



## October 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2018 are:

Paul Dostie	(KK6BAF)	- President
Jeff Tong	(AA7GK)	- Vice President
Terry Fenske	(K6UN)	- Treasurer
Noam Shendar	(W6RT)	- Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Paul Dostie (KK6BAF) at 19:00. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army building in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 15. These were, in alphabetic order: AA7GK, AD6NR, K6BDI, K6UN, KA6HII, KD6TLE, KE6LUT, KF6YLLW, KG6JZJ, KK6BAF, N6BEV, NW6C, W6PH, W6WWY, and one more whose callsign wasn't noted.

### Minutes

#### Financial report:

Terry (K6UN) forgot to bring the financial report with monthly details. He promised to have the October financial report to deliver together with the November report. He stated that the club spent \$70.25 in October and we have approximately \$2,700 in the bank. He noted that Edison billed BARC about the same amount as last month for electrical service on Silver Peak.

#### CA QSO Party report:

John (AD6NR) summarized this event. He said it was a lot of fun. In the contest, the goal was to obtain a contact in each of California's 58 counties. Inyo county was highly sought after. John noted that he felt good about helping one of his contacts complete a clean sweep of all counties by giving him Inyo. The bands were in good shape. He worked mostly 20m and there was also contest activity on 10, 40, and 80 meters. John did not bother rotating his antenna, he just aimed it east and left it there. Kurt (W6PH) did not participate in this contest.

Terry (K6UN) reported poor results the first day and night but afterward things improved. Kurt commented that when working DX contests, he typically makes five contacts/minute. John observed that contesting is not intimidating although it may appear to be at first. Terry observed that the WPX contest is one of the more fun events.

### **Repeater QRM:**

Jeff (AA7GK) provided a summary of his investigation into this situation. It is likely that one of the "kerchunking" problems is caused by interference being generated by selected equipment from other radio services on Silver Peak. It is impacting BARC's repeater input on the 146.94 repeater. The interference is coming into BARC's equipment on 146.34.

All of the exact sources of this interference are yet to be identified. However, Jeff is certain that some of the problem is caused by noisy Motorola Quantar switching power supplies which used for public service repeater equipment, including the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) repeater. Jeff found that Civil Air Patrol (CAP) equipment was contributing to some of the interference - generating QRM every 30 kHz - and he obtained permission from the CAP representative to shut their equipment off for a while. The noise went away for a time, but returned. It is possible that NOAA, Bishop PD, and other agencies may be contributing to the QRM we are hearing.

John (AD6NR) and Jeff have determined that there are two distinct "kerchunking" problems. John thinks that there are three different mix phenomena going on at Mazourka. Jeff believes the repeater issue on Silver Peak is the result of 4-5 different interfering repeaters. Of course, the best approach is to find the problem and fix it, and this has not yet been successfully done. John suggests trying a variety of repair strategies, including changing the PL. For example, Bishop PD uses the same PL (103.5) as BARC repeaters. Compounding this problem is that John has made changes in the past that seemed to fix things, only to have the QRM return three days later.

John noted that one of the issues that complicate finding/fixing interference is that in order to fix a problem, the problem has to cooperate. Not much can get accomplished by driving to Silver Peak with a car full of test gear and good intentions only to find all the electronics behaving perfectly when you get there. John also shared that his analysis of the problem is that it is an oscillation, not someone with an HT continuously pushing the PTT button.

### **Army MARS COMEX Exercise:**

Paul (KK6BAF) reported that this event will be happening on October 23rd. Times are likely to be expressed in Zulu (UTC) format and Paul will be sending an email with this information. The Army MARS Facebook page has great photos of Paul's 60 meter horse fence antenna (link: <https://www.facebook.com/289794927767620/posts/1897483536998743/>).

### **Item from the Floor - Addresses:**

Terry (K6UN) wants to update the club contact roster. Members are requested to send an email to k6un@arrl.net with your current mailing address, telephone, and email contact information. When data is compiled and verified, he will route an email with contact information to BARC members.

### **Item from the Floor - Nevada Section Simulated Emergency Test:**

This was a simulated emergency test involving a huge earthquake along the Sierra Front from California up into Nevada. It tested digital capabilities. Various questions were asked of participants, such as the status of local medical facilities. For example, John (AD6NR), using HF, helped by relaying messages from the Emergency Head in Douglas County, NV. Band conditions were not good. The test was successful. There were some challenges and some good take-aways to learn from.

### **Item from the Floor - Book Donated and Auctioned with Money Going to Club:**

Walt (K6BDI) donated a radio text circa 1940 to be auctioned at the meeting. John AD6NR offered the highest bid and took home this technical treasure for the bargain price of \$10!

Meeting adjourned at 20:20.

*Many thanks to Gordon Baldwin (KD6TLE) for taking these notes in my absence.*

Noam Shendar (W6RT)  
Secretary  
Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (BARC)