

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES for November 8, 2016.

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

Attendance: 15 total, including guest speaker Doug (KA7FOO), and a guest of Len (WA6IQO).

Election of Officers: Members accepting nomination from the last meeting were Paul (KK6BAF) for President, Jeff (AA7GK) for Vice President, Terry (K6UN) for Treasurer, and Gordon for Secretary. No new nominations were made. All were elected by unanimous vote.

Mazourka: John asked to have Club funds approved for the purchase of an inter-modulation filter for our repeater. About \$170. Members approved the purchase.

Donation by Walt (NM6L): Walt, at one time an active radio operator and BARC member, instructed Jon (NW6C) to offer Club members items he had in storage. Walt's plan was to have the Club arrange a viewing time with his Realtor, then she would open up the storage area for viewing. This was to occur after he had loaded his belongings into a moving van and headed to Louisiana. Walt specialized in collecting pre-WWII radios. As of the meeting day, Walt had headed east in the Van, while his Realtor had prospective home buyers waiting to see the property and was still trying to sort out the details of the move. There was a lot of leftover "stuff" that needed to be cleared from the residence before it could be properly shown. Len, who lives near Walt's home, volunteered to follow up with the Realtor.

Volunteer Exam: Phil thanked Walt (K6BDI), John, Gordon, and Jon for showing up to administer the exam. There was one candidate, who missed an upgrade to Extra upgrade by just a few points. He then decided he would do some more studying before trying again.

December/Xmas meeting: Len will handle the main course. Side dished will be coordinated by email.

Cerro Gordo: Paul is planning on getting together with Keith (W6KRF) for a trip to the Cerro Gordo radio site, set up their transceivers, and see what coverage is available from there. This is scheduled for this Sunday (9-13-16) from 10 am to 2 pm. 146.52 MHz and 446.00 MHz will be used. They need operators throughout the surrounding area to give signal reports. Sierra Amateur Radio Club (SARC) already has a list of volunteers, as does the Fish Lake Valley (FLV) area.

Program: Keith and then John introduced Doug Abramson (ka7foo@gmail.com), who had driven down from the Reno area. His titles included Nevada ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) Section Filed Trainer, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Training, ARES Net Manager, and Official Bulletin Station. The presentation was on controlling a radio network (net). His main motivation for providing this training was to hand down his knowledge and experience to newer radio operators.

Another motivation for his coming to our meeting was to get familiar with this new ARES region. Inyo and Mono County are now Region 4, Eastern Sierra District, of Nevada ARES. Before this, we were part of the Orange Section section of ARES, and for all other ARRL functions we still are. Keith, from Lone Pine, has already lined up as a net control option for the Eastern Sierra Section.

A few highlights of Doug's presentation: Importance of the Net Control Station and how it related to ARES, the meaning of "net", the need for communications nets, various types of nets, operating modes, typical frequency bands, structure and participation, the control station, successful management techniques, communications or liaison between related nets or other operations, clarity and form of messages, Net Control Station (NCS) requirements and techniques, and much more specifics.

BARC has some regular nets that allow operators to participate first hand, as well as a chance to contest (eg. ARRL Field Day). Doug expanded on these basic activities with a higher view of net control that would be needed in a major event. One net or channel would be totally inadequate, so multiple nets dividing the load by subject and location would be a necessity. Some of our drills here have included an aspect of this by utilizing VHF for local contacts while reserving HF for farther point to point needs. Repeaters, within their capacity limits, are just fine as long as they are operational. Two traffic nets that Doug recommended listening to are: WNRO on Sunday at 1815 hrs, on 3.945 MHz, and the Beehive net, every day, 1130 hrs. on 7.272 MHz. The Beehive net has about 120 check-ins. Organization for emergency operation is usually done by the local LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee).

Basic attributes of good “traffic” or message handling are serious **listening**, and the 5 “**W**”s and “**H**”. This was a new one on me (Jon). What, Who, When, Where, Why, and How. This is a link to a form: <http://learn.lexiconic.net/5wsChart.pdf>. (In my schooling we had the Three “R”s. Reading, Riting, and Rithmetic.)

The above is really just a few highlights. Printed copies of Doug's PowerPoint presentation, which was mostly points of discussion, covered eleven pages.

At the end of his presentation, Doug answered questions about net control, leading to quite a discussion on the differences in operating technique needed between SSB, FM, and particularly multi-linked FM repeaters. Of concern to our group was the delay between transceiver key-up in Reno to receiver squelch break in Lone Pine If the operator in Reno or the Lone Pine operator speaks at the same time the microphone push to talk is pressed, a short transmission may never be heard at the other end. A delay of about 3 seconds between key-up and voice seems to be needed in this case. Another subject was what to do about a radio operator with serious problems. Lots of examples came up, but no simple answer. Part of this problem, as most are aware, is that the technically and mechanically gifted are often not good at verbal or written communication.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.

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

Other subjects:

This meeting was on the Tuesday of national elections, which was why our honorable Treasurer was not present. Terry (K6UN) was already having trouble with his elbow on Monday night after feeding over a thousand absentee ballots into a reader.

A before meeting dinner get together ended up with Doug and Keith sitting across from one another on the side of my good ear. They had some common background in marine work, Keith as a ships captain and Brian as a crewman on maritime oil exploration ships. Both also had had airplane pilots licenses. Some interesting stories!

Jon, NW6C.