



September 11, 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 18:58. The meeting was held at the Salvation Army building in Bishop, CA.

Number in attendance: 16. These were, in alphabetic order: AA7GK, AD6NR, K6UN, KA6HII, KE6LUT, KE7TNU (visitor, Bremerton WA), KG6JZJ, KJ6KO (visitor, Diamond Springs), KK6BAF, KQ6CA (visitor, Bremerton WA), N6BEV, N6BXP (visitor, Torrance), NW6C, W6RT, W6WWY and WA6IQO.

Minutes

Welcoming a New Ham

We were joined by the recently licensed Wayne (KM6VRO). Congratulations and welcome, Wayne!

New Call Sign

Bev reported that she was granted the vanity call sign N6BEV.

Treasurer's Report

Terry (K6UN) reported \$45 in income and an expense of \$70.12 for the Silver Peak electrical bill. This brings the checking account to \$2,918.68.

Old Business - Tioga Pass Run

Paul (KK6BAF) reports that this was a good event, but operationally challenging. The team had VHF as well as HF (60 & 80m) capabilities, but couldn't make contact from the start line to the finish line on any single band. Even on 2m, two relays were required. On the bright side, Paul was able to make contact with Huntington Beach on HF.

Old Business - Local Repeater Status

John (AD6NR) reported that Mark (W6WWA) went up to Mazourka Peak and noticed that our repeater antenna had wrapped around the telephone pole and is rubbing against a bolt. This must be fixed urgently, to prevent the fiberglass shell from developing a crack that would admit moisture. Prior to the meeting Paul (KK6BAF) volunteered to provide a 35' ladder, and Mark's son volunteered to climb it. A ratchet strap can be a temporary fix, and a patch kit is needed in case the shell has already been breached. A motion passed to go up to the peak within 2 days to perform the temporary repair.

A discussion was held regarding the permanent fix. Options raised were using the sections of Rohn tower already available at the Mazourka site. However, due to wind conditions, this would require major construction: the tower would need to be either guyed or sunk into a significant depth of concrete. It was eventually decided to purchase and install a fiberglass arm that would extend from the telephone pole to the antenna. John volunteered to purchase it.

Epilogue: Later that week, using Paul's (KK6BAF) big ladder, Mark (W6WWA), Mark's son Brandon, Jon (NW6C), Rob (W6JET), Bill (KG6LAN) and John (AD6NR) were able to securely remount the Mazourka 2m repeater antenna. The antenna was not damaged and no additional work is needed. Special thanks to Brandon for doing all the climbing! The abandoned antenna on top of the northern pole was also removed and hardware tightened to reduce possible noise sources.

Items from the Floor

John (AD6NR) reported that our Silver Peak lease has been renewed by the Forest Service for the next 30 years. (A copy is attached to these minutes.) It was agreed that once we get the countersigned version from the USFS we would place it at the repeater site, in a waterproof container.

John also reported that Mono County took down both VHF & UHF repeaters at the Leviathan site, and that they will be rebuilt. Once they are fixed, we should be able to activate our link to the Mono County repeaters (Leviathan, Conway and Antelope). In addition, the Antelope repeater was re-tuned and is now working well.

Jeff (AA7GK) reported that he is using a DMR "hotspot" to connect to DMR via a phone and Bluetooth. The practical uses for this aren't clear, but it's a fun toy!

Jeff also showed a destroyed coax - it was installed in a USFS truck with a 150A breaker which never tripped when the cable shorted (should have been rated 50A). The dielectric got vaporized, and one of the aluminum connectors had melted partially.

Greg (KJ6KO) discussed a number of interesting ham pursuits. WSPR has the amazing ability to deliver data that is 30dB below the audible threshold. He was able to contact New Zealand using WSPR on 2m. Greg is also playing with the two new bands: 2200m and 630m. These require special antennas (Greg uses an inverted L) and modified amps, like those provided at www.w6pql.com.

Don (KQ6CA) reported that FT8 has a new "call mode" which allows keyboard-to-keyboard conversations.

Meeting adjourned at 20:23.

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