Day will take place at Jim's (N7IU). We will discuss more at the next meeting.

Noam added that he will set up a 1x1 event callsign. *[This is done; we have K7D.]*

Jon (NW6C) added that it would be nice to do logging software at Field Day.

Len (WA6IQO) was wondering if we could use Kurt's (W6PH) cabin at the Alabama Hills (Tuttle Creek). It's now occupied by Kurt's son, who may be interested in Field Day.

Ed (K6END) relayed that he secured a donation for Inyo SAR, earmarked for Amateur Radio. He recruited 5 SAR people who volunteered to get licensed. He also got a donation toward amateur radio training and/or equipment. If the club donated any equipment, the value of that donation would go to BARC's treasury. He is looking for both Elmers/Elmiras and used equipment, as well as a person who can be the club's main point of contact. Bill (W6WWY) volunteered to be that point person.

Bill (W6WWY) added that we can do a license test session if needed at Field Day.

John (AD6NR) said that he can help with testing. He also recommends making sure the 5 SAR people have the same radio. New ones (like the Yaesu FT-65R) are quite affordable (around \$90).

Olin (WA7YXY) announced that the 7-land QSO party (7QP) starts 06:00 local through midnight on May 1st. Mineral and Esmeralda are very rare counties, if we want to operate mobile there. John (AD6NR) wondered if this is an opportunity to do a dry run of Field Day.

Jon (NW6C) pointed out that Kevin Fitzsimmons has a service monitor for sale at a fair market value. It was advertised via BARC's email distribution list.

John (AD6NR) discussed the Red Cross "Sound the Alarm" exercise, which is based on the fact that there's a home fire every 6 minutes in the US. The Red Cross is doing home assessments on the preparation needed to survive a home fire. It would be very easy for a local fire to wipe out homes (like we saw in the Round Fire). The way to survive is to get out quickly. He is inviting people to contact him to run the exercise. (Components include smoke detectors, multiple egress routes, documents to grab, etc.) He is looking for 20 homes to assess, and reminding everyone that this is a free service.

**Meeting adjourned at 20:26.**

Noam Shendar (W6RT)

Secretary, Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (BARC)