



October 10, 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 President Paul at about 7 PM. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 15

Those present provided name and call sign.

Minutes

Minutes from prior meeting were electronically distributed to members following the last club meeting and therefore were not re-read at this meeting.

Treasurers Report

Terry (K6UN) provided the BARC financial report for two months, September 13, 2017 through October 10, 2017. BARC had total expenses of \$72.80 and income of \$674.00. Our ending checking balance for this month is \$3517.98. Terry pointed out that our monthly power bill for Silver Peak nearly doubled from around \$40 to over \$70. He is investigating the reasons for this.

Recently BARC was struggling to find the money to pay the repeater site fee levied by the USFS for the Silver Peak and Mazourka Peak repeater sites. At that time, three BARC members loaned the club \$500 each to help with fee costs. This month, it was announced that those making that loan to the club made gifts of their loans, so no repayment will be necessary. Thank you!

Old Business – Raffle Update

Terry (K6UN) reported that the club can initiate raffle ticket sales at any time. Tickets are to go for five dollars each or five tickets for \$20. Terry was given the go-ahead to start printing tickets. Paul (KK6BAF) suggested that the front of Vons would be the place to make lots of ticket sales and will look into getting Von's permission for this. Paul obtained the donation of two firearms. One is a larger caliber hunting rifle either .270 or .308 caliber – first place. The other is a Ruger 10/22, which will have a pink stock – second place. A higher end broadcast radio receiver will be offered as the third place prize.

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. T

Old Business – Mazourka Peak Repeater Upgrades

Mark (W6WWA) gave the repeater building several coats of brown paint to help it blend in to the surroundings. John (AD6NR) suggested painting the roof of the repeater building white to help moderate the temperatures in the repeater building during the summer. Walt (K6BDI) rebuilt and tuned a 2M station master antenna for use on Mazourka. Rich (KF6YLW) will make available a tower that the Lone Pine Airport had donated to BARC. The plan is to attach this to one of the wooden poles placed adjacent to the repeater building. Paul (KK6BAF) built the frames for the solar panels that several club members donated. John (AD6NR) is planning a run up to Mazourka to determine amount of conduit needed to protect the new heiliac cable between the repeater building and the new antennas. He will also be assessing the routing of power cables from the new solar panels that Paul donated. Lots of volunteers are needed for the work needing to be done.

Old Business – Part One in Getting Three Repeaters (Antelope, Leviathan, Conway Summit) Operational and Linked

John (AD6NR) repaired the Antelope repeater. He removed the duplexer and retuned it. The duplexer needs to be reinstalled. The repeater frequency is **146.97, -, PL 131.5**. There were concerns raised that because this repeater site is a public safety facility, there needs to be a safe guard to prevent the repeater radio and associated equipment from draining the facility batteries and adversely impacting the public safety radios there. John suggested placing a 12.1 VDC shut off for the HAM equipment to forestall any negative impact on the public safety equipment. John worked closely with Kurt Hartstrom the IT lead who oversees this repeater site.

New 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 are interested in partnering with us. The Ridgecrest club will interface with the Kern County BLM. Roger, a HAM and the president of the Cerro Gordo Preservation Society said we ought to have solar power at the new repeater site because the hard-wired power coming up from Keeler is not reliable.

Rich (KF6YLW) asked Paul (KK6BAF) if he verified probable access to Mt. Potosi near Las Vegas when he conducted radio tests from the anticipated radio site on Cerro Gordo during the recent radio coverage assessment. Paul responded that he did not, as he did not have that frequency available in his radio.

The Cerro Gordo radio site of interest to SARC and 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.

New Business – Re-branding BARC into Possibly ESARC (Eastern Sierra Amateur Radio Club)

Paul (KK6BAF) floated the suggestion that BARC change its name, as he indicated that the name “BISHOP AMATEUR RADIO CLUB” might tend to exclude those in Mono County and other parts of the Owens Valley. It was pointed out that we would have to change incorporation documents to reflect any such changes. There was not overwhelming support for the suggestion at this time. It was decided communicate with the non-Bishop HAMS after expanding the repeater network to include Leviathan, Conway, and Antelope to demonstrate that our intent is to benefit in a practical way communities from Bridgeport in the north to the southern portion of the Owens valley.

Paul also suggested a change to our “talk about what you did today” net. He suggested that at least one day per week should be a structured, formal net or perhaps a net like Val Cameron used to host – a fun and challenging net.

New Business – Example of How Our BARC Organization Can Be Challenged to Meet Requests for Help

The Bishop High Sierra run requires 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. There is a need for more and younger members to BARC.

Meeting Adjourned at about 8:30 PM.

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