

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2013.

Meeting called to order by President John (AD6NR) at 7:05 PM.

Self introductions: Debbie, AA7GK, K0RVD, KJ6LJC, K6JNX, KF6YLW, K6BDI, Bill (KK6HTM), KJ6IXM, WA6IQO, K6UN, KD6IXK, KA6HGI, N7SSP, W6HDV, KI6AIK, KK6BAF, N7RAP, WA7YXY, AD6NR, W6IY, and later KA6HII. Debbie was visiting and interested in Amateur radio, Bill found his new call online at the end of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Bob (N7RAP) read his report and submitted a written copy. Summary: Checking balance of \$1,887.25 and Duplexer/Capital Fund at \$821.56. This was after expenditures for a new power supply, a ferrite core circulator, and a bandpass filter to complete a proper installation of the Club's .94 repeater.

Minutes: Approved as corrected and submitted.

Club Activities:

Breakfast at Denny's, 8 AM Saturday, November 23. Then transmitter hunt at 10 AM.

Sunday HF net starts about 7:30 with formal tally at 8 AM. 3.985+/- MHz.

Club resource library available from John (AD6NR). Not enough room in car to bring it to the meeting tonight.

Old Business:

1. Progress report on BARC cards by Mike (W6HDV). Discussion on type of cards, from membership cards given to a person on payment of dues, the special event cards, to club member "eyeball" cards. Mike had several samples to circulate at the meeting. Emphasis was on having cards with the radio club's contact information on them to hand out "eyeball" to individuals interested in the BARC. Mike was instructed to pick out his favorite for the club and order up a batch - order not to exceed \$50.
2. Scholarship Fund: Phil (K0RVD) distributed a handout with some justifications for the fund, selection criteria, and school contacts. Discussions ensued about financing, particularly when the club was already short on funds for its own equipment upgrades, then use club donations to donate to another cause. Phil explained how he had been involved with using scholarships as part of a fund raising effort that not only provided money for the scholarships, but also provided money for radio equipment purchases for that club. John asked the membership "How many of you are willing to pursue this direction?". Most members responded in the positive. Phil will present a plan of action at an upcoming meeting.
3. V.E. license test: Dennis (W6IY) reported that two people showed up at the last exam ready to take their Tech test, both succeeded, and one of those went on to pass the General test. Bill, at the meeting tonight, was one of the candidates. He found out his new call was KK6HTM at the end of the night's club meeting.
4. Silver Peak report: Equipment upgrades are just about finished. The new backup power supply with isolator has been installed. Earlier today, the new circulator and bandpass filter were installed on the club's .94 repeater. Noise measurements seemed to indicate that there is still power line radiation problems, although a lot better than before the arcing insulator was replaced near the substation. Desensitizing from the .94 carrier mixing and coming back into the repeater on .34 through the antenna was detected. A check of other equipment in our building found that the APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) unit was a major culprit. The antennas are across the "driveway" from each other, and they are in the same frequency band –

146.94/146.34 MHz for the repeater, 144.39 MHz simplex for the APRS. The interfering feedback actually increased with the .39 power shut off. It looks like some better filtering is needed on the APRS antenna feed. This should help both the .94 and APRS, as the .94 was also desensitizing the APRS when keyed up. Meanwhile, the APRS antenna was disconnected until the problem could be resolved. No interference was detected from the packet system (145.01 MHz). It was mentioned that the packet station was not very strong. Dennis stated that it was operational, but was mainly set up for local telemetry at the radio site – explicitly battery voltage and current conditions. The APRS is the higher power digital interface and is capable of packet messages.

5. Election of officers: No new nominations. At the last meeting, Terry (K6UN) was nominated for Treasurer, Jon (NW6C) for Secretary, Mike (W6HDV) for Vice President, and John (AD6NR) for President. A special thanks was made to Bob (N7RAP) for his years as club Treasurer and his continuing support as the BARC web master.

Program: Olin (WA7YXY) did a presentation on EmCom (Emergency Communications). Olin consolidated a selection of articles and aids into a notebook to be deposited in the BARC library. Some equipment (like the use of NVIS antennas), and training courses that need to be taken to be able to integrate into emergency call outs were explained. He also donated a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) book to the club.

There is to be an SET (“Simulated Emergency Test” in Amateur Radio speak – Situational Emergency Training to the military) exercise locally on November 21st, planned for about 9AM until noon. The scenario is to revolve around a major outbreak of e-coli, and involves communications from the hospitals. Olin wants to do some pre-SET practice, starting with 80 meters (3.985) or 40n meters (7.280) to go between Bishop and Lone Pine. Local coordination will be via 2 meters. He is planning the pre-drill for 1300 Hours (1PM) Sunday November 17. Volunteers should contact Olin to sign up. Olin is planning to retire in January. He likes it in Bishop, but he owns the property in Oregon. Here he is renting.

New Business:

1. John suggested a donation of \$100 to the Salvation Army. We are indebted to them for the use of their facilities for our meetings. Our last donation was about 8 months ago. A motion for a donation of \$125 was made by Mike (W6HDV). Motion approved.
2. Christmas pot luck for next meeting? Mike will check with Salvation Army to see what their schedule looks like. The Senior Center behind the Bishop Park charges for the use of their facilities. Highlands Mobile Home park allows free use of their recreation room to residents, but in the past their hours have been quite restrictive. It was brought up that they now have a new manager, and that should no longer be a problem. The tentative decision was to meet at the normal Salvation Army area, 6:30 PM, normal December meeting date (second Tuesday).
3. Club Duplexer: John (AD6NR) is currently providing the .94 repeater duplexer. The former club owned duplexer failed many years ago. A new 6 can (tuned cavity) duplexer cost about \$1900 to \$2100 each. \$1600 to \$1800 for 4 can models. Compact duplexers are also available. For our needs, 60 dB of isolation is adequate, which can be done with a 4 can model. John has about \$525 invested in a Telewave BP/BR (Band Pass / Band Reject) 6 can duplexer currently being used on the .94. He would sell it to the BARC for his investment. We have about \$820 in the “duplexer” account. Other club account money could be used for the purchase. This subject was tabled until our January meeting.
4. QSL card for the club- N6OV? Yes, approved.

50/50 raffle handed by Rich (KF6YLW). AD6NR was the winner. John donated the money back to the

club.

Demonstration: John set up his IFR test set using the tracking oscillator mode to display the characteristics of several filters. This allows the frequency response of the filters to be displayed on the instruments oscilloscope as the filters tuning is varied.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Jon Patzer, Secretary, Bishop Amateur Radio Club.