

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES for October 11, 2016.

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

Attendance: 17 showed up for the meeting. Dale (N6FWS) had paid his dues, and Adrian (N6ZA) convinced Cal-trans associate David (KG6KGJ) to attend the meeting. Pete (W7TKO) was a special guest, as he brought radio equipment to donate to the Club.

Treasurer's Report: Terry (K6UN) reported that we gained a few dollars over last month, mainly due to support from Kurt (W6PH) and Len (WA6IQO). He also announced that he would accept early renewals – avoid the rush. \$792.41 was the general fund balance, and \$714.56 in the duplexer fund. This means \$1,506.57 for the total checking account balance.

A question was raised about why we had the two funds. The “duplexer fund” was established originally to keep track of money raised to replace the 2m duplexer at the Silver Peak site, then extended to other hardware purchases. The duplexer was purchased years ago, as well as a circulator and filter. Did the division still serve any meaningful purpose? A motion was made to eliminate the account division. Motion passed with no objection. This will make life easier for the treasurer and simpler for the members to understand.

Nets: Support is improving for the morning 80m net. Net control has been ready for check-ins at 7am Sundays on 3950 KHz and keeps at it until 8am. Evening net is Thursdays at 7:30pm on 3947 KHz. A 2m SSB net is scheduled for Saturdays at 7:00pm on 144.2 MHz.

The long standing 2m repeater net is scheduled for 8am every night, but sometimes up to a half hour late. Seems that some participants are in bed by 8 while others are still working.

Presentation: Pete came to the meeting from Winemucca to donate several 440 MHz band repeaters to the BARC. He spotted the CDM brand repeaters in his employer's surplus pile, and inquired if they could be donated for Amateur radio use. He was told that indeed they could, and that any other useful equipment that might show up there could also be made available. His employer, Newmont Mining, had installed a new digital system to replace the current analog type. Pete was pleased that he had rescued useful equipment from being scrapped. The two repeaters that he brought with him were completely contained in steel cases suitable for portability. All that was needed was a power source. Pete added that there was two more repeaters, sans external cases, that needed a good home. John put in a word for them, adding that they were about two generations newer than the repeater link equipment that was being used at our repeater sites.

Photos were taken of Pete and Club members with the repeaters in the foreground.

Intermission and 50/50 raffle sales.

Repeaters: John was planning to hand out revised copies of diagrams and control codes for our repeaters, but decided to hold off until a more permanent configuration was determined. Some revisions are in the works for Mazourka. The link frequency is now 445.8 MHz, so the link control codes have been changed to 80# for link down, and 80* for link up. Codes must be entered at the location to be controlled (Silver or Mazourka). Packet, 145.01 MHz, is not currently operational.

Nominations of 2017 officers: Paul (KK6BAF) and Jim (K6JNX) for President. Jeff (AA7GK) for Vice President, Terry (K6UN) for Treasurer, and Gordon (KD6TLE) for Secretary. Further nominations, then the election, will be at the November meeting. Installation of new officers at the December meeting.

Nevada section ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) meeting: This meeting was attended by John and Paul locally, and Bob (W7WOW) from Fish Lake Valley. For ARES, Inyo County is now part of the Nevada section. John reported that there was a lot of interesting information presented, and it was nice to put faces to on the air voices and memos. Interoperability of communications between ARES and MARS (Military Amateur Radio Service) was the primary topic. The relatively new 60m band was the first choice. As a shared band, it was already available to both Amateurs and the military. It is also channelized, making it more compatible with typical military equipment. 40M, the old standby, was now the secondary selection. A remark was made that most of the military radio operators were also licensed for Amateur radio. Message encryption was something new to the Amateur radio side. 60M has other interesting aspects, in addition to the shared channels.

All hams are encouraged to participate in the COMEX (COMmunications EXercise) to be held from October 30 to November 1.

Sometime between October 12 and the end of November, a SET (Simulated Emergency Test) is to be developed by Inyo County. Sheriff Nick Vaughn will be the coordinator. For communications, a proposal is to have units in Walker and Coleville connect with our three hospitals using HF.

