

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES for May 10, 2016. p. 1 of 3.

Meeting called to order by President, John (AD6NR), promptly at 7pm.

Attendance and Introductions: Two new members introduced themselves, both having passed their Tech license exams on Saturday.

Tom Turner, one of the Turner Propane/LP family, a lifelong Bishop resident that had been motivated to take the Amateur license test mainly by others in the 4x4 Club. A preliminary goal was to select the right equipment for his 4x4 rig, including a proper antenna for his 4x4.

David Doer then spoke about his background, coming to Bishop after most of his life in Mississippi.

David was well versed in the operation of Citizens Band equipment, with many other technical friends back at his old home. One of his good friends there with an Amateur Radio license also encouraged him to get his license, with several incentives, including the ability to stay in touch with Amateur bands when 11m (CB) wouldn't work. David was looking at upgrading his license as soon as possible.

A total of 19 attendees were present.

Treasurer's report: Terry (K6UN) had a complete report. Income of \$105 was from dues, and \$15 from the 50/50 drawing. Expenses amounted to a \$42.28 power bill. \$1,816.93 was the total remaining in all accounts.

Minutes: Jon (NW6C) had the April meeting minutes available. They were approved as posted on the BARC web site.

Routine activities: Saturday breakfast and T-hunt? Not yet. Maybe the T-hunts could be scheduled individually, rather than weekly. The Club's main focus now is repeater work and ARRL Field Day. The 80m nets are active. 3950 KHz at 8am Sunday, and 3947KHz at 7:30pm Thursday. There is also a rather new net on 144.2 MHz at 7pm Saturday, upper side-band. This was reported by Gordon (KD6TLE).

Discussions:

John presented information on the Mazourka peak radio site, with the main issue being that the 30 year Forest Service site permit renewal deadline is the end of this month. The Sierra Amateur Radio Association (SIARA) is the current permit holder and Kurt (W6PH) is the Trustee. Kurt has suggested that BARC take over the permit, given the small member base of SIARRA and increased participation of BARC members with the Mazourka site. John has volunteer to be site Trustee for BARC. It seemed like this would be an ideal time to make the change. A motion was made to approve this change. Motion passed.

Phil (K0RVD) offered information about a project that he and Jim (K6JNX) had been helping with at the Mammoth Hospital. An HF communications plan to link the Renown Medical Center in Nevada to the Loma Linda Medical Center in California has been in the planning stages for several years. Phil had written an emergency radio operations plan (with a draft handed out at the meeting) to be implemented in the case where the Amateur band communications equipment was available, but there was no licensed radio operator present. His individual station operations guide was an attempt at allowing the operation of the Mammoth ARES station by other hospital staff in a declared emergency. This information could also be modified and applied to other facilities. Spirited discussions ensued about what it took to be a qualified emergency, and the difficulty of someone operating HF SSB equipment without training. It was agreed that a local list of trained operators should be present at the station. A drill was planned to try it out.

Field Day: Update from Paul (KK6BAF). This will be the last full weekend in June, so we do have one more Club meeting to work out details. We will be setting up on the Tri-County Fairgrounds. Bring your camping equipment or RV if you want. Full utility hookups are available for \$30/unit. Paul, Terry, and Keith are bringing radio stations. John has a new 20 foot tubular crank up tower on order. Think about what to use for antennas. Paul is intending to bring cooking equipment and will help Marilyn (W6MSO) with the food. Set up will start at 9am on Friday. Operation begins at 11am on Saturday and ends at 11am on Sunday. A reminder that an Amateur Radio license is not required to operate the rigs on Field Day, as long as there is a licensed “control operator” present at that transmitter.

Program: Len showed the Club the portable antenna he uses for operating HF. This is a wire dipole, set up as an inverted Vee, with the center supported about 8 feet above the ground. This provides NVIS (Near Vertical Incident Sky-wave) propagation. The antenna pattern is primarily vertical, where the ionosphere reflects the signal in an area of hundreds of miles from the origin. This is desired for most emergency communications, allowing an unobstructed signal to adjacent areas, and generally works on 40 meter and longer bands. Locally, he drives to locations near his residence that have low receive interference (QRM) and a wire cattle fence line. A center support, then cords to anchor the antenna ends to the fence, and he is on the air. This is a leisurely 15 minute procedure, but Len says he has done it in as little as three and a half minutes.

16 gauge speaker wire is his preferred construction material for the dipole elements. It is flexible enough to easily coil, plenty adequate for the transmitter power involved, and rolls are readily available at hardware and home supply outlets (High Country Lumber). His finishing touches are adjustable end sections that can act as “capacitive hat” tuning, and select lengths of coax lead in cable to provide impedance matching without a separate antenna tuner. Len added that beam antenna configurations can be implemented with wire antenna, and that the length of the coax between the antenna feed point and the radio can be very important. Low loss “ladder line” type twin-lead can also be used in conjunction with dipoles.

Break and 50/50 raffle at 8pm. David won the 50/50.

Silver Peak construction project: Terry sent our comments to the project person that was handling the comments. Nothing has been heard back, and he thinks that there is a different person doing that job now. He will take action to find out what is happening on this project. (Note: The “project” is the replacement of the State radio facility on Silver Peak, forcing the removal of BARC antenna mounting poles and the construction of a really large tower that will block are propagation to the South).

International DX Convention in Visalia: John had a great time. Many people to visit with, especially Club members Kurt and Olin (WA7YXY). Super prizes were provided by manufacturers. John noted that a major difference between this conference and other Amateur Radio get togethers was the absence of Handy Talkies hanging on the participants belts.

National Parks On The Air: Keith is supposedly at home right now working on submittal of the results from Death Valley.

BARC Generator: Jon called Wayne Sayer back regarding his groups need for a fair sized electric generator. Wayne was homing in on a “whisper quiet” diesel unit, so he didn't think he would be needing ours. Club opinion is that we should try to exchange this unit for something more useful – like antenna and radio equipment. This is a skid mounted military style unit, 120/240 volt, 4 cylinder flat-head gasoline or LP motor, mounted in a Ford truck bed bodied trailer, with special frame and trailer axle. (Ed. Note: Large generator / power plant units like this one have been superseded by inverter style

suitcase units. Large vacuum tube transmitters are no longer used, and LED lighting has replaced the incandescent floodlights of the past). Jon has not talked to Mike (W6HDV) about the generator. Mike arranged the donation of the generator to BARC from Mono County, and another friend donated the trailer to carry the generator.

Volunteer Exams: Phil reported that three candidates showed up, two getting new Tech licenses and one upgrading to general. The two new Techs were at our meeting tonight, awaiting the ARRL to process the paperwork and the FCC to issue the licenses. Charlie, in Fish Lake Valley, did the upgrade, and was hoping to soon take the test for Extra. The last licenses as of today were prefixed by KM.

Wild West Marathon: Rich reported that this went quite well. One more radio operator would have really helped. Changes this year were the addition of a 50 mile class, and the BLM decided that parking would not be allowed on a section where it had been permitted for many years. A bus was secured from the local school system, and car pooling arranged, compensating for the loss of parking.

Mazourka batteries: Both sets of batteries at the Mazourka site have very limited capacity – sulfation. Mark and Lori have donated three new deep cycle Interstate batteries for use at the site. John is planning on making a trip to Mazoura on Thursday, and asked for volunteers. Rich said he would come and it looked like Gordon was going to join them. This would hopefully coincide with a trip to the peak by Jeff, who had antenna/coax maintenance to do there for the Forest Service. A lot of discussion followed related to equipment power consumption, solar power and regulator capabilities, battery capacities, and system configuration. New batteries, at least in the main bank would be done. John's recommendation was to remove all of the existing batteries, then do some serious load testing of each one in the shop. Meanwhile, he was willing to provide another good tested battery for the backup bank. A new power distribution control panel is in the works, but won't be ready for the trip on Thursday.

BARC R8 antenna: This antenna was purchased for use mainly on the shackteau, but has not been very helpful. A motion was made to sell or exchange it for something more useful. Motion passed.

June Lake Triathlon: July 9. John was planning to help on this again this year, and really needed at least one more radio operator. Len volunteered.

ARES: Amateur Radio Emergency Services for our area will soon be moved from ARRL Orange Section to the Nevada Section.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm.

Jon Patzer, NW6C, Secretary, BARC Inc.