



## January 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes of the Bishop Amateur Radio Club

BARC's officers for 2024 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 19:10. The meeting took place at the Salvation Army in Bishop and on Zoom.

Number in attendance: 15 Self-introductions included John (AD6NR), Ed (K6END), Terry (K6UN), Gordon (KD6TLE), Mike (KE6IWM), Dave (KG6JZJ), Denver (KN6ZYR), Rieker (KO6ARH), Dave (KO6ST), Paul (N6SIT), Jon (NW6C), John (W3WXT), Noam (W6RT), Bill (W6WWY), and Bob (W7WOW).

### Minutes

#### Financial Report

Terry (K6UN) reported we received dues from a number of people at the meeting. We had a total income of \$34,065 for this period, thanks to the generous donation from Dennis Clark's (W6IY) estate. Expenses totaled \$1,500.71, as follows: \$170.34 for Edison, \$66 for stamps to mail out dues letters, tax research \$147.50, \$554.89 to John (AD6NR) for equipment purchases, \$171.66 for tax, \$102.36 also for tax, \$143.98 (x2) for repeater site rent. The ending balance balance is \$35,969.86.

Sending letters to anyone who has been a member for the past 3 years to encourage re-upping membership.

Also, the roster has been updated, and we had a total paid-up membership of 24 people as of 12/31/2023. This does not include dues collected in January.

## **Repeater Status**

John (AD6NR) reported that immediately prior to the snowfall we converted our network to one served out of Virginia, and connected via a cellular modem that's sitting on the mountain (instead of a microwave link to pick up internet from John's house). All network devices (the camera, DMR repeater, environmental monitors, etc.) are working well with the new network.

Bill (W6WWY) noted that our repeater is being keyed up by the ambulance dispatch frequency (with a courtesy beep to confirm it's on the input). John asked whoever hears this to note down the ambulance number that causes this intermix.

Noam (W6RT) reported that the DMR repeater is working well (in fact, his HT started squawking with a DMR call during the meeting).

## **Nightly Net**

Dave (KO6ST) reported that we now have a couple of guys out in Clovis who are checking in almost nightly (via the Mammoth repeater). Other participation is good as well. The 19:30 start time seems to be right for almost everyone. The Mazourka machine is working fairly well, though it can get noisy or scratchy on certain nights. Dave is asking if we can fund new or additional batteries for Mazourka Peak.

Bill (W6WWY) suggested we go up to Mazourka Peak after the winter to check every component from the radio to the antenna, to see if we can identify the source of the noise. John (AD6NR) is worried that the problem is other, derelict equipment on that mountaintop.

## **VOAD**

Noam (W6RT) reports that the next meeting is on 1/25. We will provide an update at the next club meeting.

## **Board of Directors Update**

Ed (K6END) announced board elections because Terry's term expired. The board nominated Terry (K6UN) to a new 3-year term. A motion to elect him passed unanimously.

Ed also updated us that the board has been working on updating the articles of incorporation and bylaws for the club. A key reason for the updates, as elaborated upon by John (AD6NR), is the fact that we own and operate our own repeater sites, but as a club we are maturing out. Today we are at a minimal critical mass of people who understand our repeater system and can

maintain it. As a result, it is reasonable to worry that it will become increasingly difficult to keep the repeaters going. To prepare for that, it would be good that in the event that BARC fades out, those repeaters would be owned by a much larger amateur radio organization.

The proposed bylaws will be circulated by the board for review and discussion by the membership across 3 meetings. Only after that can they be voted on, assuming we have quorum. In other words, this will take time, and that's by design.

Terry (K6UN) added that we can leave the repeaters in BARC, a 501(c)7 membership organization, or put it into a 501(c)10 holding organization that we control, which would allow us to transfer the repeaters easily to another competent organization.

### **Items from the Floor**

Ed (K6END) presented a check from the estate of Dennis and Annika Clark for \$33,900 to the club. The club is grateful beyond description for this incredibly generous gift. We all took a photo accepting the check, which will go into a memorial that Ed will submit to the paper, to thank Dennis and Annika for all they did for Inyo County, both in life and now with their generous bequests (\$375,000 across the County).

Terry (K6UN) asked to put \$25,000 in a 6-month CD. A motion was introduced and seconded, and passed without objection.

Bill (W6WWY) proposed a small fundraiser using club shirts and name tags. The club was very supportive. It has been a long time since we had club shirts!

### **Meeting adjourned at 20:05.**

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