

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB December 13, 2016 MEETING.

Meeting Notes:

This meeting emphasized the year end Christmas gathering of BARC members and family, including a pot-luck buffet. This was at our regular Salvation Army meeting location. The timing was refined over the local repeaters to be ready to go by about 6:15. On my arrival at 6 pm, there was quite a few participants already getting set up, and more coming in the door. Len and Jenny were getting the turkey ready. It was a pleasant night, including a bright full moon. The Lone Pine contingent showed up after picking up Dennis. Both of Dennis's home assistants were sick, so with Keith's help, he was able to attend the meeting. Participants started gathering around three of the tables, with me at the center one. There I got updates on knee replacements, and Jen was very happy that her second replacement was literally working great. At the west table, it looked like serious Club functions were being discussed, including Terry in possession of a property tax form for Silver Peak. Whatever was happening at the east table, it looked like they were having a good time.

By 6:30, new arrivals had tapered to nothing and somebody made a loud verbal observation that the food was getting cold. Time to load up the plates. Nothing was heard but praise about the food, from the main courses through the deserts. One item that was lacking was drinks. This is something I normally help out with, providing fruit juices and eggnog. With that observation, Rich ducked out the door, then came back in with a bail of Arrowhead water bottles. Left overs were divvied up at the end of the meeting.

BISHOP AMATERU RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES for December 13, 2016.

Meeting called to order by outgoing president John at 7:30 pm. He admitted that he was considering dropping the business portion of the meeting, but to follow tradition, a formal meeting seemed appropriate.

Introductions: 16 participants counted, of which 6 were guests. One guest had passed her Amateur radio test and was expecting her license very soon.

Treasurer's Report: About the time Terry drove into the parking lot, he realized that the written report was still sitting on his desk at home. Terry said that there wasn't anything unusual in this month's report, then reminded those present that Club **Dues are now Due!** There was a significant increase in the Silver Peak power bill, now that CACTUS equipment is operational. BARC has an agreement with CACTUS to be reimbursed for the power they use, plus a little extra for handling the billing.

Secretary: November Minutes were approved as posted.

Jon had a note from long time resident Amateur Radio operator Walt Hill. Walt was still hoping to find a home for some of his radio collection, and gave some instructions in the note for viewing some of the equipment he still had stored in Bishop. He is moving from J-Diamond trailer park in Bishop to a small estate in Louisiana.

Minutes from the BARC Board of Directors meeting were then read, and a correction made. These should show up on our N6OV website.

Silver Peak: John announced that there is now a camera installed on the Silver Peak facility. John, with his buddy Bill hooked the camera to the new microwave link connecting into the internet at John's

home. Bob then ported the feed to our website. It looks across the access driveway and down Silver Canyon to the Sierras, with a new frame every minute. John has already been asked for access to the data feed by outside parties. There are apparently lots of cameras looking from the Valley to the mountains, but very few looking the other way.

John also gave an update on the replacement of the California State radio site on Silver Peak – mainly that the first project plans have been tossed, and some major revisions are taking place. It looks like it will be quite awhile before we see the new proposal.

Interesting observation - noise figures for Silver Peak are now lower than Mazourka.. Noisy solar systems?

Mazourka Peak: Working fine except that it is a bit short on capacity. Some panels that were removed as part of a major site repair and clean up this summer have yet to be re-installed. The official transfer of the site from SIARRA to BARC has yet to be finalized by the Forest Service.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Jon Patzer, NW6C
Secretary, Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post meeting thoughts:

Spring time this year started out with a very sick batteries on Mazourka Peak. Eventually fresh batteries were packed to the site. As the roads were finally passable, John organized some major work parties. Charge controllers were wired to work properly, including a top priority of having the low voltage disconnect disconnect the load from the batteries to keep them from being destroyed. The bird nest of wires from the solar panels to the radios was almost completely overhauled and labeled. As an example, red wires are now always hooked to a positive voltage, not just sometimes. Old broken panels were removed, inappropriate or decayed panel mount were removed, anchors were used to replace the temporary guy-wires, and many holes in the vault roof were repaired. Truck and trailer loads of junk were removed from the site. Members showed up, with the equipment to accomplish these tasks. John, Keith, Rich, Jim, Phil, and Bill are some of the workers I remember seeing at the site. I know there were more. Thanks to Kurt for being the main rescuer of this site after Terry Downey died.

Another refinement has been to replace the in-band Maz to Si link with a more proper UHF setup. John gave that a try, meaning UHF transceivers on both Maz and Si Peaks. Problem solved? The little Motorola radios that seemed to work fine for linking on 2m had serious issues in their 440 MHz versions – mainly transmitter frequency drift. As this experiment progressed, there ended up being times when we were hearing commercial radio station audio coming out of our repeaters. Selection of another UHF frequency pair took care of most of the interference, along with several transceiver replacements. Most of these problems have been resolved. Every one of these changes entailed a trip to Maz and often Silver Peak. John and his FJ should have these routes really dialed in. John is not done – I think he is assembling link units that may provide full duplex operation.

Bob is still our master web site composer.

Jeff is our liaison with Forest Service operations, has a vast knowledge of all communications gear, and is always eager to explore radio mysteries. He is our voice of Chalfant Valley.

Jim Nelligan has had success in installing a emergency Amateur Radio station at the hospital in Mammoth.

Keith has been one of our mainstays in Lone Pine, often monitoring the 2m radio and offering help to those in need. He has also promoted Amateur Radio by displaying and setting up the Shack-teau. Then in his spare time, participating in various HF nets. Incidentally, Keith recently announced that he and Joy now have an operational 3d printer, and has invited those that may need a special part to give it a try. About a year ago, I watched a related medical special program where the 3d image of a patients heart was run to a printer so that the surgeon actually had a model of the actual heart that he could hold in his hand to study before an operation. It will print objects out of a variety of plastics.

Rich is another Lone Pine radio supporter and enthusiast, always willing to help those in need. These activities have been somewhat hampered by rather new part-time jobs as drivers transporting tourist and their vehicles to many locations.

Mark has been our contact to the north. He and Lori donated a fresh set of batteries for Mazourka Peak. In the summer, Mark is almost always available on the radio, and has a tremendous knowledge of camping areas and roads in snow country. As for hobbies and sports, a common problem this year was that the tourists that normally head for home in the fall decided to stay longer. Good job security, but sort of messes up the leisure time.

Paul has been our contact up Hwy 6 to the north, and an authority on off grid power. He is also very familiar with the terrain and politics of this area, particularly in regards to law enforcement.

Bob Moss has been our current contact in Fish Lake Valley, although he may soon have some competition

Welcome back to Jim Phillips. He was the voice of Fish Lake Valley for years, and is determined to return.

Then there is Ed. It seems Amateur Radio itself was not enough, so Ed is now part of Inyo County Search and Rescue, specializing in radio communications.

This note is about as close to a newsletter as this secretary writes. Most of the locals are aware of these people and happenings. A prime objective here is to inform our out of town members about where their dues are going. I am sure I have missed many significant people and items. This hobby has virtually unlimited opportunities.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year,

Jon, NW6C.