

By 7 pm, a good group of BARC members had gathered in the Salvation Army's meeting room on West Line Street. Terry was very busy handling the collection of Club dues for 2016.

Meeting called to order by President, John (ad6nr) at about 7:04.

Meeting topic: John relayed input from some members suggesting programs be put at the beginning of the business portion of the meetings for those that could not stay late. Other input was that a good program should be intentionally put at the end of the business meeting to encourage meeting attendance and better input at the meetings. The group thought that John's method of getting the business basics out of the way, then the program, and then old and new business, was the best solution. This was the "program in the middle" choice.

Self introductions: 10 members announced their presence, two more attendees arrived later.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Terry (k6un) came through for the Club with a seven page Club roster. This had past, paid for 2015, current (already paid for 2016), and prospective members. Terry had emailed out some copies prior to the meeting. He asked everyone to study the list and provide any corrections or new information that could be helpful. Terry also had a complete written report of Club finances from September 9, 2015 to January 11, 2016. We survived 2015 with \$706.43 remaining in the general fund and \$735.56 in the Duplexer/Equipment fund. General dues for this year are again \$20.

Minutes: Secretary Jon (nw6c) read the business portion of the December minutes. This was only four sentences, as there was no formal reports and a request for business from the floor had no replies. This report was approved as read and posted. Note: The December meeting was a special get together with the Eastern Sierra 4x4 Club. Many BARC members are also ES4x4 members. More notes (beyond just the Minutes) are posted on the BARC site, and even more information about the meeting can be seen on the ES4x4 website.

Program/Presentation: Jeff (aa7gk) brought in his new communications receiver computer fob, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. The start was a little rough, as Jeff's computer was not interfacing very well with the video projector. Once that was sorted out, Jeff explained the basic operation of radio receivers, then some history and adaptations in implementing a "software defined" receiver. He remembered some of the early versions taking up a good sized room. It was amazing that this could be shrunk down to a little computer fob that plugs into a USB data port, and priced less than \$100. There was a handout showing diagrams and links to other web resources. Jeff then fired up his 25 MHz to 1,700 MHz receiver, hooked to a little whip antenna stuck to the back of a chair frame, and explained the display screen and functions. Information could be displayed on sweeps of frequency, showing time and amplitude – a "waterfall" of information. Other windows showed views of the demodulated output - usually audio for us. Variable detection areas of the RF could be selected by frequency and range, as well as the width of the RF frequency sweep. Differences between local narrow band FM (provided by a handy-talkie in the room) and the wide deviation of our local commercial FM broadcast station were demonstrated. Jeff also showed us some recordings of other interesting signals he had received. By the time the last question was answered, the presentation had gone from about 7:30 to 9 pm.

Activities:

BARC club breakfast is the Saturday after the meeting, 8 am, at Denny's.

Transmitter hunt would be at 10 am, same morning, on Red Hill. There was a four wheel drive club run and a motocross race at the Fairgrounds that same Saturday, so the hunt was postponed for a least another month.

80 meter nets are still going strong with Len (wa6iqo) and Keith (w6krf) helping a lot.

North American QSO parties to be on January 9-10 for CW and January 16-17 for SSB.

CQ Worldwide 160 meter contest coming up.

ARRL VHF contest is January 30-31.

Contesting: Kurt (w6ph), John, and Terry offered some summaries of recent contests, and some tips on locating good DX opportunities. There have been some good paths on 10 meters. A simple indicator there is checking on Citizens Band (CB), as it is on 11 meters.

Old business:

Revised plans for a new **State building at the top of Silver Peak** were sent to John for review and comment. They are much more realistic than the first submittal, which John verified was a generic ultimate repeater site design copied and pasted onto the Silver Peak topological map. An 80 foot tower to the south of our building is on the plans, as well as the removal of at least two of our existing antenna poles. When John brought this subject up with the design contact person, they offered BARC an opportunity to mount our antenna on their new tower. John declined, concerned that the restrictions and regulations involved in climbing a State facility pole would be a major problem for us. They have budgeted for two new poles for us. John was going to make sure that the pole installations would include coax runs and antenna mounting. When the new building is completed, the original building is to be removed. This will mean at least some parking and maneuvering area for service vehicles.

Repeater site linking and data using microwave - equipment has been purchased by John for the Club. The idea is to bring an Internet connection to our Silver Peak building, simplifying to connection between repeaters and to the internet. He now needs a good secure modem to isolate the radio systems from his personal home internet use.

New business:

BARC participation in the **National Parks on the Air** event? Keith has reserved a campsite at the Panamint Springs Resort, March 19-20. This is part of the Death Valley National Park. Group camp fees are \$55 a day. There is a 30 person limit per site. The club voted to reimburse Keith for the campsite fees for two days.

BARC and SARC (meeting) in the Park is set for April 23, Lone Pine.

Donation to ES4x4 for reimbursement for their dinner expenses at the December joint meeting? No objection. \$20 proposed.

Donation to Salvation Army for use of their facilities for our Club meetings? This is of particular interest because of the recent announcement that they are closing their retail location and considering finding a location to combine church and retail functions. A \$100 donation was approved.

Simplex VHF drill was suggested by Rich. We used to have one once a week. There is an ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in September. We should have more than one test a year. We have a communications MOU with Nevada, and Terry is working with one for the hospitals. This is part of an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) involving "served" agencies.

NVCON (ARRL Nevada State Convention) is scheduled for April 29-May 1 in Las Vegas.

Affiliation? We are affiliated with both the Nevada ARRL Section, and the Orange Section of California.

Meeting adjourned about 9:30 pm.

Jon Patzer, nw6c, Secretary BARC, Inc.