

Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Minutes for July 7, 2014 Meeting.

Meeting called to order by President John (AD6NR) at 7 pm.

Introductions: 12 members showed up, including rare appearances of veteran Gordon (KD6TLE) now living in Oregon, and newcomer Rick (KK6MUD) who seldom gets the day shift at work.

Minutes: Approved as posted on the BARC website.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Terry (K6UN) reported a last months balance of \$2085.37, \$260 was added from T-shirt sales, \$48.70 deducted for the power bill, and \$29 added from last months 50/50 drawing. This leaves a current balance of \$2325.67. This includes the repeater fund.

Club Activities:

Transmitter hunt has been on hold. Suggestion to return the hunt date to the Saturday after the Club meeting. Having it the second Saturday after the meeting seems to conflict with the four wheel drive club runs. A survey of interest needs to be done. It is recommended that beginners partner with a veteran for the first couple of outings. Transmitter hunting is a very useful skill for tracking down interference sources.

The 80 meter net (3950 kHz) is doing well.

June Lake Triathlon: We don't have enough operators to cover the event as laid out by the promoter, so John called and said that we weren't able to help. It would have helped if we had been contacted sooner. The counter from them was a plead to have us provide just two operators to communicate between two of their control points that don't have cellular coverage. Maybe.

California QSO party is coming up in October. Operators are challenged to get points for contacting stations in California, and additional credit for each additional county. Inyo and Mono Counties have relatively few operators and are therefore highly sought after contacts. This is a good time for residents (and guests) to make contacts and get credit for categories like "worked all states" certificates.

ARRL regional convention is to be held in Santa Clara this year, October 10.

Raffle: Adrian (N6ZA) volunteered to handle the tickets. Later, Jon (NW6C) drew Adrian's ticket. Adrian donated the \$24 proceeds to BARC.

Field Day: Terry, who did a lot of the strategy work for our Field Day, reported some of the results. We ran as a 3A category, meaning no more than 3 transmitters on at a time. We ran 3 modes – CW, SSB phone, and PSK .31 digital. This was our first time with computer digital. We ended up with 1047 CW contacts and 664 phone contacts. Total points came to 5,628, which at first was somewhat disappointing compared to our 6,248 points last year. When band conditions were considered (example - nothing on 10m and almost nothing on 15m) it actually looks good. A few local contacts were made on 2m, again somewhat disappointing because Terry had put up a very substantial 2m antenna. There was a few very brief openings on 6m. 160m was not set up.

Most of the bonus point categories were accomplished. We did pull in at least one satellite contact – maybe 2. Olin had a good run on SSB, adding an additional 65 contacts on 80m SSB. Adrian helped Kurt (W6PH) run up the CW totals. With lots of participants, Kurt again providing the location, and Marilyn organizing the food, it was an excellent field day. We again had members of the Ridgecrest

based SARC (Sierra Amateur Radio Club) visit us on the way home from Horseshoe Meadows. Thoughts about how we could do better next year were mentioned, such as spreading out the antennas, mono-band antennas, and maybe band pass filters to prevent interference. We should start Field Day planning during January next year.

Field Day II: Phil (K0RVD) gave a report on the local West Bishop Field Day at the Clark (W6IY and N6FTO) location. Murphy's law was in full effect, with troubles with the power and antennas. Phil thought it was really a good exercise in the problems one could have in getting an emergency station on the air. Jim (K6JNX) helped with the antennas, and Ann had some excellent food to eat. Phil said that they all had a good time.

Unified Command meeting: Terry gave a report from the last quarterly meeting. BARC has been encouraged to have a representative at these meetings since Dwaine (KG6SYA) of the Salvation Army pointed out to our usefulness in emergencies. This past meeting was of particular interest because one of the major items was communications. Volcanoes awareness and preparation was the prime subject. Three of the most active volcanoes in the US are in our area (Region from Mammoth and down through the White Mountains). By the end of the presentation, Terry was really wondering if he wanted to live here. Long Valley caldera, Casa Diablo, and Red Mountain were the three they had identified. Many responders would like to have Amateur Radio operators as part of their team. Some of the emergency responders at the meeting were also interested in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses. There is another emergency drill being planned for October.

Dr. Johnson (Inyo and Mono County Health Officer) would like to see improved communication capabilities from our hospitals to those in Nevada. Nevada is using packet radio (digital simplex mode, usually text) as a communications alternate. Many years ago, California Emergency Services experimented with packet and determined that it did not have near enough timely throughput to be of practical use. For rural Nevada, with much less local demand, it apparently is very useful. Eastern Sierra more resembles Western Nevada than it does Sacramento. Silver Peak has been identified by the Nevada communicators as being a helpful point to link the packet nodes. Packet equipment we now have on Silver Peak and Mazourka Peak is primarily intended for site telemetry. Walt's APRS is the main digital node on Silver Peak. In the past, BARC packet nodes were "locked out" from going north or south due to local packet operators abusing the "keyboard to keyboard" frequencies allocation with bulletin board traffic. Looks like more study of this will be done.

New Business: Silver Peak could use some open racks to help arrange the equipment, preferably aluminum, about 2 or 3. New racks are about \$175 each, including shipping. These racks, combined with wall mounted cable hangers, and coax/grounding junction plates at the buildings cable entrances that have the exterior heliax coupled to good flexible coax in the building interior, would do a lot to improve the workability of our building.

Motion and second to buy two aluminum open racks. Motion passed with no objections.

Arranging the racks, moving the radios, installation of the plates (one has already been installed), and fabricating the coax jumpers will definitely take some volunteer effort. Everett (KD6IXK) asked if he could be informed before a future trip to Silver. He has not been up there in many years. A problem with working in the building is that two people are a crowd. We could have a Club picnic at the site as kind of an open house.

Old Business: Terry collected enough money for the purchase of 20 T-shirts. He purchased 24. A detailed break down will be ready by the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.