



## October 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2019 are:

Bill Chezum	(W6WWY)	- President
Jeff Tong	(AA7GK)	- Vice President
Terry Fenske	(K6UN)	- Treasurer
Noam Shendar	(W6RT)	- Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Bill Chezum (W6WWY) at 19:02. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 11. They were, in alphabetical call sign order: AD6NR John, K6BDI Walt, K6UN Terry, KD6TLE Gordon, KD6IXK Everett, KK6BAF Paul, N6BEV Bev, NW6C Jon, W6PH Kurt, W6WWY Bill, and W7KRF Keith.

### Minutes

#### Financial Report:

Terry (K6UN) reported that we did not have any paid utility expenses in August and September due to billing delays by Southern California Edison. They will submit a corrected billing at a future time. We did receive a club membership fee of \$30 as well as a contribution of \$103 from the Rural Association of Radio Amateurs (RARA). Our bank account's beginning balance in mid-August was \$3706.61. Ending balance on October 8th was \$3830.61.

#### Repeater Status Update:

John (AD6NR) let us know that the Silver Peak Repeater is still undergoing repairs after being hit by lightning many weeks ago. Along with needed lightning strike repairs, he is hoping to install additional status monitoring capability. He also shared some great news that some IPTS4E monitoring devices were donated to the club. John is checking into whether or not he would be able to use this equipment to upgrade and streamline our repeater sites.

### **California QSO Party:**

John (AD6NR) and Terry (K6UN) reported that they partnered on a contest station and logged about 795 contacts. They operated using a single call sign and contacted all 50 states and all Canadian Provinces. Reportedly, the bands were busiest on 40M, 20M, with less happening on 80M. John let us know that they worked the island of Corsica on 40M. He and Terry were contacting a new station every 80 seconds. John felt that because HAMs expect the bands to be in poor condition, they spend less time on the radio. Then when a contest comes on and many operators are on the frequencies, contacts are made and it may seem like the bands are now "better." This is probably not the case; the bands are probably as they usually are and although conditions may not be stellar, there are still contacts to be made if we look for them.

Keith (W7KRF) reported that he logged about 60 contacts and the Tait family had about 48 contacts. It was noted that the David Tait family of HAMs were the recipients of a bequest of much of Rich's radio gear. Rich (KF6YLV) is now a SK. The Tait family call signs are: KM6KOE, KM6KOF, KM6KOG, KM6KOH, KM6KOI.

### **Proposed ARES Drill:**

Paul (KK6BAF) suggests that BARC participate in an Emergency Communications (EmComm) drill in Mono and Inyo Counties during which we would not rely on our repeaters. He suggests that we use both VHF and HF SSB instead. It was suggested that BARC try to partner with the Bishop 4W Drive club in this exercise. No time frame or other coordinating factors were discussed.

### **Field Day Site:**

Paul (KK6BAF) and others talked briefly about booking the same Field Day location that we used in 2019 for next year's 2020 Field Day exercise. Although no vote was taken, there were many voices raised in support of going back to the same campsite in the White Mountains.

### **2020 Officer Elections:**

Nominations for the 2020 slate of club officers are as follows:

President                      - Paul Dostie (KK6BAF)

Vice President - Bill Chezum (W6WWY)  
Treasurer - Terry Fenske (K6UN)  
Secretary - Noam Shendar (W6RT)

### **Items from the Floor:**

Kurt (W6PH) was asked to talk about sunspots. He commented that sunspots trigger ions which create atmospheric reflectivity. We are now in a prolonged minimum in which there are fewer sunspots or sunspots in locations on the sun that have less impact on our planet. At this time, our ionosphere is not helping HF radio.

Poor HF conditions have helped to pull some operators away from SSB and CW. These people have started working the digital modes like FT8. In this mode you often cannot hear the other station, and contacts are normally limited to a very short exchange like a signal report. Thus, the absence of sunspots has had a negative impact on the HF rag chewing experience.

The Maunder Minimum is a term for a period of years where there are few sunspots. Cold weather is often associated with this time. *[Editor's Note: ARRL recorded a podcast on this very topic, and it can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/the-doctor-will-see-you-now-102>]*

Sunspots provide the radiation that ionizes the earth's ionosphere and creates the conditions that bounce radio waves back to the receiving antennas.

Sporadic E layer is usually found in the summertime only and starts 90 km above the planet. However, it has appeared in March and this is not normal. When it opens, it can expand and contract quickly.

A band scope is a panadapter showing band activity visually. This can be a good tool for contesters to use.

John (AD6NR) said that Mark (W6WWA) had donated some batteries to the club. These are 6V, 210 Ah batteries which are large and quite heavy. John thought that it could be advantageous to have a second set of batteries installed in the Mazourka Peak site, just for the .76 repeater. An additional set of Solar panels and a spare charge controller are already there; all that would be needed is to hook up the batteries to the charger and connect the output to the battery backup input on the Kenwood repeater.

John also commented that there are multiple owners of equipment in the Mazourka repeater site. He indicated that he does not think this is wise, as it

would be possible for someone to become angry, leave the area, or even pass away and this might result in equipment being removed from the repeater. John thinks that an inventory of all gear in the shack and a determination of ownership of that equipment is important. However, determining the who, what, where, when, why, and how status of that gear has not yet been set in motion.

Meeting adjourned at 20:00.

*Many thanks to Gordon Baldwin (KD6TLE) for taking and transcribing the above notes - and for being so gracious every time I ask him for his help.*

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