



## July 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2022 are:

Bill Chezum	W6WWY	- President
Jon Patzer	NW6C	- Vice President
Terry Fenske	K6UN	- Treasurer
Noam Shendar	W6RT	- Secretary

Meeting called to order by president Bill Chezum (W6WWY) at 19:15. The meeting took place at the Salvation Army in Bishop and on Zoom.

Number in attendance: 9. Self-introductions included Jeff (AA7GK), Eric (AD6VT), , Terry (K6UN), Mike (KE6IWM), Mike (KN6BYH), Rick (KN6BZI), Roxy (KN6FUL), Dave (KO6ST) and Bill (W6WWY).

### Minutes

#### Financial Report

Terry (K6UN) reported \$45 in and out from volunteer exam tests, the Silver Peak power bill went up by \$6, \$83 to the Cedar Flat Field Day outing, and \$411.81 for the purchase of a new power generator for our radio club. \$4,089 balance in the treasury. Discussion about repeater site Forest Service permit fees vs. Inyo County property taxes. If the County is taxing us for the land as well as the improvements, then can the Forest Service charge us fees for being on that same land? County property taxes began when the Forest Service demanded that the new BARC Silver Peak building be inspected by a County building inspector, even though it would normally be County-exempt due to being less than 100 square feet in area.

## **California QSO Party Award**

Terry (K6UN) decided to open the cardboard box that he had just picked up at the Club's post office box. It was addressed to Noam (W6RT). Inside was the CQP Redwood Division first prize winner's ceremonial gavel.

## **Repeater System Status**

John (AD6NR) reported that all was well. Future improvements involved getting some sturdy 4-bay antennas installed on the main utility pole to the east of our building. This pole is right on the ridge, and really under-utilized.

## **DMR Repeater**

John (AD6NR), Noam (W6RT), and Eric (AD6VT) are working on this, but it is still a work in progress. Eric and Noam have acquired a lot of the necessary gear, and John has provided and tuned a duplexer.

## **ARRL Field Day**

Bill (W6WWY) recounted that it went very well, with wind, solar, and a new generator as auxiliary power sources. This same site is already reserved for next year. Saturday morning, Paul (KK6BAF) showed up with a giant off-center fed dipole, and Mark (K6NDN) brought a radio-controlled quadcopter. They paired up using the copter drone to pull the antenna cord over the trees to support the antenna. This showed up as a much-improved signal on the longer wavelength bands. There was a large selection of antennas in the air by the time Field Day logging was started. Terry (K6UN) was fairly sure he had the gear prepared to do an Amateur Radio satellite contact, complete with fairly high power on the uplink, and a substantial dual band antenna array. After a lot of sky searching, Roxy (KN6FUL) was the first to hear the satellite, on her Baofeng with a rubber ducky antenna. The strong signal didn't last long enough to get the complete identity. Drat. Terry has since then been testing a more compact and simpler arrangement. Also, Roxy was complemented for the really fine stew she shared with the Field Day group.

## Items from the Floor

Merits of the cheap Baofeng handy talkies were discussed. They do have some real merits, especially when there is a chance they will be sacrificed to the task. As a contrast, Terry (K6UN) explained some of the features of the handy he was monitoring as part of his emergency fire and medical assignments. It was extremely rugged and had lots of Amateur frequencies programmed in, but it was about a \$1,000 item in used condition.

Then Rick (KN6BZI), as a relative newcomer to Amateur Radio, remarked that on recent trip down south, the repeaters he gave a hello to answered with silence. Here, someone would usually respond. He was wondering if this was just the way new operators were treated, and if so, it was really a bad way to recruit new radio licensees. One of his motivations for his getting a license was having a breakdown on a family move, and needing to get a hold of another family member for help. No telephone reception. A truck driver noticed their situation and pulled over to see if he could help. The solution was to get on the trucker's Amateur Radio and ask for someone to put in a phone call to the relative. Task accomplished, and help on the way! It was then explained that the repeater log is often not up to date, some repeaters listed may not even exist, and some are just a personal accomplishment with little use. In urban areas, it takes some effort to find the good repeaters, that really try to provide a service to the users. In rural areas, there may not be anyone listening. Jeff (AA7GK) commented on his experience on his move from Montana to Bishop. On the whole trip, he only had one conversation before finding someone on the Bishop repeater. Bill added that in a recent conversation with member Bev (N6BEV), now in rural North Carolina, she reported on a Field Day of two club members, who operated for a couple of hours. It was also noted that anybody is allowed on a two-way radio in a true emergency.

Bill (W6WWY) mentioned that Jim (N7IU) is still trying to get a 2m repeater at this residence in Fish Lake Valley. John (AD6NR) replied that he had proposed a number of solutions, but that Jim had not adopted them. His overall advice was to just buy the system he wants from the Bridgecom mail-order site. It would come pre-programmed and aligned. Hook it to some power and an antenna, and you're on the air.

Bill also reported that Len (WA6IQO), long time member, professional cook, and mobile HF specialist, is being hit hard by leukemia. He might not be with us much longer. When not having blood transfusions, he is at his home in the J-Diamond trailer park.

Tioga Pass run: No word yet.

Roxy (KN6FUL): Do we have packet/APRS radio? Eric (AD6VT): Yes.

### **Meeting adjourned at 19:53**

*Post meeting:* Dave (KO6ST) experimented with displaying some of his video recordings of Field Day on the room monitor. Impressive. Bill's (W6WWY) little wind plant did spin!

John (AD6NR) had the back of his Toyota FJ opened up in the parking lot. Roxy (KN6FUL) was spotted carrying off a box of food that had been removed from the Red Cross emergency response trailer in the morning. This was part of an inventory and preparedness review, with Red Cross, BARC, Inyo County Search & Rescue, and other County safety representatives there to learn and help. The food was past its normal "sell by" date. Roxy and others figured stale granola bars and such would still be acceptable to some hungry people.

Some of the group headed over to Denny's, where a main topic was the recent fire in the little housing area at the end of Watterson Road, west of Bishop. Numerous homes were destroyed. It was also a warning about how quickly our firefighting resources could be used up.

***Thank you*** to Jon NW6C for taking notes in my absence.

Noam Shendar (W6RT)

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