



July 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2018 are:

Paul Dostie	(KK6BAF)	- President
Jeff Tong	(AA7GK)	- Vice President
Terry Fenske	(K6UN)	- Treasurer
Noam Shendar	(W6RT)	- Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Paul Dostie (KK6BAF) at 19:01. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army building in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 9. These were, in alphabetic order: AD6NR, K6UN, KD6TLE, KE6LUT, KK6BAF, NW6C, W6RT, W6WWY and WA6IQO.

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Terry (K6UN) reported no dues income, \$15 from surplus equipment auction, and \$637 of additional raffle ticket sales (in addition to the \$375 of raffle ticket sales reported previously). The only expense was the Silver Peak electrical bill of \$71.79 (usage is down but rates are up). This brings the checking account to \$3,882.79.

Old Business - BARC Raffle

Terry (K6UN) reported total raffle income of \$1,012 (which includes \$2 given as a donation at the raffle table at the Bishop Vons). This amount will result in a net gain for the club, but not as much as expected (the final tally will be known after we purchase all prizes and will be reported at the next meeting). There are at least 2 reasons for this: there were 2 other raffles at the same time (some with firearm prizes), and it was a slow year for raffles (Terry knows of another raffle that had significantly less income this year compared to prior years).

We then proceeded to the drawing. Terry (K6UN) randomized the tickets and club members blindly drew winning tickets as follows:

- Paul (KK6BAF) drew 1st Prize (T/C Rifle) Dennis from Ridgecrest
- Jon (NW6C) drew 2nd Prize (Ruger Rifle) Ben from Lone Pine
- Len (WA6IQO) drew 3rd Prize (Tecsun Radio) Carson from Lone Pine
- John (AD6NR) drew 4th Prize (Midland Radio) Loretta from Lone Pine

Terry (K6UN) will notify the winners and arrange for pickup or delivery of prizes.

Old Business - Local Repeater Status

John (AD6NR) reported that Jeff (AA7GK) has discovered that the club's Mazourka repeater is receiving intermodulation interference from the Forest Service repeater at the same site. In addition, our repeater system is also experiencing two new issues which are heard over the transmitted audio:

1. a noise described as "crunching" or "crackling," and
2. an audible data burst (APRS, perhaps).

John added that some of these issues could be related to the sharp increase in radio traffic due to the Georges Fire near Lone Pine. We would need to wait for this traffic to die down and see if the issues go away.

John then walked the club through the link system and the enable/disable codes for the various link radios, repeaters, and controllers. A diagram will be posted to the BARC website, and Noam (W6RT) proposed that by using Dropbox, John can keep it updated.

John also walked the club through the propagation timing of key-ups and key-down through the system. For example, from the moment of key-up on the Silver Peak repeater, it will take over 600 msec until audio flows through to the Lone Pine repeater, during which time audio heard via the Silver Peak repeater is not heard on the Lone Pine repeater. When adding Mammoth to the chain, this delay grows to over 700 msec.

After un-keying, audio stops but the carrier remains up for another 700 msec. This period is known as Carrier Delay (or "Hang Time"). It is designed to allow "break-in" by someone who needs to interrupt a QSO taking place on the repeater. However, this delay applies only to the repeater receiving the original transmission. Other (linked) repeaters will drop the carrier almost as soon as the audio ends, making it harder to break in and requiring a fast "trigger finger."

Old Business - June Lake Triathlon

Paul (KK6BAF) set up a station with a cross-band repeater at Oh Ridge, and Len (WA6IQO) set up a station at Grant Lake. They mostly used the 146.52 simplex frequency. Len observed vehicle driving too fast through the triathlon area and alerted CHP.

Old Business - Potential Repeater Placement at Cerro Gordo

Paul (KK6BAF) is waiting for an update from the BLM regarding our proposal (which is supported by SARC). He will continue to remind them to respond.

New Business - ARRL Making Updates to ARES

John (AD6NR) described the changes which ARRL is making to the ARES program. The new program consists of ICS (Incident Command System) online courses and advanced classroom courses. These classes are standardized by FEMA and are attended by emergency personnel at agencies at all levels of government. The good thing about this new approach is that once trained, ARES volunteers will be able to speak the language of and interoperate with emergency responders and incident commanders. Without this, ARES volunteers cannot meaningful participate in emergency operations. The downside of the change is that long-time volunteers may be asked to completely re-certify (and may choose instead to resign). To minimize this risk, a good transition plan is a must, and is still in discussion within ARRL.

Old Business - ARRL Field Day 2019

Paul has reserved the Ferguson group campsite at Cedar Flat (near Westgard Pass). FD19 will take place during June 22-23, 2019. This time, the club would like to bring some single-band antennas, e.g., a 3-element 15m beam.

Items from the Floor

Gordon (KD6TLE) pointed out that the meeting agenda documents have the wrong time for the Saturday 2m SSB net. The correct time is at 19:00.

A question was relayed from Bob (N7RAP) as to whether the cost of hosting meetings at the Salvation Army is too high, at \$25/month. The club is interested in saving money and is open to other, less costly locations. Ideas?

Contact Paul (KK6BAF) if interested in 325W solar panels, at \$195 apiece. They measure roughly 77" x 39".

Meeting adjourned at 20:40.

Noam Shendar (W6RT)
Secretary
Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (BARC)