

February 14, 2017 Meeting of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2017 are:

Paul Dostie (KK6BAF)	– President
Jeff Tong (AA7GK)	– Vice President
Terry Fenske (K6UN)	– Treasurer
Gordon Baldwin (KD6TLE)	– Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Paul at 7 pm

Number in attendance: 18

Treasurers Report.

Terry (K6UN) did not provide a treasurers report other than to say that BARC has approximately \$1300 in the bank.

According to Terry (K6UN), BARC is a 501 C7 Not for Profit club. He stated that from a tax law perspective, BARC is a social club similar to 4WD, CB, lapidary, or quilting clubs. As such, BARC may not derive more than 1/3 of its revenue from outside sources. BARC taxes are filed on a Form 990N. BARC is not required to report revenue until we get to \$50K. Should we exceed revenue of \$50K in a year, Terry suggested that the BARC pay the taxes due on that amount.

Terry (K6UN) also stated that if BARC sells raffle tickets to raise funds, the ticket stub provided to the purchaser must say that BARC is not a NON PROFIT organization, but instead is a NOT FOR PROFIT club and as such, the cost of the raffle ticket cannot be deducted from the purchaser's taxes.

Old Business – Silver Peak and Mazourka Peak repeater update.

The agenda for the February 14th meeting did not include an update from repeater site trustee on the status of Inyo National Forest's request for about \$2300 from BARC.

Old Business – Reporting of results from emergency communications sub-committee meeting.

Notes from this meeting were sent to sub-committee members and to Paul (KK6BAF) for review but were not routed to club members. This may have been a mistake and Gordon (KD6TLE) apologizes for this oversight. Those notes contain the emergency procedures referenced below and will be included in the distribution of the 02/14/2017 BARC membership meeting minutes.

New Business – Reporting of results from emergency communications sub-committee meeting.

At the membership meeting, John (AD6NR) read aloud the four recommendations made by the emergency communications sub-committee. These addressed a protocol which if followed, will assure that HAMS in Bishop Amateur Radio Club will have the best opportunity of communicating with each other immediately following an emergency in

the Owens Valley. This procedure is contained in the attached notes from the emergency communications sub-committee meeting of January 21, 2017.

Members asked for clarification of the reasons behind the recommendation to use 146.46 instead of 146.52 as the VHF simplex frequency. John (AD6NR) provided a rationale for this choice. His explanation included the point that 146.52 is the universal calling frequency for 2 M and might become quite busy with visitor and other traffic following a disaster.

A motion was made and passed to adopt the recommendations made by the sub-committee as the emergency contact process between BARC members.

New Business – Tangent.

Paul (KK6BAF) introduced use of the word “**Tangent**” as a tool for bringing back on topic a discussion that had drifted off of the main point being discussed. He invited club members to raise a hand and say the word “**Tangent**” as a signal that they felt a discussion needed be redirected back on topic.

Club members were also cautioned by Jeff (AA7GK) to avoid side conversations (which are distracting at a minimum) when another member has been recognized by the meeting chairperson and is speaking.

New Business – 50/50.

Paul (KK6BAF) stated that the club needed an official 50/50 chair person. Rich (KF6YLW) was selected. It is likely that Rich (KF6YLW) will need two helpers. John (AD6NR) volunteered to help.

New Business – Field Day.

Paul (KK6BAF) asked the group if the 2017 Field Day should be focused on contesting or on public outreach. It was noted that Field Day 2016 was sparsely attended by visitors, in spite of a considerable PR outreach on behalf of the club by Ed (K6END). After some discussion, it was decided that it would be best to focus on contesting this year. Rich (KF6YLW) volunteered to ask Kurt Pauer (W6PH) if his cabin in Lone Pine would be available. A question was raised regarding availability of Kurt’s portable towers. Rich (KF6YLW) will also ask Kurt (W6PH) if these might be available.

New Business - Fund raising.

As was mentioned in the minutes from the January 10, 2017 meeting, money is needed for some important upkeep projects on Mazourka Peak. To raise the money needed, Paul (KK6BAF) suggested a gun raffle. The raffle drawing would be held on the last day of Mule Days so that people who bought a ticket would be in Bishop when the winners were announced. Ed (K6END) will take the lead in organizing the raffle. Jeff (AA7GK) also has experience with raffles and will be available to Ed (K6END) as a resource. Paul (KK6BAF) advised that the winner must pass a background check in order to receive the prize. If they cannot pass the background check, they will receive the cash equivalent of the prize value.

New Business – Selling valuable antique electronic devices.

Jeff (AA7GK) is the chairman of the committee to head up the sale or other disposal of the electronic equipment in storage at the home of Jon (NW6C). Jeff (AA7GK) explained that Jon (NW6C) had possession of a large and diverse collection of electronic items. As described, the collection ranges from gear that is rare and valuable to equipment that is merely junk. Jon stated that he has lost the use of two vehicles, as these are full of radio gear. He also commented that he has lost the use of considerable square footage at his home, due to all of the stored electronics and he would like to recover the space in his house and the use of his vehicles.

