



## June 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2021 are:

Bill Chezum	W6WWY	- President
Jon Patzer	NW6C	- Vice President
Terry Fenske	K6UN	- Treasurer
Noam Shendar	W6RT	- Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Bill Chezum (W6WWY) at 19:00. Due to the need to observe social distancing, the meeting was held as a directed net over the club's linked 2m repeater system as well as a Zoom online conference.

Number in attendance: 16. They were, in alphabetical call sign order: AD6NR John, K6TLH Tom, K6UN Terry, KE6IWM Mike, KG6JZJ Dave, KI7ADV Eric, KO6ME Dave, N3LR Tim, N6BEV Bev, N6SIT Paul, NW6C Jon, W6RT Noam, W6SX Hank, W6WWY Bill, W7KRF Keith and WA7YXY Olin.

## Minutes

### Financial Report

Terry (K6UN reports that our expenses totaled \$54.33, payable to Edison. There was no income and no other expenses. Our balance is at \$4,868.20. The Bishop Ultras race has donated \$500 in appreciation for our volunteering at the race.

### Repeater System Status

John (AD6NR) reported that the new gear is installed and it works for Silver. However, for a reason yet to be determined the Mazourka link is down. All components and links appear healthy and operational. Headed up to Mazourka tomorrow in the hopes of finding out what is malfunctioning. *[Ed. Note: the issue was resolved in the days following the club meeting.]*

## **Bishop Ultramarathon Races**

Noam (W6RT) reported that the event went very well. We had every station aid staffed, and most had 2-3 hams at any given time. Todd, the race director, was extremely appreciative of our help, professionalism, and our ability to pull things off on short notice. Feedback from ham volunteers was solicited 3 ways: via a survey from Noam, via survey from Todd, and in a live Zoom session arranged by John (AD6NR) and Noam. Keith (W7KRF) suggested that we should have a laptop at the start/finish net control station so that we can look up real time racer information and communicate it to the aid station.

## **Field Day**

Bill (W6WWY) said he was looking forward to this year's event at Jim's (N7IU) in Fish Lake Valley. Details were sent via email from Noam. A reminder was given for all to be self-sufficient. In addition, we will have enough VEs for ham exams - Terry (K6UN) will provide Bill (W6WWY) or Jon (NW6C) the exam materials. *[Ed. Note: see the Field Day addendum at the end of this minutes document.]*

## **Special Presentation by Tim Duffy (N3LR), CEO of DX Engineering**

Tim Duffy (N3LR), the CEO of DX Engineering, joined our meeting during his night (after 22:00 his time) to speak with us about antenna building. The presentation was interesting, and Tim was kind enough to field our questions afterward. The slides he presented are included at the end of the minutes.

## **BARC Website**

After noting that our webmaster, Bob (N7RAP), declined the \$100 award from the club, Noam (W6RT) moved that we grant him a lifetime membership to the club. The motion passed unanimously. Bill (W6WWY) also proposed that we take Bob out to dinner, and there was broad support for that.

## **Items from the Floor**

Terry (K6UN) mentioned that on 6/15 COVID restrictions end. We need to check with the Salvation Army on whether we can get in there for the July meeting. Bill (W6WWY) said that they may not be ready, due to a move. Terry will check with the Masonic Lodge to see if we can go there as an alternate site, at least for July.

Noam (W6RT) will bring a computer so that we can continue running Zoom for remote attendees.

John (AD6NR) is considering adding another camera, looking south from Mazourka. This would allow us to use a zoom camera looking north from there. Such a camera would cost around \$500-700 and would also offer night vision capabilities. Is there interest? Bill (W6WWY) said we could use the unexpected donation from the Ultras Race.

Eric (KI7ADV) is working on our APRS system, which went down some years ago. He and Walt (K6BDI) went up there to reconnect the antenna, but after doing so the APRS was still not working, or at best was intermittent. The problem is likely the radio, but could also be the TNC. Once everything works, the coverage will be extensive. John (AD6NR) donated another TNC. Eric and Noam (W6RT) will try to reconfigure it for APRS.

