



September 10, 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 19:01. The meeting took place at the **new** Salvation Army in Bishop and on Zoom.

Number in attendance: 17. Self-introductions included: John AD6NR, Terry K6UN, Everett KD6IXK (and son), Mike KE6IWM, Dave KG6JZJ, Rieker KO6ARH (and daughter "Monkey"), Matt KO6BNV, Dave KO6ST, Alex N5FPV, Jon NW6C, Bill W6QZY, Noam W6RT, Gary W6TVX, and Bill W6WWY, and Amanda (Mammoth Tuff race director).

Minutes

Financial Report

Terry (K6UN) reported income of \$155 from Cactus (\$120) and dues. We spent \$89.38 on SCE and donated \$200 to the Salvation Army \$200 for use of their facilities. The ending balance was \$30,094.78.

Repeater Status

John (AD6NR) reported that we are integrating the two new SCADA data boxes (remote monitors). Bill (W6QZY) added that the one on Mazourka is a replacement for one that had failed. Also, we now have the capability to have the repeaters failover to stand-alone repeating in the event that the microwave links fail. We can also use these devices to log in remotely and unlink the repeaters.

John then recommended that the unity gain omnidirectional antenna on Mazourka be replaced, and specifically with a 9dB-gain Sinclair 4-bay dual-omni heavy duty model. The lead time is 3-12 weeks, depending on a number of factors, which means we aren't likely to put it up before winter prevents access to Mazourka. Bill (W6QZY) mentioned that we can also get an antenna that is a combination of VHF and UHF that looks the same. There is also the question of where to mount it - one of our 3 poles, or a new tower? - but we don't have to decide that now. John would also like to buy and donate to the club a state-of-the-art controller (the same as the ones Cactus uses) to replace the one on Silver. This will remove the most critical single point of failure remaining in our system, and keep our system running even in the event of several failure scenarios. There are other benefits, including proper ID for all repeaters, getting away from in-band linking for Mammoth, and an easy way to restore the system to a known state, and more.

Last, John would like to make sure the club owns all of its equipment, and get away from having the club own only some pieces of equipment while other components are owned by individual club members.

DMR Repeater Status

Bill (W6QZY) reported that nothing has changed. It would be good to put the local repeater ID into time slot 2 (TS2), and use that instead of talkgroup 2 (TG2). That way, others outside the valley can speak with us (e.g., if one of us is out of town).

APRS

Noam (W6RT) reported that Eric (AD6VT) went up to Mazourka over the weekend to install the new TNC. It's working well. We would still like to move the unity gain antenna to a higher location on one of the poles.

Nightly Net

Dave (KO6ST) reported that the net is running very well. Participation is up, with a start of 4-5 people, and building up from there. He is also excited to get a new antenna for Mazourka. Jon (NW6C) proposed a remotely-controlled A/B switch for 2 antennas, to help us isolate the noise problems.

VOAD

Noam (W6RT) observed that the next meeting will take place in October.

Tioga Pass Run - 9/8/2024

John (AD6NR) reported that it went well - boring, really. The only issue was that Jon (NW6C) went off the air. Marilyn (W6MSO) had to drive up to him to let him know his radio was not working (the problem was an accidental brushing of the volume knob). Even though there were only 4 people (John, Marilyn, Jon, and Denver KN6ZYR), everything went well.

Mammoth Tuff - 9/14/2024

Amanda, the race director, reminded us that the long route changed, and instead of Fish Slough we have a Blackrock Mine Rd. location. We need someone there and at Chidago Canyon.

Volunteers: Jon, Mike, Aaron, Bill (maybe), John, Dave (Blackrock), John (Chidago), Terry (maybe)

Board

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

Items from the Floor

Bill (W6QZY) sent out some test emails to confirm that our notification emails addresses (e.g., for FCC or USFS notifications) are working and not getting blocked.

Rieker (KO6ARH) updated us that our Facebook page has 9 new followers, including from June Lake, Mammoth Lakes, and LA. He also added scanner news.

Meeting adjourned at 19:55.

Noam Shendar (W6RT)

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