



March 13, 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 Vice President Jeff Tong (AA7GK) at 19:00. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army building in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 14. These were, in alphabetic order, AA7GK, AD6NR, K6UN, KA6HII, KD6IXK, KF6YLW, KM6QJI, N6ZA, NW6C, W6IY, W6KRF, W6PH, W6WWY, and WA6IQO.

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Terry (K6UN) provided the BARC financial report for the period February 14, 2018 through March 13, 2018. BARC had total expenses of \$63 and income of \$40 from dues.

Old Business - Raffle Update

Terry (K6UN) will have tickets printed this week. Memorial Day (Mule Days) does not look like a good time for a drawing. One possibility is a delay until July 4. With the current gun control political climate, a pink rifle (even though it is a .22 carbine) may not sit very well, and a further delay until Labor Day could be better. This will be discussed with Paul.

Old Business - BARC Support for the Bishop Ultramarathon

Keith (W6KRF) reported that support is looking good. There is still room for about four more communications locations. He should know a lot more by the June 4 start.

Old Business - Linking Between the Inyo County (Silver, Mazourka) Repeaters and the Mono County (Antelope, Leviathan, Conway) Repeaters

John (AD6NR) said our part is finished, but there appears to be a Mono County problem between Conway and Leviathan. Conway and Antelope sound good.

Old Business - Mazourka Peak Repeater Solar Panels

John (AD6NR) reported that there have been no indications of low voltage, so it looks like we finally got the right combination to power the site.

Old Business - Fundraising Sale of Vintage Electronics Stored by Jon (NW6C)

Jon (NW6C) reported that no new efforts have been made to capitalize on the equipment, although several local inquiries were made regarding test equipment and parts for vacuum tube music (guitar) equipment. Everett (KD6IXK) mentioned after the meeting that he was looking at finding a home for some of his older electronics, and would like to be kept informed about any buyers we might find.

Old Business - Potential New Repeater Site above the Town of Cerro Gordo

Rich (KF6YLW) said that the location offered would be on the wrong side of the hill to be of much help for us.

Old Business - 50/50 Raffle

Not performed because raffle tickets were not available.

New Business - DX Report from Kurt (W6PH)

Kurt (W6PH) hauled in the contacts for the worldwide CW DX contest, taking second place overall. After a trip back to Massachusetts, he returned to

Bermuda for the SSB portion. This was a bummer, because part of the antenna had failed and his new tuner had a problem with a broken knob. He could only get out about 25 Watts, which is grossly insufficient for this type of contest.

In addition, congratulations were in order for Kurt's newly issues ARRL DXCC Award (for working 100 countries from the U.S.) for 160 meters! Kurt said he didn't know if he would live long enough to achieve this, but with the advantage of taking turns from the east and west coasts, he actually did it.

New Business - Distracted Driving

John (AD6NR) stated his concerns about working a two-way radio while driving, especially with the recent increased focus on problems created by distracted driving, and new laws to curtail them. This was brought to a head by one of our locals driving off-highway and into a fence while "fiddling" with their radio (fortunately they were not injured). Jeff (AA7GK), Adrian (N6ZA), John (AD6NR), and others shared ideas about the issue. These ranged from mobile-friendly radios (many of the newer units are not), using older, retired, channel-mode-only business-style radios, better mounting positions for control heads, cautions about air bags, pulling off the road (now recommended for fire response crews), and radios where the microphone is the controller.

New Business - Pleasant Fire

Jon (NW6C) gave a review of radio activities from his vantage point, which started as just being on the local 2m repeater and listening, to sharing duties with Bill (KK6HTM) acting as a verbal information board. Direction for operation was mainly from John (AD6NR) with his official Red Cross assignment, with Paul (KK6BAF) stepping in with his assignment of coordinating activities at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. At home, power was up, internet was working fine, Cal Fire's page was in a window on the screen, BARC's webcam in another, email was being monitored, and the telephone was working. There didn't seem to be a lot of significance for extra communications for a while, then Noam (W6RT) came on the repeater with a weak signal advising that our reporting was all the information that he had. He had been evacuated with the family, pets, and livestock, now with no power and no cellphone signal - nothing. Bob (W7WOW) took up a reporting position at the Ford dealership, and other operators shared knowledge from their positions.

John (AD6NR) added that people that had signed up for "Code Red" or reverse 911 received information from the Inyo County Sheriff. He advised everyone to be on their list (<https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BFB7CC4C6C0A>). Jeff (AA7GK) doubted whether law enforcement would ever trust Amateur communications, but John (AD6NR) and Jeff (AA7GK) noted that Amateur Radio provided a communications bridge between other responding agencies.

The BARC web cam became famous!

Jeff (AA7GK) shared some of his activities with his firefighting and Forest Service duties, including the assignment by the regional command (Mono and Inyo controlled from San Bernardino) of radio channels that neither county had programmed. A radio workaround was improvised, and those channels are now programmed into the local radios. Laws was under voluntary evacuation, and every available sprinkler was actuated around the museum. When the wind died down, the fire "stood up and died."

SCE did an outstanding job in replacing the burned power poles.

Additional fire-related items brought up during the roundtable discussion:

Other communication problems occurred during the fire, such as the telephone dispatcher not being able to provide a very essential contact number, apparently because they did not know where to find the listing. Dispatch was being handled from the Independence Jail.

Everett (KD6IXK) wondered if the Hi Head Hydro plant could provide power to the local grid, or if it needed the grid to operate? Jeff said he would try to find out.

Generators hooked up to provide temporary power to a load, without disconnecting from the electrical main, can be fatal!

Not only power lines, but any utility lines on the ground can cause death. Failed high voltage lines can come down on and energize communications lines, messenger cables, and even guy wires.

Fire trucks really do not play well with power lines!

New Business - New Call Signs

Noam has gone from NØAMS to W6RT with his advance to Extra. Clay attended the meeting with his new license of KM6QJI.

Meeting adjourned at 20:15 and followed by a Board of Directors meeting.

Minutes recorded by Jon Patzer (NW6C).

Noam Shendar (W6RT)

Secretary

Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (BARC)