



March 12, 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 President Bill Chezum (W6WWY) at 19:00. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army building in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 13. They were: AD6NR, KD6TLE, K6UN, N6BEB, NW6C, W6WWY, WA6IQO, Rachel from Bishop (she is planning to obtain her ham license by taking the test at BARC's next scheduled VE exam, in May) and 5 more whose callsigns were not recorded.

Minutes

Financial Report:

Terry (K6UN) stated that he had returned from a long vacation only hours before and had no time to prepare the financial report. He committed to have a two-month financial update for membership at the upcoming April 9th BARC meeting.

Badges:

Gordon (KD6TLE) had contacted Keith on March 12th to volunteer to take the badges to the meeting. Keith (W6KRF) indicated he was quite busy in his caregiving role and was not sure how the day would unfold. He was not at the meeting and he and Gordon did not meet to hand off the badges.

Diaz Lake Trout Opener:

Bev (N6BEV) shared that she enjoyed her day at Diaz Lake for the trout opener. She stated that she had fun working with some of the radios that were in the Shackteau.

Repeater System:

John (AD6NR) gave a brief repeater system update. He stated that repeater users should exercise restraint in talking on the solar powered repeaters (like Mazourka) because the weather we have been enjoying can place a blanket of snow on the solar panels, greatly reducing their ability to keep batteries charged. He noted that twice recently, solar-powered radios have gone offline due to low voltage because of demands placed on them by operators having long conversations.

John also noted that at the moment, the only internet gateway for the repeater system is at his QTH. This is a weak link in the BARC repeater system although that system is very stable at present and is performing well. He suggested that the club consider setting up internet access at some mountaintop location(s). No decisions were made as to next steps.

Len (WA6IQO) and Bill (W6WWY) noted that they were trying to coordinate getting together to put up a better antenna for Bev, which she enthusiastically supported.

Repeaters in Designated Wilderness Areas:

Jon (NW6C) shared that he took part in the latest Forest Service use planning panel recently. At the meeting, he commented about the importance of maintaining radio sites in the National Forest.

Boy Scout Jamboree:

Terry (K6UN) asked for volunteers to help provide communications at the upcoming Boy Scout Jamboree taking place March 29, 30, 31 at the Keith Bright Ranch above the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery, Independence. Volunteers are needed for March 30th. Hams will provide emergency communications just in case during black powder pelting, tomahawk tossing, and arrow arcing. Those interested in offering to help with comms should contact Terry (K6UN).

Repeater Site Permits:

John (AD6NR) advised that BARC received the Mazourka and Silver Peak radio site permits from the Forest Service. He will get with Terry (K6UN) to craft a thank-you letter to be sent to those who donated funds to pay the rather costly permit fees. Terry promised to have the letter ready for review at the next BARC meeting.

Items from the Floor:

Someone commented that some Fish Lake Valley hams were asking about linking a Nevada repeater into the BARC system. John (AD6NR) commented that our repeater string presently consists of 7 sites and we are at capacity using the technology that is installed on our mountaintops. In order to add another repeater, we would have to buy different equipment and re-engineer our repeater interconnections from the ground up. In short, from a technology perspective, we cannot add more radios at this time. Bill (W6WWY) offered that there are numerous "hot spots" throughout Fish Lake Valley where there is HT access into Silver Peak.

Dennis Clark update: Dennis (W6IY) has returned home from the hospital and is spending most of the days in bed.

50/50 Raffle:

A lucrative 50/50 drawing produced a net take for the club of \$26.50 and the same amount for the winner, Bev (N6BEV).

Meeting adjourned at 19:55.

Many thanks to Gordon Baldwin (KD6TLE) for taking notes in my absence.

Noam Shendar (W6RT)

Secretary

Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (BARC)