



August 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2019 are:

Bill Chezum	(W6WWY)	- President
Jeff Tong	(AA7GK)	- Vice President
Terry Fenske	(K6UN)	- Treasurer
Noam Shendar	(W6RT)	- Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Bill Chezum (AA7GK) at 19:01. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 9. They were, alphabetical call sign order: AD6NR John, K6SEC Steve, K6UN Terry, KG6JZJ Dave, N6BEV Bev, NW6C Jon, W6RT Noam, W6WWY Bill, and WA6IQO Len.

Minutes

Financial Report:

Terry (K6UN) reported that our expenses were \$66 (for electricity) and there was no income. Our ending balance was \$3,706.

Future Meeting Location:

Terry (K6UN) reported that due to a number of urgent events he was not able to complete his action item (per the resolution passed at the last meeting) of sharing a pros-and-cons document with the club. He noted that there are no strong arguments in either direction (staying at the Salvation Army or moving to Grace Lutheran). The strongest argument for moving is how difficult the Salvation Army makes it to have 2 keys. The strong argument against moving is that change is disruptive. Terry added that his recommendation would be to stay put and use the other location as a reserve location. Terry said he would share the pros and cons prior to the next club meeting.

Noam (W6RT) has been collecting input via email. So far, only 3 people have opined. Two have voiced a preference for Grace, while one has indicated a preference for "none of the above" (preferring instead a religiously unaffiliated location).

The ensuing discussion revealed no strong opinions in either direction, and several people explicitly stated they had no preference. It was agreed that we would solicit more feedback via email based on Terry's upcoming pros-and-cons document, and that we would vote on the matter at the September meeting.

John (AD6NR) reminded us that given the infrequency of ham exams, we should coordinate with the exam venue in advance of every exam session.

Bill (W6WWY) added, for our information, that the Salvation Army is in the process of moving to another facility.

Silver Peak Repeater Site Maintenance:

We still need a volunteer to lead the effort, and we should do it no later than early October (before it gets too cold at 11,000 feet). There are a number of club members willing to do the work, but a coordinator has not yet stepped forward. Please identify yourself to John Shepherd (AD6NR) by emailing him at johnshepherd@earthlink.net.

Repeater Link Issues:

John (AD6NR) informed the club that several pieces of equipment at the Silver Peak repeater site were damaged during a recent lightning storm. These include the microwave transceiver, ethernet switch, POE (power over ethernet) injector for the webcam, the power supply for the 900 MHz linked system, and potentially the site monitor and webcam. The Cactus controller in the building was also rendered nonfunctional. Our radios and controller survived, thankfully.

On Mazourka Peak, in order to help isolate the link issues (the link has been spontaneously turning off) John and Terry (K6UN) removed a broken 440 MHz antenna formerly used for the WIN System, shortened power runs, removed a redundant fuse box, and rerouted a 5V relay wire. The link issues are not yet gone, but now they are reproducible, which will make troubleshooting much easier. John believes the issue is with the grounding system, given that most of the equipment is "floating." The most likely culprits are the control boxes, which

are in unshielded plastic enclosures, and have long control wires connecting them with various devices inside the building. The plan is to ground all devices, coax shields and batteries to a ground bus bar, add lightning protection, and potentially put the controllers in metal enclosures.

Items from the Floor:

Noam (W6RT) updated the list of VEs, complete with contact info, license class, and VE accreditation expiration. This will assist Bev in gathering a sufficient number of VEs for ham exams. (Thankfully, we have not had issues gathering enough VEs.)

In the most recent exam session, we had one examinee, who earned a Technician class license. He attempted General class at our urging, and nearly passed (even though he did not do any preparation for the General class exam).

Jon (NW6C) informed the club that in September, Orv (W6BI) plans to come up from LA to discuss mesh networking. Terry (K6UN) noted that he checked the possibility of a link from the Mazourka Peak repeater to his house in Independence, but that the club's antennas are a hair below the horizon.

John (AD6NR) added that Mike (WA6ARA) would like to come up and discuss his experience during the large Ridgecrest earthquakes. We will try schedule his talk at the first available month (October if Orv presents in September, and in September if he does not).

Meeting adjourned around 19:51.

Noam Shendar (W6RT)
Secretary
Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (BARC)