



## August 10, 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 President Bill Chezum (W6WWY) at 19:21, due to Zoom issues. This was meeting combined in-person and Zoom attendance.

Number in attendance: 17. They were, in alphabetical call sign order: John AD6NR, Doug KA7FOO, Gordon KD6TLE, Mike KE6IWM, Brian KG6DTZ, Dave KG6JZJ, Eric KI7ADV, Jerry KN6PNV, Dave KO6ST, Bev N6BEV, Don N6TGE, Jon NW6C, Noam W6RT, Bill W6WWY, Keith W7KRF, Rick (awaiting his call sign) and Amanda (the Mammoth Tuff race organizer).

## Minutes

### Financial Report

Terry (K6UN) was again unable to attend and will deliver a combined report (covering 3 months) at the next meeting.

### Mammoth Tuff Gravel Bike Race

The Mammoth Tuff bike race will take place on Saturday, 9/18, from Mammoth to Chalk Bluff (near Bishop) and back via dirt roads. Amanda Nauman, the race organizer, joined us to tell us more about the race and ask for volunteers. Radio volunteers are needed for safety-related communication and will be provided meals. In addition, the race has generously offered to make a donation to the club. Anyone interested should contact Noam ([w6rt@arrl.net](mailto:w6rt@arrl.net)).

## **Repeater System Status**

John (AD6NR) reported that the repeaters are operating as intended, with the minor exception that the timers in the repeater need to be disabled so that the controller repeaters can take over. Once this is done timers will reset when the input carrier drops (i.e., no need to wait for the repeater to drop its carrier). In addition, the APRS system is up and running (see the next agenda item).

John is also planning to add a UHF repeater to Silver Peak, and to connect our repeater system to the Mono County RACES repeater system via the internet, providing nearly continuous coverage on 395 from Olancho to Carson City. The controller can have everything linked, or the linking can be divided by area or band (VHF/UHF).

The system is very powerful, but easy enough for any user to perform that main functions of linking and unlinking repeater groups.

Finally, John also ordered a new camera for Mazourka, which is capable of PTZ (pan, tilt and zoom) via remote control.

## **Silver Peak Digipeater**

Eric (KI7ADV) reported that he was working with Walt (K6BDI) and Noam (W6RT) to get APRS up and running. It is now working, although it seems some packets are not making it through. The system could use a better antenna, and potentially additional "gap filling" digipeaters at Mazourka and Mammoth (Brian KG6DTZ is looking into the Mammoth upgrade). John (AD6NR) pointed out that the winds atop Mammoth are vicious and require an extraordinarily rugged antenna. He added that coverage from Mammoth would be great for 395 north of Mammoth, and the surrounding backcountry areas. Eric is also suggesting we add an "lgate" (APRS internet gateway) so that APRS packets can go to the internet without having to be relayed to Las Vegas or Fresno first.

## **Field Day Recap**

Bill (W6WWY) reported that we had over 300 contacts, which is impressive for the small turnout we had. Noam (W6RT) added that the exact number was 304, with coast to coast contacts on 160, 80, 40 and 20 meters. We mixed up phone and digital, racking up over 1,400 points. This is before any points are added from club members who were operating home stations. Bill reminded us that our site at Cedar Flats is reserved for next year's Field Day.

## Items from the Floor

John (AD6NR) heard from the race director for the Tioga Pass Run. It will take place on Sunday, 9/12 (the weekend before the Mammoth Tuff race). The race goes from Lee Vining up to the Yosemite east gate. It starts early in the morning and ends around noon. Unlike past races, this year there won't be lunch at the Whoa Nelly Deli.

John (AD6NR) flagged the issue that our Board of Directors has not met in nearly 4 years. This is a requirement given that we are a California corporation. The board seems disengaged, and there is risk - especially to the officers - if the board doesn't hold annual meetings. There are 3 directors, each of whom serve for 3 years, and whose terms are staggered a year apart. The 4x4 club has gotten a letter from the Secretary of State that they have not filed their corporate forms, and it's reasonable to assume that we will face similar scrutiny. Bill (W6WWY) proposed that we appoint a new board which is committed to and available for meeting their obligations

Jon (NW6C) brought a big binder from Ed (K6END) showing the history of our Silver Peak repeater building. The binder originally came from Dennis (W6IY).

Noam (W6RT) reminded everyone that anyone who passes the Technician-class exam with the club gets 1 year of club membership free. Also, anyone who would like to receive club emails, please send a request to [w6rt@arrl.net](mailto:w6rt@arrl.net).

John (AD6NR) is looking to give away amplifiers. These can boost a 10W radio up to 60-70W. Contact [johnshepherd@earthlink.net](mailto:johnshepherd@earthlink.net). They work on the 2m band in both FM and SSB modes.

Keith (W7KRF) reminded everyone of the Nevada ARES net, Saturdays at 07:00 on 3.965 MHz, and the BARC HF net on Sundays on 3.950 MHz.

## Meeting adjourned at 20:09.

Noam Shendar (W6RT)

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