Terry (K6UN) noted that our average power usage went down from 300W down to 175W. This could be due to replacing a power supply. Efficiency is important for heat reasons more than anything else.

John (AD6NR) asked if Hank (W6SX) would be willing to talk about his wire antennas at a future club meeting. Hank said yes, and has a PowerPoint presentation for this. We agreed to slot this in for the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 20:24.**

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

## Addendum: BARC Field Day 2021

Jim (N7IU) and Marilyn (KG6TBO) invited BARC to their acreage in Fish Lake Valley for ARRL Field Day 2021. We had a fair turnout, with John Stillwell (KJ7UZN) from Tonopah, Noam (W6RT), Bill (W6WWY) and his dog, Dylan (KN6IVW), and Jon (NW6C) to get started on setup. Antenna tower work was on the early to do list, with Bob (W7WOW) showing up a little later Friday to help.

This work started with the erecting of a crank up tower, and then installing the top section on a Rohn tower that had been waiting for completion since Field Day last year.

With towers functional, next was pulling up the dipole wire antennas. Jim had a vast supply of antennas to choose from. The last install was for 160 meters, enabled by the aforementioned tower top installation. Jim was thinking that would be made permanent, particularly if he could arrange another tower at its now precisely known center point.

Noam showed up Saturday morning with a complete field setup (table, chair, canopy, solar panels, transceiver, and computer with all the appropriate software). All he needed was to hook up to one of the wire dipoles (a Windom OCFD that he dropped off the day before). Bill, Dylan, and I (Jon) set up another station in one of Jim's storage containers, and then set up station three in Jim's motorhome. Jim's emergency power generator was moved from his garage out to the back lot. The motorhome had its own generator. The storage container turned into an oven by afternoon, so the station was moved to a patio deck on the east (shady) side of Jim's garage. Another Amateur Radio operator, John Stilwell, showed up to watch and later to operate. He is new to the area, having recently moved to Tonopah. Nighttime sleeping quarters were set up under the tree canopy by the creek.

The plan early on was to have a really functional Field Day as a group gathering, not to go into an all-out competition. There was also an Amateur Radio license exam held Saturday by the creek, with the one candidate passing the Technician-level test and giving a good try at the General exam. I actually had his jacket on for a short time Saturday morning.

Back in the house, Jim had brewed up several gallons of his special chili and beans. Bill had invested in some really nice steaks, that Jim promptly put on the barbeque. I had grabbed some really nice ripe bananas when I left my house. When I opened up my food bag to plan what to do, Marilyn quickly came into the kitchen and those bananas were turned into fresh banana bread. There was

also some fresh corn bread to go with the chili. Plenty of macaroni and three bean salads were also available. We were not short of good food.

With Noam's help, I had the N1NM logging program going on my notebook computer late Saturday afternoon. Lots of D1 designators, single station home operations.

Later on Sunday, Jim took the microphone in the motorhome as Bill got an introduction to computerized logging. As usual, many dupes (already worked stations) by that time.

Last calls at 11 AM Sunday, then lunch, and then take down and clean up time. Noam again volunteered to assemble all the logging information. Those who participated in Field Day at other locations can send their logging information to Noam for inclusion in the BARC scores. (Or they can create their own Cabrillo files and send them to ARRL, making sure to note "Bishop Amateur Radio Club" as the their club, so that their scores get aggregated as part of the BARC score.)

At the conclusion, Bill was looking forward to next year. We were hoping for more participants this year, but it was still a worthwhile operation. It would be nice to get a site up in the mountains. The last mountain trip was at the Cedar Flat group camp on Westgard Pass as arranged by Paul (KK6BAF). That was reserved for last year, but the Coronavirus struck and killed it.

Jon Patzer NW6C  
VP, Bishop Amateur Radio Club