



July 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2019 are:

Bill Chezum	(W6WWY)	- President
Jeff Tong	(AA7GK)	- Vice President
Terry Fenske	(K6UN)	- Treasurer
Noam Shendar	(W6RT)	- Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Bill Chezum (AA7GK) at 19:01. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 10. They were, alphabetical call sign order: AD6NR John, K6SEC Steve, K6UN Terry, KG6JZJ Dave, K6END Ed, KK6BAF Paul, N6BEV Bev, NW6C Jon, W6KRF Keith, W6PB Wayne, W6RT Noam, W6WWY Bill, and WA6IQO Len.

Note: Roll call took place with Ed (K6END) taking a video of everyone introducing themselves and their call sign. He will pass it to Dennis (W6IY).

Minutes

Financial Report:

Terry (K6UN) reported that our expenses were \$61.60 (for electricity) and we brought in \$40 in dues and donations. Our ending balance was \$3,773.

Field Day:

Paul (KK6BAF) reported that the N6OV team had a fun weekend in the White Mountains. They made 157 contacts across 4 bands (80, 40, 20, and 15 meters) and in 33 states and provinces. The site was excellent (plenty of room for antennas, a shade structure for operating and dining, cool weather, and great views). The team put up 3 wire antennas: a 20 meter dipole attached to a 40-foot mast, a 40 meter dipole strung across 3 trees, and an off-center fed dipole

(a.k.a. a “Windom” antenna) also strung across 3 trees. The team also put up 2 vertical “screwdriver” antennas and was able to use them to make contacts on 80 meter.

Terry (K6UN) reported that he made over 500 contacts from his home station, running on emergency power.

Ridgecrest Earthquake:

John (AD6NR) reported that he had a hard time reaching SARC members after the earthquake. He later found out that they activated the Ridgecrest 147.000 MHz repeater, with half-hour status checks. In addition, phones remained operational.

Ed (K6END) added that the emergency operations center (EOC) in western Kern County (Bakersfield) was unable to contact the East County EOC in Ridgecrest.

A key learning is that we each **must be prepared to field program our handheld radios** (i.e., using the front keypad, and without a PC). This was one of the main reasons for the west/east EOC contact issues.

Keith (W6KRF) said that he would bring to the next meeting his Universal HT Programming Guidebook.

John (AD6NR) added that in an emergency we would need hams who are willing to “go places and do things” (with our radios). Examples:

- Check on adjacent areas after they experience a disaster
- Contact Fresno (via the Mammoth repeater).

[Postscript: Mike (WA6ARA) notes that HT contact between eastern and western Kern County is impossible, because there is no repeater located in between.]

Future Meeting Location:

Bev (N6BEV) reported that we received an official offer from the board of the Grace Lutheran Church on Fowler St. (in Bishop) for our meetings and examinations.

A long and lively discussion about the pros and cons of changing venue from the Salvation Army to Grace Lutheran ensued. Questions included: Are the issues experienced at the Salvation Army (e.g., being locked out without notice)

severe and/or frequent enough to warrant a relocation? If we did relocate, could our invitation to Grace Lutheran be revoked should (hypothetically) the relationship between the club and Bev sour?

It was agreed that we would not take a vote at this time, in order for the topic to sink in, and in order to inform club members who were not in attendance. A formal motion to this effect was proposed and adopted unanimously. Per this motion, the next steps are:

- The club will ask for a written invitation from the church board
- The club will send an email to the membership with this information, and solicit feedback thereto.

Repeater Link Issues:

John (AD6NR) indicated that the current CAT-400 controller is old and appears to be acting up more frequently. A new controller would be required to both avoid the recurring loss of links, and to allow for future expansion of the system. John has a specific make and model in mind. The price tag is around \$1,000.

Silver Peak Repeater Site Maintenance:

We still need a volunteer to lead the effort. There are a number of club members willing to do the actual work, but a coordinator has not yet stepped forward. Please identify yourself to John Shepherd (AD6NR) at johnshepherd@earthlink.net.

Items from the Floor:

Jon (NW6C) shared items from his trip to Germany, and John (AD6NR) brought surplus microphones - free to a good home.

Meeting adjourned around 20:30 (exact time not recorded).

Noam Shendar (W6RT), assisted by Jon Patzer (NW6C)
Secretary
Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (BARC)