

Pre-meeting event: Our normal meeting place at the Salvation Army facility had been usurped by preparations for a major camping/hiking presentation to take place at that facility the following day. Mike (KA6HII) announced the problem through the repeaters at about 6PM. Vice President Mike (W6HDV) followed up on that information and moved the meeting location to the rear gazebo in the Bishop Park. I found out the following morning (when I went to remove the location change note on the door) that another Salvation Army group meeting that same afternoon suffered the same fate. They regrouped at the Owens River, and got chewed up by mosquitoes.

Vice President Mike (HDV) called the meeting to order promptly at 7PM. President John (AD6NR) and Marilyn (MSO) were on an outing to Seattle.

SELF INTRODUCTIONS: 16 members reported.

TREASURER'S REPORT: After a \$20 dues deposit and the payment of two electric bills (SCE missed a month, then caught up), checking was at \$2,924.94. Savings unchanged at \$1,011.38.

MINUTES: Summary read and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Last month's contest award presented to John (K6MWK). John was presented with a \$25 check by Bob Moss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob (W7WOW) started a discussion about trying another frequency pair on the Silver Peak repeater. On his last trip up there, it was noted that there was problems with the 146.34 MHz input frequency. He would like some testing to be done at frequencies far away from the 146.34. We have another pair listed on Silver with input of 146.31 and another around 146.28, neither being used at this time. From testing several years ago, the 146.91/.31 was no better than the .94/.34 at avoiding the interference. With the new synthesized programmable repeaters it is relatively easy to try other frequencies. Properly tuning the duplexer is the largest obstacle. Concern was expressed about losing the 146.94 as is our main contact frequency. It is the one travelers depend on. A better idea would be to maintain a .94 presence while using a different repeater to experiment with. Another repeater is probably available, but we are lacking another good duplexer. Good duplexers are expensive – the figure of \$1,000 - \$1,500 each was mentioned from the floor. Bob (WOW) observed that we have been dealing with the desense problems now for over two years with little results to date. It was agreed that we would try to make improvements before winter sets in. Greg (KJ6KO) is planning to make a trip to Silver Peak with the objective and test equipment to really track down the interference. Greg has a big work load and has to try to find the time to do the testing. A suggestion was to hold off on major changes and complaints until those tests can be completed. Those tests might also reveal that we need a better duplexer. During the site review this Spring, a transmitter in the small commercial building to the north of ours was running without any protectors or filter cavities, and had excessive frequency deviation. Their filters had apparently been damaged by a lightning strike and removed. We should be able to experiment with alternate frequency pairs with quick tests. With some effort, different frequency pairs could be tried and then the .94 restored to normal (bad hearing) after a few hours of testing. Motion made by Bob (WOW) to test some alternate frequency pairs on the Silver Peak repeater (the farther from the existing the better).

Motion passed unanimously. We hope to have some results by the next meeting.

Proposal by Mike (HDV) for John (NR) to have the Club purchase two directional antennas for our repeater linking activities. We are currently using the main .94 high gain omnidirectional antenna for the Silver to Mazourka link, while the Silver Peak .94 repeater is connected to the west stationmaster (another omni) that is less prone to interference. We are using in-band (2m) links. Using omnis for a single path linking is a very poor practice. The link is subject to interference from all directions and is likewise able to create interference to our-self and others in all directions. Good directional antennas alleviate these problems. John has found some repeater site rugged antennas for about \$60 each.

Motion by Mike (HDV) to purchase two linking antenna for about \$60 each.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mike (HDV): Call sign for .94 Silver Peak is listed as W6IY in ARRL repeater directory. Dennis needs to send a letter to the ARRL to enable change to BARC's call of N6OV. Mike and Dennis agreed to get together to accomplish this change.

T-shirt orders are being gathered by Kurt (W6PH). Just about all present indicated they were interested in purchasing new club shirts. Keith has about worn out his shirt.

Olin 1st observation: There are usually just a few core members that take the time and effort to keep our repeaters on the air.

Olin 2nd observation: If there is a pecking order of importance at a radio site, Amateur radio is close to the bottom. CHP and police generally come in toward the top, followed by other emergency services, public broadcasters, and so on down the line. We really need to be good neighbors at radio sites, and work on cooperation and partnership with the other users.

Mike (HDV): Radio site inspection/management seems to usually be done at the office in town. Office workers in charge apparently don't like traveling to the sites.

Moving to a better (noise free) site: Unlikely. John (NR) and Jon (NW6C) checked out some possible receiver locations on and near Silver Peak. So far the sites we have examined would duplicate the prime coverage we already have while reducing coverage to other areas. Apparently the Forest Service is having coverage problems with their new site north of Silver Peak, and is considering moving their equipment back to Silver. The prospect of developing a new site is almost impossible due to the many regulations now involved.

Everett (IXK): There was an article in today's local paper that was very complimentary to Amateur Radio.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Club raffle tickets handled by Len (IQO).

Bob (WOW) brought a box of Amateur Radio magazines to the meeting and offered them to anyone that wanted them. Those not claimed would be thrown out.

PROGRAM: Olin participated with John in attending an ARES training session for the Orange

Section. The first presenter was Marty Woll, the same person that gave the presentations in Bishop last month. It dealt with setting up communications stations for with non-technical people. Then they went to information and training about Skywarn (reporting severe weather events), Infra-Log (how to evaluate and report problems with infrastructure) and other topics. Lunch was provided by the Orange Section. A Power Point presentation was shown about how their local emergency system works. Each system should be tailored to the community served. It would take some changes to be suitable for us. One of the basic emergency operating instructions was to stay off the air unless you had information that was really relevant to the event. They had a message sending and handling drill. Cellphones would be pretty much worthless in a major emergency event. If operational, the phone systems would be quickly overloaded. Nothing was said about monitoring 146.52. We could develop a plan for the Eastern Sierra.

SHOW and TELL: Jon (NW6C) brought a Motorola Radius GM 300 transceiver to the meeting. This is an example of what was a high tech expensive commercial radio that was made obsolete with the requirement of tighter channel spacing in the business band. Software and hardware to program the radios was expensive and carefully guarded by Motorola. Programming was to be done by their dealers. Manufacturing of these radios has been discontinued (obsolete), they are now very reasonable priced, the software and program cabling is readily available, and a computer running real DOS with a 9 pin serial (COM) port is all that is needed to use some of them in Amateur service. We are using one of these, configured by Greg (KJ6KO), for the Mazourka link. BARC has some of this programming software, and a programming cable is available.

OTHER:

Randy (BXP): He wondered if BARC had followed through on the idea of a Club scrap book. He volunteered to help provide information if the Club wanted to proceed with such a project. As an update to his long absence - He has been very busy with his teaching duties since his job shifted from Independence to Inglewood schools. A couple days off and the need to discuss matters with his old (Independence) district allowed him to travel to the Owens Valley for a few days. He has been trying to get a computer technology club/class started for the youth in Inglewood. There is a lot of interest from the kids, despite the numerous inner-city distractions. Lots of programs have been dropped due to lack of school funding.

Mike (HDV): Mike has been monitoring 146.52 for some time and recommended it to others. Lots of travelers reach out to the local radio community on .52.

Randy (BXP) won the 50/50 raffle!

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

P.S. - It was getting dark. The lights in the gazebo did not come on. Otherwise, we couldn't have picked a much better time to be denied our normal meeting area. Members broke up into discussion groups that lasted long after the formal meeting was over.

Jon, NW6C.