A question about Inyo County's EPC (Emergency Planning Committee) was asked. John answered that EPCs are indeed required by State law, but the members in Inyo County had sort of faded away. The duties of the EPC were effectively being handled by representatives in the current Unified Command meetings.

X-mas: BARC's December meeting has traditionally been combined as a member and family Christmas gathering. Members indicated that was this still desired. Last years meeting was combined with the local 4x4 club, as a pot luck and gift exchange at the Highlands Mobile Home Park recreation room. The Eastern Sierra 4x4 group is planning a catered dinner meeting at the Bishop County Club (Golf course) this year. BARC club members were more in favor of a "pot luck" gathering on our regular meeting date, preferably at our regular Salvation Army meeting area. We have been allowed some use of their kitchen in past meetings. We should check with the Salvation Army about this plan. Another idea was to have the BARC provide a main course to supplement the pot luck. Maybe some turkeys. Len volunteered to get an estimate from his friends at the Holy Smoke restaurant. Do we want a gift exchange? Consensus was – no.

This subject will be continued at our next meeting.

U-tube proposal: Scott (N6AZY) contacted BARC with a proposal to do a video recording of the club meetings and post it on U-tube. Because of job commitments, Scott will be unable to attend the club meetings for the foreseeable future. To help with this plan, he is willing to train anyone willing to volunteer to do this.

Keith, with his camera experience, started the discussion with technical issues as to how to actually get a meeting as was arranged as on this night, onto a video. Other members brought up issues about recording presentations that used Power Point illustrations, or about doing recordings in the meeting room that we were using, and the concern over anything being posted on U-tube. A suggestion was made to post the video to our web sight rather than U-tube. Scott had already stated that access restraints could be set on U-tube videos. After some of the recent political campaign mud slinging, some of the informal meeting banter might need to be curtailed.

Overall, the consensus seemed to be that if there is indeed was a volunteer, give it a try. There are a lot of out of town members that rarely if ever can attend the meetings. Permissions would be needed before recording in the church, or any of the presenters program material.

Repeater interference: Phil (WA6PH) was wondering what could be done to eliminate some of the

spurious radio communications interfering with our repeaters. John and Jeff detailed some of the things that had already been done, and other things to try. Earlier in the year we were hearing five interference sources. A classic music station, a religious station, an ambulance dispatcher, an Inyo County dispatcher, and a Forest Service dispatcher. By changing the link frequency, three of the five seemed to go away. One of the five was probable shut down as a non-licensed bootlegger. The Forest Service dispatch is still being heard, and has the same 103.5 Hz PL (sub-audible input tone, aka Private Line) as our repeater. That is a nationally assigned channel PL, so for that part of the Forest Service system, no change could be made. Jeff was going to give a try at removing the PL on one of the local Forest Service inputs to see if that would help. He also explained that even if changing our PL did eliminate key ups, the interference would still be there. It just wouldn't show up until another incoming signal with the right PL tried to access the repeater. Phil was thinking that changing the repeater input PL, then letting users know about it by making the tone frequency part of an audio announcement by the repeater identifier, would be worth a try. Going from a Morse code identifier to voice would require some hardware additions to the existing repeater system. Changing repeater information with the frequency coordinators and directories can be an exercise in futility. We do have two 2m frequency pairs listed but not in use -- 146.91 and 146.88 MHz. It is still a mystery as to how these other transmissions are mixing to get into our repeater inputs. John has a circulator for the Mazourka repeater, but does not have the needed harmonic filter to go with it. This addition would be to keep stray signals received by our antennaq2 out of our repeater output stage, where they can mix with our frequency in the amplifier to produce additional frequencies.

Award: Terry presented John with a first place ARRL November Sweepstakes award. John racked up 148,230 points. Terry commented that he had managed about half that many points. Congratulations John!

50/50 was won by Pete. \$17.50 to Pete and \$17.50 to the club treasury.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

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

PS: Monday, the day before the meeting, John with the help of Jon, succeeded in establishing a microwave link from Silver Peak to John's house. This will provide internet service to our radio site. This in turn can provide much simplified and improved operation of internet connected communications devices and site telemetry.

PS2: Pete invited club-members to a tour of the mining operations where he works. Maybe a carpool to site?