Jeff (AA7GK) told the group that the equipment needs to be sorted out. It would be best to perform routine maintenance checks on the pieces of equipment identified as suitable for sale. Jeff (AA7GK) and John (AD6NR) noted that club members are needed to contribute their time and expertise to accomplish this. Jeff (AA7GK) advised that he has an eBay account the club could use to offer the good equipment for sale. Contact Jeff (AA7GK) with questions, suggestions, and offers to assist.

- The profits from sales would be shared between Jon (NW6C) and BARC – details yet to be determined.
- BARC volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks, including cataloging and checking tubes.
- BARC members would not get preferential pricing but would be free to acquire this equipment at the listed price.
- Len (WA6IQO) suggested putting some of the gear on the HF Swap Net.
- Jeff (AA7GK) described one of the items as an R390 surveillance receiver, a unique, collectable item. This AM/CW monitor was used by the US military from before WWII until the 1990s in order to conduct intelligence monitoring of radio communications traffic.

New Business – Repeater best practices when handling an emergency situation.

Jeff (AA7GK) offered that opinion that at this time, best practice operating protocols are not widely known or used by BARC. He noted that each type of disaster needs to have its own specific process. He summarized key points of a best practice process:

1. If we receive a request for help over the repeater, a prerequisite is a willingness to help and the resources to help. Each person hearing a call for help must determine for themselves if they feel comfortable and capable of providing assistance.
2. In the midst of providing help should we start to feel overwhelmed turn the contact over to another HAM with more experience.
3. The first person to respond to the call becomes the In Charge (IC) person by default. Once we become IC, we are in charge of the situation until a more qualified person assumes control.
4. Tell the victim that someone is there to help.

5. Make an announcement like this to secure the repeater for emergency use: “This is AA7GK. I have an emergency situation on this repeater – please hold all traffic at this time.”
6. Communicate with the other person to establish the general nature of the emergency. Ask necessary questions to identify essential, critical facts. You need to get answers to these questions: WHO? WHAT? WHY? WHERE? WHEN? HOW?
7. Advise the victim that you are contacting emergency services and confirm with that person after you have done so.
8. Never try to take the victim off of the repeater to another frequency – trying to do this may result in the loss of communication with the person heading help.
9. To hand off the issue to the emergency responders, make a call to 9-1-1. Give your name, identify yourself as a HAM radio operator, and report the location and nature of the problem. Give victim’s name to the 9-1-1 operator.
10. Communicate with the victim and 9-1-1 operator in a calm manner.
11. Do not intrude back into the radio conversation after handing it off to the 9-1-1 dispatcher unless your help is requested by the emergency services person.
12. Every once in awhile, make an announcement on the repeater that you are coordinating an emergency situation and need the repeater kept open for that purpose.
13. Remember that when coordinating an emergency contact like this, we are only radio operators. Avoid giving guidance on CPR or other medical advice.
14. Do not use jargon such as 10-codes or Q-codes.
15. Log your involvement.
16. When it is no longer being used for emergency communications, release the repeater for normal use.

New Business - Jeff (AA7GK) was asked if he would be willing to give an overview of the ICS 100 process.

He agreed to do this for BARC members. Day/time to be determined.

New Business – Inyo National Forest seeking specialized help.

Jeff (AA7GK) advised the group that the Inyo Forest Service has put various support functions out for bids. One of the support duties is radio operator. Interested persons who are selected for this work will receive specialized training to include wild land fire safety precautions, required radio procedures, and more. He can offer additional information for anyone interested.

New Business – Possible mission statement for the Bishop Amateur Radio Club proposed by Rich (KF6YLW).

Rich (KF6YLW) proposed the draft of a general mission statement for BARC. Please review and comment. “It is our purpose to advance the exchange of information, encourage cooperation between members, enhance individual operating efficiency, conduct club programs and activities so as to promote the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in the community, help prepare those interested to be able to assist with radio communication during emergencies or public events, and to have fun.” Please

send any comments about this proposed mission statement to Gordon (KD6TLE). (This draft is a modified version of a mission statement from the Oroville, CA amateur radio club.)

New Business – Go Fund Me.

Gordon (KD6TLE) suggested that the club look into setting up a Go Fund Me site on the internet to explore if we can use this service to raise money for the technical upgrades needed for our Silver Peak and Mazourka Peak repeaters. Please send any comments about this proposal to Gordon (KD6TLE).

New Business – Error on Resource Assessment form.

There was an error on the resource assessment form recent completed by a number of BARC members. 80M was not shown on the form. That error has been fixed and the corrected form was sent to Paul (KK6BAF) for future use.

New Business – Correction to time and frequency of 2M SSB net.

The 2M USB SSB net meets Saturdays @ 1900 Hrs on 144.210. For best communication, use horizontal antenna polarity if possible.

Meeting Adjourned at about 9 PM.

Gordon Baldwin
KD6TLE
Secretary
Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc.