

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB meeting minutes, November 10, 2015. p. 1 of 3

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

Introductions: New guest Don located our meeting. Don was intending to spend some time in Saline Valley, and decided to find out more about Amateur Radio. Other attendees were encouraged to talk about some of their background and how they ended up here. 16 other regular attendees were present.

Treasurer's Report: Terry (K6UN) should be in the midst of a Grand Princess Cruise at this time, so no report. He was planning on taking some radio gear and operating as K6UN/VP9 from the ship. We are still waiting for a current member roster, and **membership renewals** officially start on January 1, 2016.

Minutes: Jon (NW6C) had forwarded the minutes to web manager Bob (N7RAP) for posting. Kurt spotted two errors in the radio calls – Hank is W6SX, not KE6SX, and Marsha is KB1WEP, not KE1WEP. Minutes were approved as corrected. I think this shows some of Kurt's hidden talent as a radio contest-tor.

Activities for November:

BARC breakfast, Saturday, 8am, Denny's.

Transmitter Hunt following the breakfast? Not this time. Too many other things happening this coming weekend.

80 meter nets: 3950 kHz, 8am Sunday, and 3947 kHz, 7:30pm Thursdays. There have recently been 20 to 25 check ins. A suggestion to rotate net control to help train additional operators in this procedure. Control is already passed from Len (WA6IQO) to Keith (W6KRF) to Bob (W7WOW). Len and Keith have very different operating styles. It is advantageous to have a net control station with good propagation to the participants. Len observed that his normal location seemed very suited to this.

CW net: 3.558 MHz every night at 7pm. 2 to 5 participants. 5 words per minute, with faster character speed. Adrian (W6ZA), Bob (W7WOW) and Phil (K0RVD) have run this.

ARRL Sweepstakes: November 21 to 23 for phone (audio Single Side-band), local (PST) time of 1pm Saturday to 7pm Sunday. Each operator is limited to 24 of the 30 hours. The CW portion of the contest was November 7 to 9, with Kurt besting Hank, 1170 to 1130. Kurt and John were hoping this SSB portion could be a Club effort. There is a 175 mile limit on the distance between the farthest transmitters of that Club. Results have to be submitted to the League in the Cabrillo format. Kurt and John can help with this step, and how to indicate BARC in the logs. 83 ARRL and Canadian regions are in this contest.

Worldwide DX CW contest is November 28-29.

More Activities:

ARRL Straight Key Night, December 1.

ARRL 160m contest, CW only, December 4-6.

Ridgecrest Ultra Marathon (foot race), December 6. SARC provides communications for this, and they need all of the 2m operators they can get. Keith welcomed members to stay with him in Lone Pine, with a planned 5am departure to Ridgecrest.

ARRL 10m contest, December 12-13. 10m has been open! Listen for beacons from 28.2 to 28.3 MHz.

ARRL National Parks on the Air event: This is to celebrate the 100 anniversary of the National Park Service, starts on January 1, 2016 and continues for the whole year. A print out of the rules was handed out. This might be another interesting Club event. How about Manzanar for a start?

Break and Raffle at 7:40. AA7GK was the winner, turning over \$39 to BARC.

Field Day: John handed out a table showing results from 2011 to 2015. Highlights were first place in Class in the Orange Section every year. This year we had fewer participants, but more contacts and more points. In Class 3A, we were also first in the Southwestern Division and ninth of 286 overall. Of particular note was Kurt and Adrian piling up CW contacts, Olin (WA7YXY) on SSB, and Terry concentrating on bonus points. Kurt wondered if having the next Field Day closer to Bishop would improve attendance from our northern members. Various pros and cons of Field Day sites were expressed, mainly concerning propagation and access. One of the more promising suggestions was at the campground north of Big Pine.

Volunteer Exam: Phil gave the report. Two candidates showed up for the session, Nancy and Karl – neighbors from Fish Lake Valley. Both passed the Technician tests, and Karl gave the General a try. Seven showed up to help give the test, with Ed concentrating on encouraging and mentoring the new licensees. With his guidance, both filled out forms to claim their free one year membership in the BARC. Bob (W7WOW) was one of the supporters to show up, and he is their mentor in Fish Lake Valley.

Wedding of the Waters: Keith helped on this special event, setting up the Shackteau (or ShackTow) across from Max's (KJ6HN) residence in Keeler. In spite of a power outage that covered Keeler and Cerro Gordo, Keith kept the station on the air from 8am to 4pm with its batteries and solar panels. Four operators from SARC showed up to help.

World Wide Contest: Kurt was joined by Bob (WA1Z) on a contesting trip to Bermuda. With about 4,700 SSB contacts in 48 hours, they placed second to a station in French Guiana.

Emergency Communications: Paul, Phil, and Jim met with Dr. Johnson (Health Officer for Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties) for guidance on priorities for emergency communications. His main emphasis was to get messages to hospitals to the north and south. Reno (Renown Hospital), Mammoth, Northern Inyo, and San Bernardino (Patton) were examples. Ideally, this would be by HF equipment.

Cactus Intertie: John is still working on a date where BARC representatives can meet with their representative to figure out a plan of action.

Toiyabe Fitness Run: This is a local benefit race primarily promoting fitness for local Native Americans. Categories include 1k, 5k, and 10k distances, starting and ending at the Millpond north of Bishop. Ed offered assistance, Mike (KA6HII) was assigned to vehicle vs. pedestrian (runner) traffic control, and Jon was assigned to one of the loop decision points. Radio was not essential here, as cellphones covered the area and most of the course could be monitored visually. All went well and the event was finished in time for the volunteers to make it to the Volunteer Exam site before noon.

Christmas meeting with Eastern Sierra 4x4? Formal vote taken, with the large majority in favor of the joint December meeting. It will be the day after our normal BARC meeting date – the second Wednesday. This time they are counting on the larger recreation hall meeting room at the front (Senior section) of the Highlands Mobile Home Park. There will be an optional gift exchange, with gift values limited to \$20. In the gift drawing, the person with the newest drawn ticket number has the choice of any of the remaining packages or one that has already been claimed. There is a limit on how many times the same gift can be claimed. Many of the 4x4 members have Amateur Radio licenses. There is generally a very minimum amount of business conducted at the December meeting. A major concern

for motorized recreation is another proposal for creating new legislative Wilderness.

Election of Officers: Final nominations were solicited. No new takers. Last month Terry was nominated as Treasurer, Jon as Secretary, Jeff as Vice President, and John as President. A call for showing of hands resulted in a unanimous vote to office for all the nominees.

Membership Chairperson? Ed took the floor and read the portion of the BARC Articles of Incorporation setting forth the goals of our Club. Furthering interest in science and radio is a major part of this, and reaching out for new members, especially our youth, is important. Ed proposed that a position involving member recruitment be created. John's opinion was that a change in Club laws was not needed to create this position. Looks like Ed has already found an area that he can work on to help further interest in Amateur Radio. The two new members at the end of the VE test was a prime example.

Publicity: Rich (KF6YLW) and Gordon (KD6TLE) have had some success in getting announcements of our meetings out to the public. They will continue their efforts. Don related his experience finding the meeting, saying that he started with the Bishop Chamber of Commerce site. It didn't have any information about Amateur Radio.

Program for January: Keith was maybe recruited to demonstrate Packet Radio.

Repeater linking: John has had enough of attempts at in-band linking of the 2m repeaters. He is ready to put together a standard microwave wireless network to link the repeaters. This seems in line with the November QST article "High-Speed Wireless Networking in the UHF and Microwave Bands", page 33. A plan is being shaped up involving Ubiquiti Box microwave links. John has been encouraged by his now retired friend Bill (WA6QZY) that this plan will work – to the extent that he volunteered to be the sponsor of this system. If all goes well, he would be willing to be reimbursed for the cost from club members. This setup would allow internet access on Silver Peak (from John's home router), that would in-turn simplify and expand the capabilities of the Silver Peak site. All equipment would be turned over to BARC. Ubiquiti Networks can provide reasonably priced equipment tuned to Amateur bands.

Backup 2m repeater on Silver Peak? Len brought up the topic. General consensus was that this would be nice, but not the highest priority. A complete proper 2m repeater is expensive (including the duplexer, circulator, filter, and good antenna). The one we had for many years (146.91) shared the duplexer and antenna with the 146.94. We do have other repeaters on Silver Peak, on 220 MHz, 440 MHz, and 900 MHz bands.

Meeting Adjourned at 9pm.

Jon Patzer, NW6C, Secretary of Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc.