



General Meeting Minutes

Date: November 9, 2019, 10:00

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

Attendees:

Joe DeAngelo AG6QO, Mick Bowlin W6KRY, John Prenton W6FAQ, Bud Hubert KC6WIE, Lew Harris WB6LEW, Mike Melendez KM6WRX, Doreen Appert KE6ROR, Ken Wilson K6WLS, Paul Jordan KJ6GCP, Bill Gustavson K6BIL, Dale Dennis KJ6HHY, Damian Appert AB6WB, Bill Ragsdale K6KN, Bruce Marcum W6RBM, Doug Hollowell KK6LDS

Meeting was called to order at 10:05am.

Treasurer's Report:

Although Treasurer Doug KK6LDS was not present at the outset of the meeting, Paul KJ6GCP provided a balance summary of the 10/31/2019 financial statement, which showed the current balance of the main account of \$3,940.91 and a balance of the PayPal account of \$196.36, for a combined balance of \$4,137.27. Once Doug joined the meeting later on, he did pass around copies of the financial report, in addition to mentioning that the check for the annual insurance payment had yet to be cashed, which he indicated he would be following up with the insurance company to advise on.

Secretary's Report:

Paul KJ6GCP and Joe AG6QO provided the update that the minutes for the August 10, 2019 general membership meeting were posted on the club website, www.barkradio.org. Joe asked for any objections to the minutes that were posted, to which there was none.

ARES Invitation:

Dale KJ6HHY extended an invitation for those not already ARES members to join. He encouraged those interested to visit the website www.yoloares.org. Dale also mentioned that he had paper copies of the membership application with him if anyone was interested in joining right away. He explained that there is a Monday night ARES net that occurs on the BARK repeater three weeks per month, on the N6QDY repeater once per month.



Old Business

County Fire Repairs and Repeater Site Status and Plans:

Ken K6WLS provided the update that he, Joe and Bill K6KN, have made several trips to the repeater site. During these trips, among other repairs, the hardline going to the top of the tower was replaced. He also mentioned that he and Joe had installed a new antenna on top of the tower. The receive antenna had previously had been on the roof of the repeater vault, which had been causing interference that had been observed for some time. In addition, extra coax cable and old filter cavities were removed from inside the repeater vault. Various members universally agreed that after these changes, the signal and sound quality of the repeater was better than it had been since prior to the County Fire that damaged equipment.

Joe mentioned that the interior grounding system needs to be finished, and that new hard line needs to be connected to the packet antennas. This would complete all the repairs that were necessary after the equipment was damaged from the County Fire.

Proposal for new repeater call sign:

Bill K6KN provided the update that the board of directors had approved exploring the option of changing the call sign of the repeater to be shorter and more memorable/meaningful.

EchoLink hand off request:

Joe reminded the members that at the previous meeting, Ken had requested that someone volunteer to take over responsibility for the club's EchoLink set up that he had been maintaining for several years. Joe mentioned that this would require an internet connection and a continuous power supply, in addition to the equipment that Ken would be providing. Ken added that once the equipment is up and running, it takes very little maintenance to keep it functioning, aside from occasional internet and power outages, which would require a reboot.

Gesture of appreciation proposal for Ray W6PUX:

Joe mentioned that at the previous meeting Doug had proposed the idea that the club do something as a gesture of appreciation for the generous donations that Ray Vincent had made after the County Fire. While members could not recall exactly what was discussed at the previous meeting, Doug agreed to follow up with Ray to get an idea of what would be best for the club to do.*



* Sadly, Doug discovered in the days after the meeting that Ray had recently passed away at the age of 97.

BLM Lease Renewal and site plan:

Bill K6BIL provided the update that he had made three attempts to contact the BLM office by phone, all of which were unsuccessful, to discuss the renewal of the club's lease, which is currently set to expire in January 2023. He indicated that he had not been able to actually visit the office location in Ukiah, but would continue to follow up via phone. Joe mentioned that while the BLM would likely be in touch with the club at some point to discuss the Site Plan they had provided last year, it was in the club's best interest to be proactive in working with the BLM to resolve any potential challenges that could arise.

Equipment inventory:

Joe mentioned that he was under the impression that the club was required to submit an inventory of the equipment at the repeater site to the BLM annually, though he could not recall any reminders of this requirement or the due date having been sent. Joe stated that since there were no changes to the equipment list (aside from replacements that were made), he would submit the same inventory as the previous year.

New Business

FCC test session:

Ken provided the update that there were three individuals that tested for a new or upgraded license, two of which were successful. One person successfully obtained a Technician license, in addition to Mike KM6WR upgrading his license from Technician to General.

