



September 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2020 are:

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

Meeting called to order by Vice President Bill Chezum (W6WWY) at 19:01. Due to the need to observe social distancing, the meeting was held as a directed net over the club's linked 2m repeater system as well as a Zoom online conference.

Number in attendance: 19. They were, in alphabetical call sign order: AD6NR John, K6END Ed, K6TLH Tom, K6UN Terry, K6ZIF Brent, KC6ZCR Dominic, KE6IWM Mike, KE6JZG Tony, KF6RRR Hal, N6BEV Bev, N6SIT Paul, NW6C Jon, W6RT Noam, W6SRV Wayne, W6WWY Bill, W7KRF Keith, W7WOW Bob, WA7YXY Olin, and Jed, whose call sign was not recorded.

Minutes

Financial Report

Terry (K6UN) reported \$90 in testing fees (net \$0, in and out), a donation of \$35, approximately \$60 to SCE, and a \$97 county tax.

Ham Exam Recap

Terry (K6UN) reported that on 8/29 we tested 6 total people, of whom 2 extras and 1 technician passed. He recommends no more testing until November.

Repeater System Status

John (AD6NR) reported that with Jon's (NW6C) and Paul's (N6SIT) great help, they repositioned 3 antennas, added a microwave horn, took a microwave dish down, and did a lot of cleanup.

There is still no good picture coming down from the Silver webcam. It's possible the problem is elsewhere (either the link radios or the camera itself).

He missed a call from Aaron Schat re: his request to put a relay at Silver (see last month's report). John will get back to him shortly, explaining what we discussed last time (the club is OK with this, but Arron needs to sign a formal agreement with the club). Waiting for an agreement draft from Terry, which will be reviewed by Tom K6TLH and Rachel K6RVL.

Next up is going to Mazourka to put up the other end of the microwave link. Got all the needed hardware, but need the club to buy some lightning protection and grounding bus bars (Mazourka doesn't have any protection, and our antenna is now the highest there).

The replacement antenna is performing almost as well as the previous one. May have lost some coverage along 168 (looking "down" from the antenna).

John also mentioned that Jeff (AA7GK) joked that he is happy that his Forest Service antennas are no longer the highest on Mazourka.

Jon (NW6C) added that he took the noisy antenna down from Mazourka and has not been able to find anything wrong with it (i.e., can't find out why it was introducing noise).

Items from the Floor

John (AD6NR) got a call from one of the local hang gliders. She gave him a bagful of radio equipment, including 6 handhelds, batteries, speaker mics, remote cables, pouches and holsters, and more. Some of the cables are new. Wondering if anyone has any need for this. (Otherwise they go to e-waste.) Contact him if interested (free to a good home).

Noam (W6RT) passed along a question from an out-of-the-area ham: is there good enough reception in Big Pine Creek for an HT? The consensus was:

- Maybe Silver can be heard, while Mazourka likely occluded
- Some hikers up there could hit Mazourka UHF
- Noam could hear one of the repeaters while hiking up there

- Incidentally, Hal (KF6RRR) mentioned he could hear Telco repeater from the top of the Salt Tram (in the Inyo Mountains).

Hal (KF6RRR) mentioned that a tower in Altadena is available at a fire sale price. It's a Telex HG354, 3-section tilt-over crank-up. Jim Marr AA6QI is trying to get rid of it quickly.

Jon (NW6C) said that a Cerro Gordo repeater is on the wish list for both our club and SARC in Ridgecrest.

John (AD6NR) pointed out that Hal may want to touch base with the Edgewood Amateur Radio Society. They have quite a few members in the Altadena area.

John added that he got a club radio back from Keith. It's an ICOM-2100H. This would be a good radio for temporary loans, e.g., to someone just getting started with ham radio. Already programmed with all local repeaters.

Ed (K6END) updated us regarding Dennis Clark. Ed visited him at a safe distance. Dennis is 85 y.o. and bedridden 24x7. His nurses say his vitals are impressive despite all he has gone through. His spirits are high. He still has the twinkle in his eyes and a wry smile.

Ed also mentioned that he was involved in a rescue of a rollover on a 4x4 trail near Coyote Flat, The driver was thrown out and hurt fairly badly. SAR is looking at beefing up their off-road capabilities for really gnarly roads like this.

Olin (WA7YXY) reported fires are getting bad in Oregon. A couple of towns were burned over. And Oregon City will potentially be threatened (not very far from Portland). He's getting ash at this place. He also reported there will be another QSO Today Virtual Ham Fest in March. (The August one was great.)

Terry (K6UN) is still trying to get our repeater system on EchoLink.

Meeting adjourned at 19:59.

Noam Shendar (W6RT)

Secretary, Bishop Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (BARC)