



April 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 **new** Salvation Army in Bishop and on Zoom.

Number in attendance: 13. Self-introductions included: Eric AD6VT, John AD6NR, Terry K6UN, Mike KE6IWM, Mike KN6BYH, Rieker KO6ARH (and daughter "Monkey"), Dave KO6ST, Paul N6SIT, Bob N7RAP, Jon NW6C, Noam W6RT, and Bill W6WWY.

Minutes

Financial Report

Terry (K6UN) reported we brought in \$50 (one member's dues and a \$15 donation). There was no Edison payment because we got a \$0.56 credit.

Repeater Status

Regarding Mazourka, John (AD6NR) pointed out that it's hard to tell if it's a radio problem or an antenna problem. Bill (W6WWY) was wondering if it was static buildup. We could try a grounding system, plus a way to switch between 2 antennas. Also, if we had a flag up there we could see in the webcam which way the wind is blowing, and try to correlate that with the noise issues.

Regarding Silver: we are still hearing the ambulance, fire engine and dispatch on the .94 output frequency. John doesn't think this is coming from our repeater, but Bill says he can sometimes (but not always) hear the courtesy tone ("be-boop") on our repeater after that signal goes away. It is possible that the

key-up is happening on another repeater (Mazourka or Mammoth). John's best guess is Mammoth. Bill is also wondering if those specific vehicles are outputting our tone (103.5) inadvertently.

In any case, John said there is nothing we can do until we can access Mazourka. We could get a sturdy "uni-omni" antenna and mount it up there. He will discuss with Jeff (AA7GK) which antenna would be best for mounting up there (because mounting is the hard part). Bill (W6WWY) asked if we could weld our 60-ft. Crank-up tower to the container. John thinks we shouldn't go that high, but a couple of sections (~20 feet each) of Rohn 45 would work - bolted to the container. That tower would be climbable, and would be a lasting substitute for the wooden poles. Another option is to trim the pole and put a Rohn tower around it. That would be climbable as well (but not as well as a container-attached tower).

Eric (AD6VT) added that our APRS digipeater on Mazourka has been acting up. We need to take a look at it when we're up there. Moreover, the digipeater would benefit from having its antenna mounted higher. It would also be good to inventory everything we have up there.

The discussion then swung to whether we could get a proper container up there for stability. No good ideas came to light. Another option is to better anchor the container that we have up there.

DMR: Noam (W6RT) asked if we want to replace it with a Bridgecom repeater, so that we can control our own destiny on connecting to the DMR global network. (Today we depend on a server in Reno that we don't control, and which went down recently for a couple of months.) Bill (W6WWY) reminded everyone that we've already approved this purchase. Terry (K6UN) will contact Bridgecom to get a quote and purchase the repeater.

VOAD

Eric (AD6VT) said that the next meeting is on April 25th.

Nightly Net

Dave (KO6ST) says that the net is rolling well, especially with our Clovis friends checking. The net remains at 1930, which seems to work well for everyone.

BHS Races

Noam (W6RT) reminded everyone that the races will run on 5/18, and that plenty of volunteers are needed, so that each station is staffed with 2-3 people. This is particularly important at the busier stations.

Bill (W6WWY) said he could help at closeout (around midnight), and Mike (KN6BYH) said he is available as well.

John (AD6NR) said that the timer up at Edison (Todd) had the same information John and Marilyn (W6MSO) had when they were up there, and it was posted to the negativesplit.io website. Does that make Edison redundant for a ham operator? (Noam will find out.)

Jon (NW6C) said the 4x4 club is also looking for recruits. John said they should all have GMRS.

Board Report

Terry (K6UN) said there is no update because the board has not met since the last club meeting (the board meets roughly once per quarter).

Items from the Floor

Noam (W6RT) asked Mike (KE6IWM) if the Zoom audio is better using the club's Bluetooth speakerphone and Mike said it is.

Jon (NW6C) has occasionally checked into the 900 MHz net, which is on Wednesdays at 1900 Arizona time (1900 PDT and 1800 PST). This works well with our 1930 net, as well as with the Edison net, which (when the link works) is on Thursdays at 2000.

Meeting adjourned at 19:49.

Noam Shendar (W6RT)

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