



## General Meeting Minutes

**Date: February 9, 2019, 10:00**

Location: Offices of Luhdorff and Scalmanini, 500 First St, Woodland, CA

### **Attendees:**

Joe DeAngelo AG6QO, Ken Wilson K6WLS, Bill Gustavson K6BIL, Bob Jordan KI6BZR, Dennis Kelleher KI6HHA, Darrel Horst KM6KFW, John Prenton W6FAQ, Darin Reed KM6ZRS, Doreen Appert KE6ROR, Mick Bowlin W6KRY, Dave Edmonds KM6ZRR, Paul Jordan KJ6GCP, Damian Appert AB6WB

Meeting was called to order at 10:04, and attendees introduced themselves.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Although treasurer Doug KK6LDS was not present, he previously provided Joe the monthly financial statement, which Joe passed out to members present. This statement shows the current account balance as of January 31, 2019 was \$4,367.04. The statement also reflected that there were net expenditures of \$24.71 for utilities during January 2019 for utilities.

### **Secretary's Report:**

Paul KJ6CGP provided the update that the minutes for the November 10, 2018 general membership meeting were posted on the club website, [www.barkradio.org](http://www.barkradio.org).

## Old Business

### **Repeater Site Damage and Repair Status:**

Ken K6WLS provided the update that he and Bill K6KN, made a recent trip to the repeater site, in which a plan for the new internal ground system was put together. Bill also used a spectrum analyzer to take measurements to help determine the source of noise and interference noticed during the repeater operation, especially on the Sunday night nets. He then put together a summary of this analysis as well as a diagnostic plan to pinpoint and resolve the cause of this interference, which he detailed later on in the meeting.

Ken also mentioned that he installed the previously purchased box on the outside of the repeater vault, which will serve as an entry point for exterior antenna leads. He stated that equipment status is such



that repairs can be made periodically when access to the repeater site is possible, without requiring everything to be finished in one trip.

Joe clarified for new members that necessity for these repairs was because of the damage to the repeater site caused by the County Fire. He noted that due to numerous generous donations, the club was in a good position to rebuild to an even stronger setup than prior to the fire.

Bill started by mentioning that the noise notably heard during the weekly nets began after the fire. He explained this could have been caused by all shifting of equipment as temporary repairs were made to keep the repeater operational, while the long-term solutions were being planned out. Bill was able to conclude that a majority of the interference was coming into the input of the repeater. He noted that there are no band-pass filters on the input frequency, as Motorola recommends. Bill indicated that he would be willing to purchase one of these filters as part of a long-term solution to interference reduction.

His plan to find the source of the interference is to use a spectrum analyzer at various points in the antenna system, starting at the repeater receiver, and moving back towards the antenna. Once the interference/noise is detected, this will help determine its source. Bill also suggested doing similar tests on the transmit side of the packet and BBS systems to determine what, if any, noise is stemming from either system.

While Joe applauded the research and testing plan Bill laid out, he did caution that it might be beneficial to wait until all repairs are complete and the permanent systems are installed prior to this testing, given that the current set up is understandably temporary and not ideal.

Ken proposed that given the large monetary and equipment donations, the club has sufficient funding for purchasing the filter needed for the input of the repeater, despite Bill's very generous offer, to which Joe agreed. Joe estimated that the cost would be roughly \$1,800 depending on which filter was ultimately chosen.

Joe summarized the plan as being to get the antenna hard lines installed, move the receive antenna back to the tower, and then move forward with the additional plans.

Bill K6BIL took a moment to thank Ken and Bill K6KN for the numerous hours they have dedicated to the repair efforts.

Joe emphasized the importance of ensuring a good grounding system is in place once the exterior antenna set up is complete. There was discussion of the various challenges of establishing this grounding



system. The main points of this discussion were the uncertainty of the extent of the existing system, in addition to the difficulty of drilling into the rock to add more ground rods for additional protection.

Joe proposed discussing the purchase of the cavity filters at the upcoming Board of Directors meeting.

#### **BLM Lease Renewal and site plan:**

Joe mentioned that we had previously worked on the renewal for the BLM lease, which is set to expire January 1, 2023. Bill mentioned that given management changes he had not been able to make contact with anyone from BLM to discuss this, but indicated that an opportunity could be possible in the coming weeks.

## **New Business**

#### **2019 General meeting schedule:**

Joe discussed that given the issues that arose regarding our use of the Winters EOC as a meeting and test session site, the May 11 General meeting has been moved to May 18 at 500 1st Street in Woodland, and the May 11 test session is cancelled. In addition, the Nov 9 General meeting and test session will be held at 500 Main Street Woodland, not the originally planned Winters EOC. The current schedule is as follows:

Sat. May 18, 10am-noon - 500 1st St, Woodland

Sat. Aug 10, 10am-noon - 500 1st St, Woodland

Sat. Nov 9, 10am-noon - 500 1st St, Woodland

FCC Test Sessions will be held the morning of the same days:

Sat. May 11, 7:30am - 9:30am - \*\*\* CANCELLED \*\*\*

Sat. Aug 10, 7:30am - 9:30am - LDS Chapel on Pioneer, Woodland

Sat. Nov 9, 7:30am - 9:30am - 500 1st St, Woodland

#### **Letter of Appreciation:**

Damian suggested writing a letter of appreciation to the board of directors of the building for letting the club use the facilities for BARK meetings and test sessions. Bill K6BIL thought this was a great idea and that it would be well received.



**Backup Repeater:**

Mick brought up the discussion of the backup repeater and inquired on its current availability if an emergency were to arise. Bill K6KN explained that transmit amplifier is not functioning on the backup repeater that is similar to the current repeater in use. He mentioned that the fusion repeater needs a controller interface, but that it could be used in its current state if absolutely necessary.

**Technical presentation volunteer for the May meeting:**

Joe asked for volunteers to do a technical presentation at the next general membership meeting in May. John offered to do a presentation on emergency preparation. There was also a discussion about the possibility of putting additional workshops on non-meeting days. An example of such a workshop was a demonstration on how to build and/or set up antennas. There was an agreement that this was a good idea, and Joe mentioned he would get in touch with Darrel about when this might take place.

**Adjournment of the business portion of the meeting:**

Business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

**Presentations:**

Damian gave an excellent presentation on reflected waves, dB loss, and power transfer, and explained how these affect radio equipment's performance.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30am.