



November 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2017 are:

Paul Dostie	(KK6BAF)	– President
Jeff Tong	(AA7GK)	– Vice President
Terry Fenske	(K6UN)	– Treasurer
Gordon Baldwin	(KD6TLE)	– Secretary

Meeting called to order by Vice President Jeff Tong (AA7GK) at about 7 PM. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army building in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 12

Those present provided name, call sign, and a bit about themselves. This round of introductions seemed to be enjoyed more than just giving a name and a call sign. The secretary (KD6TLE) hopes that a similar practice is used for some future meetings.

Minutes

Minutes from October 10, 2017 meeting were electronically distributed to members and were not re-read at the November meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Terry (K6UN) provided the BARC financial report for the period October 11, 2017 through November 14, 2017. BARC had total expenses of \$1162.62 and income of \$540.00. Our ending checking balance for this period is \$2895.36. Terry has been investigating the reasons for the recent increase (nearly double) in the power bill for Silver Peak. However, no update was available as of this meeting.

Old Business – Raffle Update

Terry (K6UN) reported that the club can initiate raffle ticket sales at any time although the tickets are not printed as of yet. He committed to have them ready for the December meeting. Tickets are to go for five dollars each or five tickets for \$20. Gary, a new BARC member commented that he had been involved with a number of successful raffles and he recommended that the club consider offering more tickets to raffle participants. Doing this does not change the odds but raffle ticket buyers may be more likely to spend \$20 for 10 tickets as opposed to spending \$20 for only five tickets. No decision on this point was made at the meeting. The entrance to Vons was talked about at the ideal site to set up a table to sell the tickets. Those who can volunteer to help with raffle ticket sales should contact Paul (KK6BAF). Paul will be contacting Vons to seek permission for BARC's ticket sales.

Old Business – Fundraising Sale of Vintage Electronics in Storage with Jon (NW6C)

No activity. The commercial duplexers have the potential to generate significant income for the club, but they remain unsold. The R390 Korean War era radio is a collectable with the potential to sell for a considerable amount of money but it also has not been sold. Jon (NW6C) commented that he tossed a blanket over the vintage gear when the garage door was opened so as to keep the sun off of the equipment. Jon noted that he had received three inquiries from the EBAY add for an antique Synchro Master radio, but none were willing to pay the shipping charges.

Old Business – Mazourka Peak Repeater Upgrades

After the recent failure of the 2 meter Station Master antenna that had been rehabbed and re-installed at the Mazourka Peak repeater, the decision was made to move ahead with the purchase and installation of a new Hustler 616-1448 twenty-foot long repeater site antenna to replace the defective one. It is being shipped to Las Vegas, where it will be picked up and brought to Owens Valley.

Old Business – Getting Three Repeaters (Antelope, Leviathan, Conway Summit) Operational and Linked and Adding a Link from Silver Peak to Mammoth Mountain Repeater

John (AD6NR), Mark (W6WWA), and Jon (NW6C) pooled talents for work on linking these three repeaters (Antelope, Leviathan, and Conway Summit) back through Silver Peak. One of these repeater sites (Antelope) is a public safety facility. There needs to be a safe guard to prevent the repeater radio and associated HAM equipment from draining the facility batteries and adversely impacting the public safety radios. John suggested placing a 12.1 VDC shut off for the HAM equipment to forestall any negative impact on the public safety equipment. John is working closely with Kurt Hartstrom the IT lead who oversees this repeater site. Work is a little over half completed on this project.

Of interest, one of BARC's newest members is Eric Bucklin. Eric is the IT system administrator for Mono County and he reports to Kurt Halstrom.

Mammoth Mountain repeater is now talking with Silver Peak and it sounds great!

The activating and linking of these repeaters with Silver Peak will enable BARC and other interested parties to join the ARES net, as it will allow amateur radio communications from HAMS in Olancha to Carson City, NV.

Old Business – Meeting of SARC and BARC to Explore Jointly Placing a Repeater Radio Facility above the Town of Cerro Gordo

Paul (KK6BAF) and John (AD6NR) met with some members of SARC from Ridgecrest to talk about jointly placing a repeater at a radio site above Cerro Gordo. They expressed interest in partnering with us. However, when SARC directed inquiries to governing agencies, they were advised that if a new repeater building was necessary, it would cost \$5K - \$7K. After learning this, SARC's interest in partnering on Cerro Gordo cooled. Paul (KK6BAF) made some inquiries as well and determined that Lone Pine Cable TV has a repeater site building on Cerro Gordo. Rich knows someone affiliated with that

company and agreed to ask if they would be willing to allow BARC to have some rack and antenna space at their structure. Rich was not at the November meeting to provide an update. The Cerro Gordo radio site of interest to BARC is known as Monte Cristo. It provides coverage from Red Rock to the south, Palmdale to the West and Carson Valley to the north.

Old Business – BARC Organization Can Be Challenged to Meet Requests for Help with High Sierra Run

The organizer of the Bishop High Sierra run has asked BARC to support this event by providing communications at checkpoints along the route. This will require a considerable number of HAM volunteers in order to staff the various checkpoints. In the past, we have provided help but now with fewer and older active club members, it is probable that it will be more difficult to meet requests for help in the future. A vote was taken to see if there were enough interested and willing members to help. It was suggested that BARC might invite other HAM clubs to join us in this volunteer opportunity. The vote was in favor of providing communications services for the ultra marathon.

In the past, BARC has provided communications services. We helped by reporting the whereabouts of each runner from start to finish. This is an important role in an event of this magnitude. It is likely that seven or eight amateurs will be needed, one for each of the checkpoints. There are normally three people at each checkpoint but only one HAM. Historically, checkpoints with cell service did not also have a HAM.

John (AD6NR) stated that he felt we needed to take charge of all communications planning. The race will be in the summer of 2018. We are not sure of the date by which we need to give the race organizer a go/no go advisory. The discussion is to be continued at the next BARC meeting. Paul (KK6BAF) and Ed (K6END) are to handling planning, as necessary.

New Business – Christmas Party

It was suggested that the December meeting be pot luck, with each attendee bringing a dish to share with others. Discussion needs to take place about this, as to what side dishes are needed, who will bring them, who supplies the meat, plates, napkins, etc. Mike (KA6HII) was asked to verify if the Salvation Army room we use for meetings would be available to BARC, on the December meeting date.

New Business – The Departure of WA6PH, Phil Hartz

Our friend Phil Hartz recently left Bishop to live closer to his family in Oregon. We thank Phil for this many years of friendship and his dedicated leadership and support for the VE testing program which generated many new HAMs for the Mono County, Owens Valley and Fishlake Valley amateur radio communities. We express our gratitude also for Phil’s donation of many books, magazines and other radio-related items to the group. We wish him well!

New Business – Nominations of Club Officers for 2018

2018 BARC officers were briefly discussed. A motion was made, seconded, and a majority of “Aye” votes were received to keep the same individuals in the President, Vice President, and Treasurer roles. The Secretary stated a preference for having another member assume secretarial duties for 2018. There were no immediate takers for the position and the decision was made to raise this issue again during a future meeting.

New Business – Comments from the Floor

Jeff (AA7GK) commented that the US Congress eliminated funds for the maintenance of campgrounds for 2018.

John (AD6NR) stated that he prefers to make our repeater control codes accessible to all HAMs in the area.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:15 PM.

Gordon Baldwin (KD6TLE)
Secretary
Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc.