

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB meeting minutes, October 13, 2015.

Meeting called to order by President, John (AD6NR) at 7:02 pm.

New guest introduction: Mark (W6DVO), a visiting Summits on the Air operator was invited to the meeting by Adrian (N6ZA). He was combining his trip with a work assignment in Lee Vining.

Attendees report: AD6NR, N6ZA, NW6C, K6UN, KE6MWK, K6JNX, KA6HII, KK6HTM, KF6YLW, Dan Barry, K6BDI, W6PH, KK6BAF, KD6IXK, W6KRF, AA7GK, and KD6TLE. (W6IY showed up later.)

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Terry (K6UN) left the printout at home, but stated that it was the same as last month. Next month would show a change, as he already had several checks in his hand at the start of this meeting.

Minutes: Printouts available from secretary Jon (NW6C). Jon had sent out the August minutes for review by meeting attendees in August, but had not posted them on our website. Adrian (N6ZA) provided minutes from the September meeting, while Jon was on vacation. Both were posted to the website shortly before this October meeting. Minutes were approved as posted.

T-hunt? Adrian is the fox. Too many other activities going on this weekend, so the hunt will be postponed.

Sunday morning 80 m net is having good participation according to Keith (W6KRF). A new format seems to be helping. 22 check-ins on the last net.

Thursday evening 80 m net is doing OK.

Slow speed CW net has had low turnout but is still on the air. Bob (W7WOW) has been net control. 3.558 MHz at 7:30 pm.

Show and Tell: Kurt (W6PH) brought his new linear amplifier to the meeting, an SPE brand, Expert model. Speculation was that the two nice sales ladies at the vendors table in Visalia might have also influenced the purchase. These units are made by IOZQ in Rome. They covers 160 m through 4 m, 1300 Watts rated output.

Kurt reminisced about earlier linears that filled a 6 foot tall equipment rack and weighed over 100 pounds. With those linears running, you didn't need to heat your "shack" in the winter, they would provide any heat needed. They also needed to be tuned to every transmit frequency.

This new one weighed about 20 pounds and did not generate heat. Tuning was automatic, with a red cord to the transceiver T/R (Transmit/Receive) switch, and the other cable to the CAT (Computer Aided Tuning) connector. Many specific tuning combinations can be put in memory, or the automatic tuner can be bypassed. It includes four individually programmable antenna ports. The protection circuits work – something about testing it by trying to transmit into a port without an antenna connected. It has plenty of gain. It has two transceiver inputs. The included power supply has an input range of 108 to 250 VAC and outputs 48 VDC to the amplifier. \$4700 was the show special price.

A brief intermission at 7:26, while Rich (KF6YLW) sold tickets for the **50/50 raffle**. Kurt was the winner and returned \$24 to the club of the \$34 total.

Coming events:

1. **Pacificon** starts this Friday in San Mateo. John will be there and maybe Mark. John said to let him know if there was anything you needed there. He was primarily interested in finding out more about selecting a proper computer to mate with his FLEX software defined transceiver.
2. **CQ Worldwide.** Kurt has secured VP9I as his call in Bermuda. Zulu 5 Friday to 5 Sunday. Kurt stated that this contest is really good for getting DX contacts.
3. **Wedding of the Waters.** Keith will have the ShackTow in Keeler from 8 am to 5 pm Saturday October 24. He will be ready for 80, 40, and 20 m. Maybe 10.
4. **Marathon run** in Ridgecrest in December. SARC (Sierra Amateur Radio Club) will be asking for volunteers.
5. **Grand Princess Cruise.** Teri will be on board of the California coast (San Francisco to Ensenada) and has permission to run a transmitter. Only one vertical antenna will be allowed. This is set for November 8-15. K6UN/VP9 is the call. It is a Bermuda registered ship. He can email details to those that are interested in contacting him.

Past Events:

1. **Tioga Pass Run:** This is a 13.5 mile up hill run. Terry reported that there were no major incidents and Ham communications worked fine. 2M meters was used between stations and HF between start and finish. One really slow runner had to be ordered to get in the van. More vans could have helped to shuttle the cold finishers back to the start at the Whoa Nellie Deli. Terry, Marilyn (W6MSO), Len (WA6IQO), and Paul (KK6BAF) provided the communications. Paul needed to set up his HF set at the finish, next to the Yosemite entrance station. He had to convince a park ranger that he was setting up a radio antenna, and solemnly promise that it would not be used to hang clothes on.
2. **Para-glider competition:** John reported that more support was needed from the 4x4 club than radio operators. Gliders were landing as far away as Lee Vining. John prepared some Motorola mobiles with 151.875 MHz programmed, allowing simplex communication with the event participants. The base station at the Bishop Airport. John was surprised how well simplex worked. Other than a few injuries, the event went very well.
3. **California QSO Party:** Kurt and friends set up at his cabin using K6Z as their call. John and Terry used John's shack. There was lots of participation from BARC members. This was the 50th anniversary of Cal QSO. Kurt and crew worked all 50 states and 8 Canadian provinces in 5 hours. Hank (W6SK), using W6H as the event call worked from Mono County. Stations outside of California had the challenge of working all its 58 counties. John proposed planning this contest as a club function next year.
4. **Lone Pine Film Festival:** Keith had the ShackTow in the parade this year. There are quite a few famous actors that have Amateur Radio licenses.
5. **Cactus Intertie** on Silver Peak: John is hoping to arrange a meeting with Mel Swanberg (WA6JBD) after Pacificon.

More visitors: At about 8 pm, Marsha and Rick (KB1WEP and KB1WDW) joined the meeting. They had just come down from the mountains after doing a SOTA activation. They normally worked on Mt. Washington, New Hampshire. Their trip had started in May. It was very difficult to make 2 m contacts from many remote "summits". They were doing pretty good in the Sierras. Mount Washington is noted for some of the worst weather on Earth. Three jet streams can converge there. As for radio history, many radio experiments were done on Mt. Washington before the ARRL was formed. Radio reception at the top these days is poor because of all the high power commercial transmitters.

Silver Peak report: Our .94 repeater is being improved. It now had a receive PL that works properly. In its recent posture, when the PL function was enabled, the audio from a non-PL input would be

inhibited, but an unmodulated carrier would still be present. The catch now is that the receive PL can not be turned off. Jeff and John got together and figured out the logic and programming needed to do this. As the new (installed this year) SCE substation transformer failed a few weeks ago, the whole radio site is being powered by one diesel power plant near the meter point. According to the SCE maintenance workers a few days ago, they have yet to locate a suitable replacement. They are really concerned about keeping power to the site if the weather turns bad. John recalled the transmission line operating at 54.8 KV. Having a new transformer made to spec would take a long time. Edison sort of inherited this line, and it is not on their normal operating voltages. With the current power configuration, the noise floor on the peak is about 10 dB. The .94 system has about 2 weeks of backup battery power.

Xmas party: The 4x4 club (Eastern Sierra Four Wheel Drive Club) has again invited up to join them for the December meeting. Pros and Cons were discussed. Last year was a bit challenging because the normal Highlands Mobile Home Park meeting room was closed at the last minute due to plumbing problems, so the meeting was held in the smaller recreation hall at the back of the park. BARC members were generally in favor of trying another joint meeting. We will see what develops. BARC meets on the second Tuesday. ES4x4 is the second Wednesday.

Nomination of Officers:

Treasurer: Terry

Secretary: Jon

Vice President: Jeff

President: John (under protest and a commitment vacate this position after one more year if elected).

John also reminded Terry that a new member roster would help the club.

Emergency preparedness drill with the hospitals: Probably not a good time to ask for an audience. It seems that every hospital in the state, if not the country, is handling a budget crisis. The whole billing system has just been changed. Supposedly, Northern Inyo was one of the more successful ones in implementing the changes, even though the new temporary administrator has only been on the job for 3 weeks. Mammoth hospital just lost one of their doctors. Southern Inyo may be having major problems. There is an emergency drill coming in November, and we should be able to show that we can get messages to needed locations.

Fiber in Chalfant Valley: Jeff had some news on a project in his neighborhood. They had secured grant money to install fiber optic cable in their under-served rural area. He was looking at some excellent internet service. He brought to the meeting a piece of the overhead rated, 72 fiber, multi-mode cable, that had been given to him by the contractor. Quite a discussion about fiber optic cable ensued. One interesting aspect was that signal security was no longer being touted, as someone figure out that if the fiber was exposed and bent so that part of the light leaked out of the outside of the bend, information on the fiber could be extracted. Jeff had also found information to interpret the designations on the outer cable label. Adrian and probably Rich were mulling the chances of getting this service to their residences.

Paul talked briefly about the pursuit and capture of a run away armed felon almost in his yard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

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