



June 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2017 are:

Paul Dostie	(KK6BAF)	– President
Jeff Tong	(AA7GK)	– Vice President
Terry Fenske	(K6UN)	– Treasurer
Gordon Baldwin	(KD6TLE)	– Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Paul at about 7 PM. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 14

Those present provided name, call sign, and city of residence.

Minutes

Minutes from prior meeting were electronically distributed to members following last club meeting.

Treasurers Report

Terry (K6UN) provided a copy of the BARC Financial Report for May 10, 2017 – June 13, 2017. Expenses for this period were \$116.58. Club income was \$15.50. Ending balance in the checking account is \$1701.52.

Old Business – Raffle Update

BARC continues to plan for a fundraising raffle, as the extra money is badly needed. Terry (K6UN) has this on his to-do list and has no update at this time.

Old Business – Fundraising Sale of Vintage Electronics in Storage with Jon (NW6C)

Jon (NW6C) is working on this and others have volunteered to help with photographing and inventorying the gear, as well as packing and shipping it when sold. Much of the used gear is vintage pre – WWII. Keith, (W6KRF) volunteered to set up a PayPal account for BARC to see items and to work with Terry to open a separate bank account to link to the PP account. Suggestions were made to list radio gear on sites like EHam or QRZ as well as on EBAY.

Old Business – Field Day

Field Day is the 4th weekend in June, the 24th and 25th. Keith (W6KRF) and Joy (AG6WM) are headed for Diaz Lake for Field Day and Keith indicated that there is room more operators. He noted that this will be an alcohol-free event.

Old Business – Forest Service Permit for Repeater Sites is about to be Resolved

John (AD6NR) gave some details about working with the Inyo National Forest to obtain resolution of this matter. As previously noted, the cost for the Cost Recovery Fees being sought by the National Forest Service (NFS) totals about \$2300. Our request for an exemption, payment plan or reduction of the cost recovery fee was not granted, so the decision was made to pay the fees.

IMPORTANT

BARC did not have the funds to cover the cost but some benefactors in the club made a short term, unsecured loan of \$1500 to BARC to enable the club to pay the fees. (The BARC treasury is now mostly depleted, as the bill has been paid.) Terry, (K6UN) is sending out a letter to all club members appealing for financial help in repaying those who loaned BARC the \$1500.

Payment of this fee to the NFS settles our obligation in this matter for 30 years.

On a related topic, an overview was given by John (AD6NR) about the status of Restoration Bonds which some National Forests are requiring of users of National Forest lands. Approximate cost of these bonds would be about \$10000 for Mazourka Peak and about \$30000 for Silver Peak. These are not being requested by the Inyo National Forest at this time.

Annually, we also pay a small land use fee for each repeater site.

John McVicker with the Bishop Four wheeling club gave BARC a check for \$50 towards the Cost Recovery Fee. Many thanks to John!

Old Business – Mazourka Repeater Site Maintenance

The first of two powering upgrades is scheduled for June 15th. Paul (KK6BAF) will lead other volunteers in temporarily placing two 125 W solar panels and some used but better batteries. The plan is to then re-link Mazourka Peak and Silver Peak. The second upgrade is anticipated to be the installation of higher capacity panels on the Mazourka shack itself.

Old Business – June Lake Triathlon

This takes place Saturday July 8th and needs volunteers. Those who may be able to help are: Paul (KK6BAF), who is coordinating and Rich (KF6YLW). Two additional operators are needed.

New Business - Fish Lake Valley Link

Bob Moss (W7WOW) is heading up efforts to create a half-duplex UHF/UHF link into Silver Peak for the purpose of facilitating contact by HAMS in Fish Lake Valley, NV with BARC members in Owens Valley. Bob is overseeing placement of a tower. He would like the tower to be 30' high. This would enable HAMS in Fish Lake Valley to bring up the Silver Peak BARC repeater using a 5 W HT.

New Business – DSTAR

ICOM has offered BARC a free ICOM Digital Repeater. This offer was discussed by the group. If BARC elected to accept this offer and install DSTAR, the club would need to provide other expensive equipment which is outside our budget at this time. Presently, there is very little use of ICOM digital equipment by club members. It was decided to forego the offer.

New Business – CARLA

Mark (W6WWA) spoke with representatives of the CARLA network regarding their interest in putting a UHF CARLA repeater on Silver Peak. Paul (KK6BAF) is heading up the propagation study. The CARLA network allows wide area coverage for HAMs with Technician class licenses. There would be no fee for users of the CARLA system. This is capable of acting as a local repeater using the “A” system or as a wide area coverage network using the “B” side of the system.

New Business – ARRL Repeater Book

The new ARRL Repeater Book does not show the correct information for the Silver Peak repeater. It shows two VHF repeaters on Silver but not the 146.940 machine. In the past, attempts were made to get the correct information into the ARRL repeater guide, but these have not been successful. Efforts will continue to correct the mis-print.

New Business – 50-50 Drawing

Dave (KG6JZJ) won the drawing and donated most of the approximately \$45 that he won back to the club to help repay the members who loaned the \$1500 to BARC.

New Business – Items from the Floor

- Bodie Bowl is coming up. This is a mountain biking competition in Bodie. Be thinking about volunteering to operate a radio at this event.
- Kurt (W6PH) mentioned the Low Power contest this past weekend and working 6 Meters.
- Terry (K6UN) said that a lady in Darwin has two home made towers and two older CB radios that she would like to sell. Terry suggested sharing this information with the Ridgecrest HAM club.

Meeting Adjourned at about 8:20 PM.

Gordon Baldwin (KD6TLE)
Secretary
Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc.