

## **BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES for February 9, 2016. p1 of 2**

**Meeting called to order** at about 7:05 pm by President John, AD6NR.

**Treasurer's Report:** Terry, K6UN, was swamped with membership renewals and upgrading the roster. Other than dues, there hadn't been any major changes in the finances. He promised a detailed report next month.

**Minutes:** Approved as corrected and posted. There was an initial error in the meeting start time, corrected from 8 pm to 7 pm.

**Attendance:** 16 familiar faces, so no self introductions.

**Director's and Officer's meeting:** (These are to be done at least once a year to comply with our corporate regulations, and was held prior to the general meeting – sec.) Kurt (W6PH) was selected to report the results to the members. Establishment of a microwave data link between John's house and Silver Peak was discussed. This would resemble a long distance wireless router. Although not to be depended on in communications emergencies, this will open up lots of possibilities for added site capabilities. An example is to set up some cameras, including a view the outside world from the building, and a camera inside that could view a selection of meters. These meters could include voltages, currents, temperatures, and any other useful parameters. Setups like this were once used on the local Bishop cable TV system during times between programs. This would probably be on a time interval rather than “live stream” to reduce the data speed requirement.

The next item was the replacement of the California State radio facility at the top of Silver Peak. BARC's major problem there is the planned construction of a new 20' x 20' x 85' tall antenna tower to the southwest of their building. That would block our radio path to the south. Also, two of our antenna poles would have to be relocated. Their designer has offered to replace our poles with new ones at locations of our choice. With the limited amount of area at the top of the peak, the choices are pretty poor. John's best idea so far is to see if they will install a tower on the west side of our building that is tall enough to look over the crest to the east, and far enough to the west to enable a clear path to the Owens Valley and Mazourka Peak to the south. With his experience in contract and business, Terry has volunteered to work on the agreements with the State.

As Kurt has an invitation to visit some of his good friends in Germany during the time of the ARRL Field Day, a different Field Day site was recommended. As this is the League's National Parks awareness year, it would be advantageous to plan our Field Day in a National Park. Local choices are Death Valley, Manzanar, Devil's Post Pile, and Yosemite. Manzanar seemed like the first choice. Repairs need to be done at the Mazourka radio site. It looks like the batteries are too discharged to enable the charge controllers to function. A field trip is planned for Friday. John had done some reconnaissance on the Mazourka Canyon Road, and it looked doable at least to the upper flat. Rich, KF6YLW, has lined up a volunteer with a suitable ATV. More support with four wheel drives, preferable at least one with a winch, would help. Hopefully the warm weather will hold that long.

**Program:** Rich arrived early to set up the equipment for his presentation, “Emergency Messaging Using Packet Radio”. He had assembled a packet station with computers, node controller, power supplies, batteries, and even an outside antenna with coax run through the mail slot in the wall. The system he was demonstrating was the one used by Nevada, of which we are an ARES region. Some basics of Packet Radio and the AX.25 digital protocol were explained. Jeff (AA7GK) added that the original X.25 was developed by DARPA, which was also the foundation for the Internet. The A in AX.25 indicates modifications for use in Amateur Radio.

Rich showed a Power Point presentation of various facets of the packet system in use, mainly built around the use of the Packet Radio Outpost software on a Windows personal computer. This software provides a “user to machine” interface that simplifies operation of the packet radio system and provides integration with the regular internet. Once set up, the operator is working on a normal looking Windows message program. This is a contrast to direct packet operation, which uses a computer terminal to send individual text based control commands to enable transmission of messages and access to system data. Rich then went through the steps to set up the Outpost software, how to match it to the packet controller. The packet controller provides the interface between the computer and the radio transceiver. He illustrated the choices in the program setup menus, the ones to be selected for the ARES system, and what the packet routing addresses looked like – variations of radio calls. Then the test! Send a test message to Keith's (W6KRF) packet terminal and access his Bulletin Board Service (BBS). A bulletin board is where messages can be stored and viewed, with the viewing parameters (who can see the message) set by the sender.

It didn't work! This gathered real audience participation, as Rich went through the defaults to figure out what the problem was. Eventually the message did get through the Silver Peak node to Keith's station, but the message was rejected. In the interim, Rich showed some pictures of local packet stations, their equipment and their operators. Pictures of a home built cubical quad antenna were added to the mix. (PS – Rich later determined that the address to Keith's BBS was not done correctly, otherwise everything was working properly).

John brought the program to an end, as more Club business items needed to be taken care of while the members were still alert.

**50/50 raffle.** John was the winner, with a \$15 pot. John donated his share to the Club.

Business meeting resumed at 8:45.

**T-hunt** this Saturday? Maybe. Adrian and Paige would be the fox, and Paige was recently headed to Guatemala. (PS – as of Thursday night, joining the 4x4 group for the Lone Pine to Whitney Portal trail clean up will take precedent over the T-hunt).

**Shack-teau:** The wheels with tires donated for replacement will not work. The rims have a different bolt pattern, and the 9.50 – 15 tires are a bit wide for the existing 7 inch rims. Rich thinks he has located a proper sized tire to replace the one really worn tire on the Shack.

**2 meter side-band?** Gordon (KD6TLE) has been doing some experimenting with this mode, and has been joined by John 3 (K6MWK). They would welcome others to join them in this endeavor.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:56 pm.

Jon Patzer, NW6C, Secretary, BARC, Inc.

Further note: Ed (AE4TM) attended the meeting and shared some highlights of his path from Tennessee to a conference in Las Vegas. He had located and taken photographs of the grave of Wyatt Earp and then to a nearby cemetery to locate the site of Phineas Gage's burial (at least the headless body). These are very near the Super Bowl site, San Francisco. Wednesday morning he was hoping to do some more exploring in Death Valley on his way to Las Vegas.