

BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB meeting minutes, October 8, 2013.

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

Self introductions totaled 15 at beginning then two more later. Of those, three were guests. Call signs / names are in original notes.

Bob (N7RAP) submitted treasurer's report. Our checking account had additions of \$20 for dues, a \$20 donation from Greg (KJ6KO), and \$1011.38 transferred from the Savings (reserve) account. This action was decided at the last BARC meeting, in response to the virtually zero interest and the added burden to the Treasurer to maintain an additional account. Expenses were the power bill of \$45.07 and reimbursement to John (AD6NR) for supplies bought for the club. That left a balance of \$2020.11. Duplexer Capitol Fund was unchanged at \$1,665.28.

Minutes were passed as corrected in the last draft as published on the website.

Events:

**T-hunt** - The last fox (Dennis in this case) is the one to pick the Club breakfast location, as the current fox may not be able to attend. Normally the hunt would be Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>, but this date might have to be adjusted.

**Sunday morning HF net** – still going, with good turnout lately.

**Pacificon** – October 11-13 in Santa Clara. John and Olin (WA7YXY) are intending to participate.

**Tioga Pass Closed** this evening – apparently do to snowfall.

**50/50 drawing** – tickets handled by Phil (K0RVD).

Old business:

1. Club I.D. Cards: Mike (W6HDV) reported that Keith (KJ6IXM) had made some samples. Subject tabled until next meeting.
2. Repeated call update/change: Dennis (W6IY) still needs to contact TASMA to initiate the needed changes. TASMA (the Southern California repeater coordination body) may also be needed to sort out our recent repeater interference problems, although Kurt thought their first solution would be to have us enable the receiver P.L squelch. Kurt suggested putting the P.L. enable on a separate selectable repeater channel. 131.8 Hz is the tone normally use in this system.
3. Silver noise interference problems: Dwayne of S. CA. Edison (SCE) called on October 2 and apologized for the long response time, then gave a scheduled date of October 16 for the repair crew to work at the Silver Peak site. He hoped that Club representation could be there to help them identify the interference problem. A separate log is being kept of this activity. The day after the last Club meeting, John made a trip back to Silver Peak with the power line noise tracking set. A really bad insulator was found (on pole number A395-C). Other items from the last meeting to help the .94 repeater were a band pass filter, an isolator with a proper dummy load. John had the isolator (just received from the manufacturer) and the dummy load (donated by Greg (KJ6KO) at the meeting. A DCI filter is still on order and should arrive soon. A band pass filter is important in preventing out of band signals from feeding back to our transmitter and creating unwanted mix products. Also, a filter is required in conjunction with the isolator to prevent isolator cause harmonics from being transmitted.
4. Back up power supply: The new rack mount power supply was at the meeting, along with a power supply isolator to prevent battery power from reversing back to the supplies in a power failure situation.

5. California QSO party: Many club members participated last weekend. Kurt's group entered the "expedition" category, setting up at his cabin. Stations were set up in the living room, dining room, and porch, with two operators per station. They made 4,200 contacts including all states and provinces. Operation was QRO – substantial power amplifiers on all stations. They had a great time. Kurt stowed away the last of the antennas today. Len pulled in 250 contacts working out of his pickup truck – a personal best. Olin and John managed about 960 contact with a lot of multipliers. This was Olin's first time on the air other than Field Day. He managed over 200 contacts and learned a lot. They were perplexed over a Slovenian stations report number of over 400. Kurt explained that there were two other similar contest going on in Europe. Lots of foreign stations were participating, Terry (K6UN) operated at various locations while heading home through in the San Joaquin Valley. He transmitted from Madera, Alameda, Merced, and Stanislas Counties. His 110 contacts netted him about 8490 points. Jim (KN6SF) and Phil (K0RVD) teamed up for their first brief try at the QSO contest. They managed about 55 contacts. This was also there first effort at computerized logging.
6. T-shirts: Most of the BARC shirt orders have been claimed, and Kurt ordered about 10 extras for those that might be interested later.

#### New business:

1. Olin and John attended an Inyo County emergency services planning meeting. For this drill, the plan was for Amateur radio operators to establish communications between the hospitals. This would include Mammoth, Toiyabe, Northern Inyo, and Southern Inyo. A major e-coli outbreak would be the emergency. Command would be from the County facility on South Street in Bishop, not the Sheriff's pose hut at the airport. Jim (KN6SF) will be attending a similar meeting in Mammoth for Mono County tomorrow.
2. Nomination of officers: Bob requested that somebody else take over as treasurer. He wouldn't mind continuing with the BARC website. He described his typical duties, including making regular check of the Club's P.O. Box. Terry volunteered for the Treasurer's nomination, Jon (NW6C) said he could continue as Secretary with the warning that he may not be at every meeting, Mike (W6HDV) was selected for another run a Vice President, and John (AD6NR) was nominated for another term as President. The Board of Directors are nominated from the existing Board members, then confirmed by vote of the general membership. In a letter sent to the officers, Board member Bob (W7WOW) has asked to be replaced. Nominations were then closed for this meeting. Final nominations and election will be done at the November meeting. December is traditionally a minimum business, maximum social get together. New officers take over in January.
3. Phil was wondering about details of the repeater linking. How many? Mammoth to Silver to Mazourka, to Little Lake – that's it. Normally up or down? Up, except for Mammoth. Mono County Search and Rescue (who own the current repeater) have requested to leave it down unless needed because many of them have it programmed into the scanning function of their radios, and usually are not interested in local conversations from travelers and southern locals. Control codes are to be made available to members (except maybe for Mammoth main on/off). Codes include on/off for links and repeaters. Linking of the repeaters has been on the BARCs wish list for many years. Pros and cons with links normally up vs. down were discussed. Mazourka and Little Lake were linked until the systems fell into disrepair after the death of Terry (W6TD). Help in sorting out the link circuitry and the identifiers would be appreciated. For BARC sites the ID should be N6OV, for SIARA (Southern Inyo Amateur Radio Association) the ID should be W6TD. Special individual repeater calls were issued until the early 1980s, but are no longer used. Transmitters still need to be identified. Good repeater etiquette (mainly leaving a good break before keying up) is more important with a linked

system. If you do need to break into a conversation, the “hang time” (the time after the current operator unkeys and the final drop of the carrier) is your opportunity. It would be nice to have a secondary two meter repeater on Silver Peak (146.91?). That would enable a limited area conversation without having to break into an ongoing conversation taking place through the links.

4. Phil then expressed his thoughts on the BARC putting together a scholarship program for local college students. He felt that such a program would build interest in the Club as well as Amateur Radio itself. Scholarships from local groups are typically around \$300 to \$500. Cerro Coso College would probably know how to set up one of these programs.
5. Kurt noticed that not many of the members had remembered to put on their badges. These really help with guests or new members to figure out who they are talking to. He had been a member of a club that had a \$1 fine for showing up without your badge. Keith (KJ6IXM) has been providing badges for BARC members for free.
6. 50/50 raffle: Terry's ticket was drawn.

Program:

Paul (KK6BAF) demonstrated his portable solar electric system. It had a roll up 28 Watt solar cell array, cable, charge controller from Buddy Pole, a lithium storage battery, a “Watts Up” power meter, and a load distribution center using “Power Pole” connectors. An inverter could be added if 120 vac was needed.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Jon, NW6C, Secretary.