

Bishop Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes June 8th, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by BARC President Adrian van der Riet (N6VDR)

Introductions around the room (16 members + 4 visitors) (see attached sign-in sheet)

Treasurer's report: Checking account \$1,949.93 Savings Account \$1,011.36 See Website for details

Last Month's meeting notes were posted on the web site: Minutes to be amended to add John Shepherd's (AD6NR) name to list of members that contributed to the new antenna. Adrian made the motion to amend, second by Kurt (W6PH), unanimously accepted by voice vote.

Presentations

Carl Gardinas (WU6D), ARRL Orange Section Manager (WU6D@arrl.org): Orange Section serves Inyo, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. As Orange Section Manager, Carl is our representative to the ARRL. He has a small volunteer staff with Bob Turner (W6RHK) as Emergency Coordinator (EC), Official Observer Coordinator (Dan Welch W6DFW), Public Information Coordinator David Lopez (N6RI) and several other staff positions. (See <http://www.orange-arrl.org/web/> for details).

Carl is especially interested in information for the Orange section newsletter. Not only to communicate among amateurs but to promote amateur radio to the general public. According to Carl; "Amateur Radio needs to promote itself." David Lopez is always looking for information about amateur radio being used in the public interest. If you have anything that might be of interest to other amateurs or about public service please send it to Carl or David.

As part of a major outreach effort to engage young people Orange Section has an "electronic kit" they take to fairs to present amateur radio. The kit is adapted for age. Carl demonstrated how the kit can be used to show electronic principles with simple circuits and other examples of electrical and radio related effects. It is not unusual to get 400-500 people an hour coming by to use the kit and get some information on amateur radio. In addition to fairs, Scouts, and other youth groups could be good targets for this type of activity. Ford Electronics is the source for the kit. For additional information on the kit contact Carl.

There are many opportunities to promote amateur radio. We need to show the public that we provide a worthwhile public service and demonstrate our value to our communities.

Dan Welch (W6DFW) ARRL Orange Section Official Observer Coordinator; Dan manages the Official Observers (OO's) OO's are members for the FCC Auxiliary. The program was established by an act of Congress. The purpose of the OO's is to keep amateur radio operators out of trouble and out of the view of the FCC. OO's are not "radio cops." They issue two types of cards: an "outstanding operator card" and a "notification of deficiency." A Typical deficiency is out of band operation or jamming. There are volunteers that locate and document problems with jamming. OO's have the option of turning a problem over to the FCC. Occasionally they do work on commercial related issues.

OO's also work issues like imported wireless phones on 2 meters, illegal transmitters obtained using the internet, foreign broadcast problems, KODAR (a type of wave height RADAR), and other interference problems.

Dan is looking for people to join the OO program from the Bishop area. Becoming an OO requires an exam (study material is available) and you must be an ARRL member. There is no minimum license required. All Orange Section OO's report to Dan. If you are interested please contact Dan at his e-mail address: W6DFW@PREX-scientigic.com.

Old Business

1) Batteries for Silver Pk Facility: Continued from our Jan 13 meeting: pending access to the facility in the spring.

2) Linking of Silver and Mammoth: Continued

3) T-Hunt - Start at 10AM Saturday June 11 from the top of Red Hill. Directions to the start point and rules are posted on the BARC Website. Jon NW6C will be the fox. Good luck to all the hunters!

4) FD - Field Day will be at John (AD6NR)'s QTH at 147 Mesa Vista Dr. (Mustang Mesa) about 9 miles north of Bishop at the Mill Creek Turn. We will be putting up antennas and getting ready starting 11 AM Friday morning and will we start operating at 11 AM Saturday morning. The contest will last until 11 AM Sunday morning. All are welcome. Please come out and join the fun.

5) Silver Peak Inventory: only one inventory as been submitted (Walt Lockhart). If you have equipment on Silver please send a list to BARC Secretary or to the PO Box. (Note: additional inventory submitted by Greg KJ6KO)

6) Name Tags: Keith estimated a cost of \$2.50 each. Adrian made a motion that each BARC member get a name tag (paid for by BARC). In the future new members will get a name tag and the cost will be included in the dues. Second by Earl (KI6AIK). Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Thanks for GIGI for Media visibility for the BARC meeting and T-hunt.

BHS 50 summary: Operational from 5 AM on May 24 until 1 PM May 25. Nine 9 out of area hams plus the BARC folks provided radio communications in support of our primary mission of runner tracking ("Never lose a runner!). There were no lost runners and no significant injuries.

New Business

Presentation by Bill Carpenter (WA6QZY): Bill is Manager of Disaster Response Technology for the Los Angeles Region for the American Red Cross: The LA Region serves Los Angeles, Inyo, Mono and east Kern Counties. Disaster response technology (DRT) provides technology that supports the people helping the people affected by disaster. DRT partners with other organizations like the Salvation Army, Government agencies, and Public Services agencies to provide a broad range of capabilities to support disaster relief operations. Bill is currently looking for people with a communications / technical background to join Red Cross Disaster Services and support DRT. If you are interested please contact Adrian van der Reit or John Shepherd.

Bill showed the current status of a Red Cross (RC) project to establish a California wide communication system on 47 MHz (the primary RC radio frequency). California is a “catastrophic risk area for earthquakes”. The Red Cross is also trying to establish connectivity from San Diego to Sacramento via satellite overlaid with a secondary channel on UHF.

Bill presented several maps showing radio coverage on 47 MHz from various mountain top facilities around the California. Much of the system is in place and working but there are still coverage gaps and significant work to do. One of the areas of special interest is Inyo County. There is a potential for the BARC facility on Silver Peak to play a key role in supporting the RC’s efforts in the Owens Valley area of Inyo County.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM.

John Shepherd (AD6NR)

BARC Secretary

JUNE 8 BARC Mtg

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