

Bishop Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes September 14th, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:35PM by BARC Secretary John Shepherd (President van der Riet on vacation - Vice President Mike Fitzsimmons on medical related travel): Motion to accept by John (AD6NR) - accepted by unanimous hand vote.

Introductions around the room (10 members) (see attached sign-in sheet)

Treasurer's report: Checking account \$1,814.17; Savings Account \$1,011.36. See Website for details.

August Meeting minutes: (revised to eliminate typo's) Motion to accept by John (AD6NR) - accepted by unanimous hand vote.

Upcoming activities in the next month:

T-hunt: Saturday Sept 17th at 10AM: Details are on the BARC Website: Adrian on vacation: volunteer FOX needed! Discussion with decision to postpone T-Hunt until October.

CQ World Wide RTTY DX Contest: September 24/25

California QSO Party: Oct 1 / 2. Kurt (W6PH) will be running a station in Lone Pine (multi op / multi station). John will be running a station from his home in Mustang Mesa (volunteers welcome).

EMComm Simplex Net on 146.94: Tomorrow evening at PM - everyone please join in and participate

New Business

Report from Eric Christensen (K6EJC, guest - Los Angeles ARES member): Showed new D72 Kenwood - multi-mode hand held - including GPS. New models in the works. Eric works at HRO store in Burbank and is looking forward to a lot of new radio models. Southwestern ARRL Convention last weekend in Torrance CA was a very good Hamcon. Large number of vendors and great prizes (top prize was an Electcraft K3 transceiver!).

Old Business

1) Batteries for Silver Pk Facility: Greg (KJ6KO) has donated a set of 3 510AH sealed lead acid batteries to BARC. Current batteries are unsealed "flooded" type and should be replaced. Good chargers have negligible radio emissions. Batteries need to be installed and secured against tipping. Old batteries belong to Dennis (W6IY).

Discussion of power distribution in event of power failure: 146.34 /94 BARC repeater will be only system on battery power (previous club resolution); batteries to be installed as soon as possible - Dennis will modify power distribution system to provide battery power only to BARC repeater.

2) Linking of Silver and Mammoth: Greg (KJ6KO) recommends two receivers with filters. TKR 750 has audio in and out with carrier operated switch (COS) line. Original scheme would be to have separate repeater system for link, but putting another transmitter at Mammoth site could be a challenge because of changed ownership. Also an issue: will the link be powered up during a power outage? John is recommending all equipment be installed on

Silver: a 146.73 receiver with direct audio input to 146.94 transmitter and low power transmitter (to beam antennas) with direct audio path from 146.34 receiver and output on 146.13. Silver Pk Kenwood repeater will support this approach because of its "wire line remote" capability. This is a simple approach to just get it working, preferably before Silver gets snowed in. Dennis and John will do the technical plan. It would be good to keep everything Kenwood if possible.

3) Silver Peak Inventory: Inventory completed - Excel spreadsheet in work by John (AD6NR). Dennis had recommended a data sheet for all systems on Silver (similar to 2700-10 USFS Form -- see attached). This form would be an adjunct to the physical description in the inventory. Form is comprehensive and may require information not really necessary for BARC. Dennis (with help from Greg) will simplify the form and submit a recommendation.

4) Red Cross request for space on Silver Pk.:

John: Sheila Irons is representative for USFS in Mammoth but does not have responsibility for White Mountain. Still hunting for official for White Mountain ranger district. John wrote letter to Margaret Woods (District Ranger) requesting clarification (copy attached).

Dennis: wants to do everything in writing and says he (the club Silver Pk. trustee) should be the contact person. Dennis says that permission needs to be done by the Forrest Supervisor.

Greg: Forest Service is looks for money!

Dennis: will take care of letter to USFS this week. Recommended a resolution for Red Cross not to displace any Amateur equipment in building. There are other places for the Red Cross Other agencies are in various other facilities (e.g. DWP) Dennis talked to DWP Real Estate Office and will contact Bill Carpenter. If there is room in the DWP building, forms from Poleta site could be modified to cover Red Cross at the Silver Pt Site.

Greg: Club should probably draw up the contract (rather than taking the RC proposed contract). Possibly his lawyer friend (a ham) could draw up the contract.

John (based on a comment by Dennis) is worried that the new antenna structure and other improvements needed a permit from the USFS before it was built. John wants to see the existing USFS contract for our site. Adrian has copy.

Bob Moss (W7WOW) made a motion for a report by John (AD6NR) at the next meeting if anything we have done would be in conflict with the USFS contract. Seconded and approved by unanimous hand vote.

General discussion: Club would like to support the Red Cross. Can we do it? Options and benefits to BARC will be discussed at the next meeting and hopefully USFS will have provided comment by then. Need clarification by USFS before serious consideration of support to Red Cross.

4) BARC Insurance: There is a new insurance carrier available through the ARRL and insurance would be about \$200/yr. When insurance cost significantly increased (~\$600) the club decided not to get insurance until membership reached 40 but lower cost may be reason to reconsider. A problem in the past with insurance in the past with insurance was that BARC actually owns a building.

5) New meeting location: Adrian investigating.

New Business

1) Greg (KJ6KO) would like explore site with his monitoring equipment: What is the noise floor – what is happening? Receive noise level seems high (BARC repeater is an "alligator" - big mouth, small ears!). Desense issues or what?

Show and Tell

John brought a heliax stripper specifically for 1/2 Andrew Heliax

Technical Questions

None

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM

Largely based on notes by John(NW6C) - transcribed by John (AD6NR) with some additions.

Bishop Amateur Radio Club
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23 August 2011

Ms Margaret Wood

District Ranger, Inyo National Forest

789 Main St, Bishop, CA 93515

Dear Ms Wood;

When I visited the White Mountain Ranger Station recently John Louth directed I contact you by letter.

I am the Secretary of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club (BARC). At their request, BARC is considering providing space at no charge in our facility on Silver Peak to the local Chapter of the American Red Cross. They would like to install some 2-way radio equipment to support their activities in the Owens Valley.

We would like to know what impact that might have, if any, on our USFS special use permit, and what process we should follow if we decide to provide space.

We have been told that in similar situations in the Angeles National Forest the amateur radio facility was only required to update their annual submittal to include the Red Cross.

We would like your evaluation so as to understand any potential permit issues before we make our final decision. We hope to make that decision in about 30 days.

If you have questions or would like to contact me directly:

Home phone: 760-258-0770

E-mail: johnshepherd@earthlink.net

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours;

John R Shepherd