



## June 11, 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 Vice President Jeff Tong (AA7GK) at 19:45. The meeting was held at the Masonic Lodge in Bishop, CA.

**Location Note:** The meeting got off to a late start even though attendees were present prior to the normal start time of 19:00. All were gathered outside the Salvation Army waiting for the doors to be opened. However, president Bill (W6WWY) announced that the door key he was provided with would not open the door. He speculated that the locks had been changed.

Following a brief sidewalk discussion, it was decided that the meeting would relocate to Bishop City Park, near where many of the city seniors meet for lunch. Upon arriving at the new location, it was found to be overcrowded, leaving no place for BARC to hold the meeting.

Terry (K6UN) to the rescue. He produced a key to the Masonic Lodge on Line St. and it was determined that we would QSY to that location. The Lodge facility proved sufficient for the needs of the group, and the BARC club meeting was able to commence, albeit belatedly.

Number in attendance: 10. They were, alphabetical call sign order: AD6NR John, K6SEC Steve, K6UN Terry, KA6HII Mike, KD6TLE Gordon, KG6JZJ Dave, KK6BAF Paul, N6BEV Bev, W6WWY Bill, and WA6IQO Len.

## Minutes

### Financial Report:

Terry (K6UN) gave a general overview of the finances. "We have about \$100 more than we did last month." Terry promised to provide the club secretary with a copy of the financial details soon.

### Field Day:

Paul (KK6BAF) reported that several people are planning to attend Field Day, including some from Fish Lake Valley. He needs volunteers to handle some important tasks. Those interested in helping need to contact Paul for details on what needs doing ([pdostie@aol.com](mailto:pdostie@aol.com)).

Generators will be provided. Paul and John (AD6NR) briefly discussed power requirements. Paul is bringing many extension cords. John asked if generators will be equipped with spark arrestors suitable for use in National Forests. The consensus answer to that question was "probably." Len (WA6IQO) may or may not show up for Field Day. Terry (K6UN) has a mast, tower, and guy wires to share for Field Day. Paul will pick these up from Terry. John observed that if those assembling the Cushcraft antenna will follow the manufacturer's instructions for assembly and placement, it will be very close to properly tuned and likely to work well.

Paul advised that he is handling the food. John noted that it will be cooler at Cedar Flats Group Campground - much cooler than in the valley.

Len asked about the possibility of hitting the Mazourka repeater from the Field Day site. Comments back to him were mostly in the affirmative.

Paul speculated that we should be able to get antennas to a height of 25-30 feet using a combination of towers, masts, and trees.

### Future Meeting Location:

Bev (N6BEV) shared with the group a letter written by BARC president Bill (W6WWY) Chezum. Bill's letter was directed to the leadership of a local Bishop church requesting that they consider allowing BARC to host its monthly meetings and testing sessions at the church. One of the key decisionmakers in this matter is currently traveling, and therefore we have yet to hear back from

the church regarding our request. The letter will be on file with the club secretary should anyone wish to read it.

### **Repeater Link Issues:**

A report was given by John (AD6NR) on the status of our repeater link radios. Presently, the controller in place at the Silver Peak location is based on an old technology and has limited capacity. This controller directs repeaters at several other locations. It has been malfunctioning lately. John found that by power-cycling the controller, it was possible to reset it and have it return to proper operation. He also stated that although it is possible to remotely power-cycle this device, it is not advisable, as doing this might obscure the reasons the controller stopped working in the first place. In other words, an improvement is needed. John suggested the club obtain a better, modern controller. These cost from \$1,400 to \$1,600. John advised that we move to the same controller as the Cactus system uses. Such a device would be reliable, flexible, and expandable and has a strong performance record while being used by HAMs.

On a related issue, John commented that he is the only club member who is conversant in the ins-and-outs of our repeater system and its individual repeaters. He observed that this is a potential single point of failure because, should something bad befall John, there is no backup to assume his technical assessment and repair of the BARC communication system. John reported that Jeff (AA7GK) and Noam (W6RT) have expressed interest in these technicalities and are already familiar with some parts of system, equipment configuration, and inter-connectivity. Their interest in learning more is very important to BARC because it is risky for the club to have just one person to rely on.

### **Silver Peak Repeater Site Maintenance:**

John (AD6NR) asked for help in getting some repeater site maintenance accomplished. The roof of the repeater building needs wire brushing and repainting, as do the outside walls of the building. John needs someone to solicit the help, coordinate the work, obtain the paint and needed tools, etc. Len (WA6IQO) is interested in assisting, but we still need a leader for this important maintenance project.

### **Bishop Ultra-Marathon:**

It went great but we should obtain more HAM volunteers to help with next year's event. John (AD6NR) recommends that we have 30 HAM volunteers for next year. He also mentioned was that there needs to be very clear explanation of the duties expected of every HAM volunteer. Apparently, there were some misunderstandings of the duties of some volunteers at some locations. *(Note-taker's/secretary's observation: it would probably be helpful to volunteers if they were provided with what they need to know to be effective in dealing with matters of who, what, why, where, when, and how.)*

### **Items from the Floor:**

There has not been any contact with the club re: soliciting help for the Tioga Pass Run on September 8 or the June Lake Triathlon on July 13.

Meeting adjourned at 20:45.

*Countless thanks to Gordon (KD6TLE) for taking and transcribing these excellent notes in my absence.*

Noam Shendar (W6RT)  
Secretary  
Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (BARC)