

Bishop Amateur Radio Club Minutes for June 10, 2014 meeting.

Meeting called to order by President, John (AD6NR) at 7:04 pm.

Introductions: 16 members and 4 guests were in attendance, including Marty (N6VI), ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director.

Treasurer's Report by Terry (K6UN): Spent \$46.12, received \$85, sum total of accounts (not including T-shirts) \$2085.37.

Minutes by Jon (NW6C): They never were sent to our web site. After writeup and review, Secretary went on vacation, intending to forward the final revised Minutes to webmaster Bob (N7RAP) "later". Summary of minutes was read to enable meeting to move on more quickly to programs. Minutes approved as summarized.

Bulletins:

The Thursday evening HF net is to start at 9 pm on 3950 kHz.

The .94 repeater locks up for 3 minutes every time it is accessed. Looks like the link transceiver has reset to a channel that transmits on 146.34 MHz instead of 146.16 MHz.

Program 1: Marty presented the meeting attendees with an overview of what the ARRL (American Radio Relay League) has been up to. This included some history, its 5 "Pillars", and some of its current activities. Below is a summary of the items presented.

Pillar number 1 is **Public Service**. This includes programs such as ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), NTS (Nation Traffic System, training, NGO (Non Government Organizations) Memorandums Of Understanding (MOU), and national radio coordination.

Pillar number 2 is **Advocacy**. Spectrum defense, interference resolution, laws and rules, IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) representation, and protection for antenna installations.

Pillar number 3 is **Education**. Actual studying is usually done locally. Study material and many newsletters are available from the League. Amateur Radio training is even available to other countries via the USTTI (United States Telecommunications Training Institute).

Pillar number 4 is **Technology**. Many advances in electronics and communications have been from Amateur Radio experimenters. ARRL also has has a comprehensive test lab with a very knowledgeable staff.

Pillar number 5 is **Membership**. Magazines (QST, QEX, NJC) are available to members, as well as their archives dating back 100 years. There are many other benefits plans, such as event insurance specially tailored to radio club activities. Lots of tips to provide better and more efficient radio operation.

Marty then went on to the organization of the ARRL, his part in that organization, then to current issues that the League is involved in. There is constant demand for more radio spectrum and almost continuous proposals to invade Amateur Radio spectrum by other users. These range from proposals to the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) to new or revised laws by Congress. One particularly major one they are monitoring is the revision of the Telecommunications Act, first enacted in 1934. Most of our activities are based on this act. Even the Military, who shares a lot of the VHF and above allotments with us, is very concerned. The League is also pursuing legislation that would require the FCC commissioners to have communications specialists on their staff and use them to consult with. The FCC appointees tend to be more law and political oriented than technical. BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) was used as an illustration. Radio operators see the lines as better antennas than digital

signal conduits. Other recent problems have been with RF noisy grow lights, complete with line cords “tuned” to Amateur HF bands.

July 17 – 19 is a very good time to visit the ARRL headquarters. This is the 100th Anniversary (Centennial) Convention.

Program 1 concluded at 8:30 – then on to 50/50 raffle ticket sales (handled by Adrian (N6ZA)).

Field Day: 2A or 3A? Plenty of antennas will be available! There will be a GOTA (Get On The Air) station. Terry is preparing to be the GOTA “coach”, as well as running VHF and UHF stations. He will be an Extra class control operator. A lot of bonus point categories are being planned. A tough one is the bonus for having the station in a “public place”. Kurt's cabin is on LA DWP land, but would not normally be called a “public place”. Solar power, and satellite contacts are some of the planned bonus point categories. Field day will run from 11 am Saturday to 11 am Sunday, local time. Field Day T-shirts have arrived. \$13 each. See Terry after the meeting.

John: Motion to again allow BARC to reimburse food purchased for Field Day. Similar to last year. Motion passed.

Mule Days Special Event: Successful set up and operation. Contact with the public. 312 radio contacts with W4M station, spanning 23 states.. Requests for QSL cards are already coming in.

50/50 raffle: John (AD6NR) the winner.

Program 2: Hank (W6SX) and Kurt (W6PH) on tips for contesting and Field Day operation. Their main suggestion here is to **have fun!** For this it is really nice to work with a good group, but if this is not practical, even a brief participation from a home station with a mediocre antenna will still be worthwhile. Kurt's first Field Day was in 1955. He still treasures the memory.

Kurt and Hank gave examples of effective contesting (mainly clear and brief), with suggestions on what to do, and examples of what was a waste of time. They admitted that there was some difference of opinion between the experts. Marty added some comments also.

Field Day is to be at Kurt's cabin, June 28th and 29th. Head up Whitney Portal Road from the Lone Pine Traffic signal until you see the Horseshoe Meadows sign directing you to turn left. Turn RIGHT onto the dirt driveway instead. The cabin is right above Lone Pine Creek. Set up will begin the previous Friday. N6OV (the Bishop Amateur Radio Club call) will be used for most contacts, W6TD (Southern Inyo Amateur Radio Association call – former Lower Inyo Amateur Radio Society) will be used for the GOTA station.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Jon Patzer, NW6C, secretary. BARC Inc.

P.S. SARC (Sierra Amateur Radio Club) is planning their Field Day for Saturday only, at Horseshoe Meadows. Members often have visited our site on their way home. JP