



August 13, 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 19:08. The meeting took place at the **new** Salvation Army in Bishop and on Zoom.

Number in attendance: 11. Self-introductions included: John AD6NR, Terry K6UN, Mike KE6IWM, Dave KO6ST, Jon NW6C, Bill W6QZY, Noam W6RT, Hank W6SX, Bill W6WWY, Amanda (Mammoth Tuff race director), and Bob (just passed his tech exam)..

Minutes

Financial Report

Terry (K6UN) reported income of \$15 for testing (in and out), \$30 for dues, and another \$50 (\$30 dues + donation). We spent \$96.70 on SCE. The ending balance is \$31,875.16. (Today we received another \$35 in dues - this will be seen in next month's report.)

Repeater Status

John (AD6NR) reported that this is a good subject. He went up to Silver to look at what is going on with our audio levels on all the VHF and UHF repeaters. The objective was to get the system back to where it was - every repeater links to every other repeater at the same audio level. Unfortunately, the test bed used on the mountain didn't preserve the setting that he configured in his shop. He will go up to Mazourka next.

Also, our voltage/current/temperature telemetry device on Mazourka got damaged by a lightning strike and is no longer being manufactured. However, the manufacturer called to say they were able to find one unit. For the long term, John would like to get 2 units of the next generation telemetry device (called the FlexSCADA Q5) plus probes, for a total of about \$1,700. The units also have 8 remotely controlled switches which would allow us to turn individual devices on or off (e.g., to conserve battery). Bill (W6QZY) added that this can be automated, e.g., so that certain devices are shut off during a power outage. A motion was introduced, seconded and passed unanimously to purchase these devices.

DMR Repeater Status

Bill (W6QZY) reported that the new DMR repeater is set up and working well, somewhat similar to how the previous one was set up (but not identical). A nice addition is a talk group (TG) that is called Owens Valley, that can be accessed from anywhere in the world. This is TG 313127.

APRS

On 8/24 Eric (AD6VT) will install the new TNC. To move the antenna to a higher spot, he estimates he will need 75' of extra coax. John (AD6NR) says there is 1/2" hard line up there that we can use as well.

Nightly Net

Dave (KO6ST) reported that things are going well. However, the Mammoth repeater has become inconsistent. On some evenings it's sounding quite rough. John (AD6NR) mentioned that we do not have good physical access to the repeater at Mammoth. Jon (NW6C) added that there are drainage issues on the roof, where the coax cables come in to the building. Bill (W6QZY) asked if this could be an issue with the signal coming in from Clovis and going through the inversion layer on the path to the top of Mammoth Mountain. Dave added that Gary (W6TVX) in Clovis often tells us we sound great, while he sounds rough to us. John suggested testing with Gary a couple of hours prior to the net, to see if the setting sun is having an effect.

VOAD

Eric (AD6VT) reported he was unable to attend the meeting.

Mammoth Tuff Bike Race

Amanda, the race director, reported that the 3rd annual race will take place on 9/14/2024, two weekends after Labor Day.

The course has one major change this year - one aid station is in a new location. This is because the long route will go east (not south). The former Chalk Bluff station will move closer to Blackrock Mine and Chalfant.

The race is also 18 miles shorter, which means the shifts will be shorter as well.

There will be swag again this year, as well as food/drink tickets for those who come to Mammoth. The race organization is also going to make a donation to the club.

Owens Gorge has cell service, and is therefore a lower priority for staffing.

Noam (W6RT) or Amanda (the race director) will share course maps and ride information with the volunteers. Those who expressed interest are: John (AD6NR). Jon, Dave, Bill and Terry as maybes.

FT8

Hank (W6SX) provided a live FT8 demo. He showed us what the FT8 software screen looks like (the software is called WSJT-X). The screen has a waterfall display showing many FT8 signals, each about 60 Hz wide. Each side of a QSO transmits for 15 seconds, then listens for 15 seconds. Hank attempted a live QSO with a ham in Canada (almost succeeded). Tried again with a 5-region call sign, and succeeded. Then he attempted contact with a great signal from São Paulo, Brazil (succeeded). After that, Hank called CQ, which was answered by a station from the 4-region.

Hank also showed us how changing bands in the software automatically changes frequencies on the radio (using CAT control).

Noam (W6RT) added that one's PC clock has to be very accurately set (within about a second of the atomic clock) or else this doesn't work. There are free software tools that make this possible.

Bill (W6QZY) asked if chat/messaging, even brief, can be inserted. Hank said it's not really possible. There is a software package called JS8Chat, which uses the exact same signal technology and is designed for chatting.

Call Hank at (760) 934-7665 if you want more guidance.

Board

Terry (K6UN) said the board has not met and therefore has no report.

Items from the Floor

John (AD6NR) is looking for one more volunteer for the Tioga Pass Run, Sunday, 9/8/24. Please contact him if interested. It's a fun morning on the road between Mono Lake and the Yosemite East Gate. Terry (K6UN) volunteered. He and John will try HF between the start and finish lines.

Bill (W6WWY) reported that Cedar Flats is not available for booking for next year's Field Day. We will instead gather at Jim's (N7IU) place in Fish Lake Valley..

Terry asked for \$200 for the Salvation Army for our use of their facilities (motion passed).

Meeting adjourned at 20:09.

Noam Shendar (W6RT)

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