

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES, meeting of June 9, 2015.

Meeting **called to order** at 7 pm by President John, AD6NR.

Attendance: 18 members and two guests.

Treasurer's Report: About the same as last month. Terry (K6UN) left his house without the report printout. Last month a \$100 payment to our host, the Salvation Army, was approved. Last month's total balance was \$2,222.95 in the black. The Silver Peak smart meter is still functioning. Our 8 pm nightly net can actually be seen in the readings, boosting the load by about 75 Watts. This might add a dollar or so to the electric bill.

No one asked about last month's minutes. They were posted to our web site.

Presentation/Event: September 19 through 26, U.S. **Paragliding Championship** competition comes to the Owens Valley. Guest Kari Kastle did a presentation regarding the upcoming paragliding event. She had been active in paragliding for over 30 years. This is her first time taking charge of an event. One of the items on her needs list is radio communications, particularly from the control point (Tri-County Fairgrounds) to the launch site (Flynn's – just east of the Bishop Airport, about 1,500 feet above the valley floor). Communications at the landing locations would also help. They will be using one of the 5 radio channels in the 151 MHz range allocated for this specific activity. This channel will be reserved for emergency and very short logistic communications. All of the glider pilots are required to have GPS tracking transmitters. Locations will be displayed at their control center at the fairgrounds. The first question from the membership was – What is a para-glider? Kari's description was “an airplane in a bag”, a glider with a steerable fabric wing and no rigid frame. A parachute with the canopy configured as an airfoil, launched into the wind by foot, no motor. She offered to give a ride to anyone who was really interested in the experience, on a two person para-glider. The last world championship competition was in Colombia, South America. Their actual flight course will depend on weather conditions the day of the launch. With good conditions, the timed course could have turn around points at Darwin and Bridgeport. She has set 125 as the maximum entry limit. This should be a very interesting activity. Event T-shirts and refreshments can be expected.

BARC breakfast get together is set for Denny's, 8 am, Saturday, June 13, followed by the sometimes monthly **transmitter hunt** starting at 10 am, the top of Red Hill. Looks like Phil (KORVD) will be joined by Dennis (W6IY) to set the hidden transmitter.

80 meter nets are arranged for Sunday mornings, 8 am, on 3950 kHz, and Thursdays, 7:30 pm, 3947 kHz.

June Lake Triathlon is on July 11. At least three radio sites are needed, one being a relay point on the ridge. Grant Lake is the most critical, as cell phones don't work there. It would be great if we could get a repeater on June Mountain, but it seems unlikely.

Wedding of the Waters/Father Crowley Station will be the 4th weekend of October. Keith (W6KRF) and Max (KJ6HN) are intending to participate. More volunteers are needed.

Tioga Pass Run is coming up on September 13th. It looks like we will have enough volunteers to help out. This works best with HF sets at the top and bottom, avoiding the necessity of a relay part way up

the course.

The June **VHF Contest** is this weekend. VHF in this contest means 30 MHz and above, or 6 meters and shorter. 50.125 MHz is the 6m calling frequency. On 2m, 144.2 is a starting point, with a horizontally polarized antenna. There are beacons that give call sign and grid location information. The “DX Maps” application can help a lot with propagation opportunities.

Intermission and 50/50 ticket sales. Kurt was the winner with a pot of \$33. Kurt took back his \$5 entry and donated the rest to BARC.

A **Mazourka Peak work party** is still in the works. Kurt (W6PH) is in command of this. Batteries and the charging system checking are a priority. John recommended that a sub-audible tone be programmed into the .76 transmitter in the hopes of lessening the effects of interference on the Mazourka to Silver link. 131.8 Hz was selected.

Another **Mule Days** is finished, with quite a bit of club member participation. Terry set up the site and Keith transported “Le Shacktow”. Things started out a little shaky, as the brand new multi-band dipole antenna just wouldn't tune properly. It was eventually pulled down and replaced with a simple 15 m dipole. Terry observed that some of the Mule Days participants were partying hard until about 2 am. Over 100 contacts were made from our special event station W4M, including contacts from Japan to the Alamo.

Field Day! Last full weekend in June. Set up starts at 11 am Friday June 26. Last year we were not fully operational at the 11 am Saturday start time. Could really use more help on Friday. Location is again at Kurt's cabin on Lone Pine Creek. Our Field Day designator will be 3A, Orange Section. As for ARRL ARES we are now partnered with Nevada, but for all other activities, Inyo County is still in the Orange Section. N1MM will be used for logging, with wireless linking between 3 work stations. This is a great time for new operators to get acquainted with SSB HF – or CW also. We should have enough equipment for a GOTA (Get On The Air) station for operators that haven't worked HF. Kurt is prepared to do a “training academe” Saturday morning to prepare the operators. BARC has set aside money for food.

New business:

1. It is time to select one of the three Board of Directors positions in BARC, Inc. The three directors serve for three year terms, with one position expiring each year. The current Board contains Everett (KD6IXK), Kurt (W6PH) and Terry (K6UN). Everett desired not to remain. Jeff (AA7GK) was selected to fill the position. Members unanimously approved this selection.
2. Silver Peak packet node: Jeff is putting together a new packet node for Silver peak, to be set up on 145.05 MHz. This is the standard for Nevada ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). He has everything in order except the selection of the transceiver. Outpost software will be used in conformance with NTS (Nation Traffic system).
3. A 440 band Motorola handy-talky has been turned in to the Forrest Service. Jeff would like to locate the owner.
4. Gordon (KD6TLE) stated he was donating one of two new Wouxum speaker mics / earpieces to BARC, hopefully to be turned over to someone willing to make a donation to the club for its possession. He wasn't able to get either one to work with his new radio. As an operation check, Terry had Gordon unpack the mic, then plugged it into his radio. It didn't work. Then Terry demonstrated how to make it work using more swinging room and a bigger hammer. By shoving the rubber protector out of the way, then pushing the connectors in REALLY hard, it

worked just fine. No interest was shown at the meeting for bidding on the mic., so it is still available.

5. Keith reported that BARC is now on Facebook. John noted that he had received quite a few contacts from people looking at our web site.
6. It was pointed out that the club could benefit from better announcements of its meetings and activities in local publications. Our meeting information has been in the Sierra Reader calendar. Gordon and Rich (KF6YLW) were volunteered to get BARC information to the public.
7. Our information in the ARRL repeater directory needs to be updated. It seems this problem has had previous tackle attempts, all to no avail. ARRL won't do anything without concurrence from the regional repeater frequency coordinator (TASMA - Two meter Area Spectrum Management Association), and it seems impossible to update the information through TASMA.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Jon, NW6C, BARC Secretary.

Postscript: Kari also attended the Eastern Sierra 4x4 meeting on Wednesday. One of her concerns there was to have enough transportation to get competitors and their gear from the fairgrounds to the launch site. This includes travel on a two wheel drive dirt road. Wagon, van or bus type vehicles would probable be the best. Load would be the person with their rather bulky pack. Volunteers?

Jon, NW6C.