



June 12, 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 19:00. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army building in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 10. These were, in alphabetic order: AA7GK, AD6NR, K6UN, KA6HII, KF6YLW, KG6JZJ, KK6BAF, NW6C, W6KRF and W6WWY.

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Terry (K6UN) reported income of \$100 from Ed (AE4TM), surplus equipment sales of \$35, sales of other donated equipment of \$28, and sale of raffle tickets from Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce of \$375. Expenses were the Silver Peak electrical bill of \$62.20 (back to normal after an unexpected dip last month) and \$300 turned over to the Salvation Army for the use of their building. This brings the checking account to \$3,302.58. There are remaining liabilities for loans from club members (to pay for site assessments) and the raffle prizes.

Old Business - BARC Support for the Bishop Ultramarathon

Keith (W6KRF) reported that the marathon and our providing of communications were quite successful. Data handling could be improved, and a more formal operator roll call to see if the stations were at their posts might be helpful. As for non-radio items, course marking at the check points seemed to be an issue that needs improvement. Too much food was ordered, but the runners did really appreciate the variety and quality of the food at the

checkpoints (slower runners are accustomed to food shortages at stations, and were pleasantly surprised). They also were grateful for the radio operators.

New Business - Local Repeater Issues

Discussion about noise and spurious signals on the local repeaters. The airport weather and dispatch mix is probably not going away any time soon. By changing the PL we might not hear the mix but it would still be there.

A UHF link connects Silver to Mazourka, with the controller on Silver. Mammoth is linked "in band" from Silver. We should do some serious power and antenna studies before adding more equipment to Mazourka Peak. It did seem to come through the winter in good shape, but a major item is to make sure that all of the loads on Mazourka have low voltage disconnects. We don't want to kill any more batteries.

The Leviathan to Conway link is broken, and the group in charge of that system is aware of the problem. Once linked, it would be nice to have an audio indicator for the linked state.

Old Business - ARRL Field Day

Keith has reserved a very nice area at the Diaz Lake campground. Shade trees, air-conditioned shack (the cooler is on order), and a kayak to enjoy the pond!

New Business - FT8 Digital Mode

Dave (KG6JZJ) explained the differences among some of the new digital modes. This included speed, automation, sensitivity, and popularity. He recommended WSJT-X software. FT8 on 50.313 MHz is really getting some action now. FT8 is relatively fast.

Computer digital modes count double the voice mode points per contact on Field Day, the same as CW. Because of the weak signal capabilities, this may enable contacts on otherwise unworkable bands.

There is a digital contact frequency assigned for each band and mode. Looks like we need an FT8 station at our Field Day site this year, and yes - it is usable on 2m.

New Business - Auction

Bill (W6WWY) was the successful bidder on the Alinco DR-M06 with antenna, a 20W, 6m FM mobile radio that Paul (KK6BAF) donated.

New Business - Agency Repeater at Mazourka Site

Terry (K6UN) was thinking that a 154.37 MHz repeater would really help with the firefighting crews communications. Between John's (AD6NR) knowledge of the amateur radio site legal provisions, and Jeff's (AA7GK) knowledge of the use of that frequency - the answer was no. We would be inviting major site fees if we were to allow it.

New Business - Repeater Site Telemetry

- John (AD6NR) - A monitor (voltage, temperature, etc.) for the Silver site has been purchased. The next step is to get it installed and connected to the internet, hopefully ported to our web site. This would not work on Mazourka because we don't have internet available there and the previous packet radio telemetry adapter "lost its magic smoke."
- Jeff (AA7GK) - We have a packet controller with analog inputs, so it shouldn't be hard to build a new suitable unit.
- Club - Are you volunteering?
- Jeff - Maybe.
- Terry (K6UN) - There may be a way to bring internet connectivity to Mazourka with a WiFi link from other members' houses. This would use Ubiquity hardware similar to that which is installed on Silver.
- John - Power usage and signal path studies would need to be done. I will check on current prices for the link hardware.

Old Business - Cerro Gordo Repeater Site

Paul (KK6BAF) would still like to see this. BLM lease? Questions:

- How to list frequencies on the BLM permit form?
- What are available 2m frequency pairs?

- Would propagation from this site be too good? (If it reaches radio sites above Las Vegas or the Los Angeles area, we may have trouble obtaining a usable frequency pair.)

Some selection and test methods were discussed, as was the possibility of linking Government Peak or Rogers Peak.

To be continued.

Meeting adjourned at 20:30.

Minutes taken by Jon (NW6C) - Thank You!!

Noam Shendar (W6RT)

Secretary

Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (BARC)