New repeater purchase:

Joe mentioned at the previous board of directors meeting, that there was a discussion about how the club did not have a functioning backup repeater, which would prove problematic if anything were to happen to the existing one. Because of this, the board recommended and approved the purchase of a new Bridgecom repeater, which would be used as the production unit, with the existing repeater functioning as a backup. Joe indicated that this new repeater should be in the clubs possession within a week, at which time testing would be done to ensure proper functionality prior to installing it at the repeater site. Ken mentioned that in the event of a failure of the production repeater, switching to the backup unit only requires moving a few connections to the other unit, which most anyone could perform.



Election - Board of directors (five open positions):

Bill K6BIL explained that the club members elect board of directors to two-year terms, and that the board of directors appoint the club officers. He noted that there were five directors' positions expiring at the end of 2019. These positions are currently held by the below individuals:

- Joe AG6QO
- Mick W6KRY
- Bill K6KN
- Doug KK6LDS
- Damian AB6WB

Bill specified that due to personal matters, Mick was not interested in running for re-election as a director or appointment as club Vice President. He indicated that Bud KC6WIE had volunteered to be a nominee to fill this vacancy.

Given that all other incumbents were interested in renewing their terms with no additional nominees, the members present unanimously verbally re-elected these individuals to their positions, in addition to electing Bud to fill the position previously held by Mick.

Joe explained to the newly elected Bud that the board of directors meet on the second Saturday of the month preceding each quarterly general membership meeting. The current location for these meetings is the Country Waffles restaurant in Woodland, however that is subject to change if the board chooses to do so.

Technical Presentation for February meeting:

Bill K6KN offered to do a presentation on measurement of a transceiver's quality.

KE6YUV opportunities and issues:

Bill K6KN provided a hand out that he had put together, detailing all the current opportunities and issues the club is currently experiencing. This list can be found at the end of these minutes. He explained that while none of the items raised were overly pressing, he indicated that most had been brought up previously, yet little to no action had been taken to address them. One of his goals to consolidating everything into a handout and discussing them at this meeting was to get volunteers to help drive and see these items to completion. Bill mentioned that he saw an opportunity in presenting these items to



other radio clubs in the area, with the intention of getting a wider pool of volunteers, in addition to establishing a networking relationship with these clubs. Joe expressed his concerns with inviting non-members to the repeater site, given the club's standing as a tenant. Any potential damage to the access road or repeater site caused by visitors would be the club's responsibility, and could jeopardize the club's agreement with the landowners. Bill clarified that his idea was that a club member with the keys and lock combinations necessary for site access would always accompany any non-members visiting the site. Bill K6BIL suggested the idea of working with other repeater clubs in the area to form an informal collaborative association. This could allow for valuable knowledge sharing and project assistance.

Mike KM6WR initiated a discussion about repeater site maintenance planning, emphasizing that a more formal plan or schedule that is published for all members to access would be beneficial in getting volunteers to help out. Currently, only three or four members are active in the maintenance, with the rest of the members mostly unaware when trips to the repeater site are planned. In addition, Mike mentioned that being new to the club, he would like to volunteer to help, but felt unfamiliar with how to go about doing so. Bill K6KN mentioned a smartphone/computer app called Slack, which could be used as a communication forum, which the club could use to discuss repeater maintenance plans. Joe mentioned that as the Trustee, Ken should be the coordinator for any trips to the repeater site. Overall, the consensus was that a more formal plan/schedule would be beneficial, with the people running point on each topic having a document on the club's communication forum of choice (DropBox/Slack), where members could track the progress of that item.

Appreciation for Joe and Mick's contributions:

Bill K6BIL thanked Joe and Mick for their contributions as club President and Vice President, to which the club gave a round of applause in appreciation.

2020 General meeting locations:

Damian mentioned the discussion brought up at the previous meeting about potential locations for future general membership meetings, given Bill K6BIL's retirement. He mentioned that he had a discussion with a director of the Woodland Library and had tentatively scheduled the February 9, 2019 meeting at that location. Paul and Damian agreed to confirm this arrangement with the library and provide an update to the club.

Adjournment of the business portion of the meeting:

Business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.



Presentations:

Bill K6KN gave an excellent presentation on filter tuning.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50am.

KE6YUV Opportunities and Issues

BLM Lease renewal - Bill K6BIL to follow up on this

Antenna and feed line replacement/relocation. - mostly completed with the exception of the antenna going to the packet station

Ground array outside. What is in place? Trace with a metal detector? Plan and install. - Joe lead on this

Grounding bus bars around, inside the vault. - Joe lead on this

Add dual bandpass Rx filter. Telewave TWPC 1405-2.

Reconfigure bench layout. Rack mounts? - Dale lead on this

Review and complete the battery and solar backup capability. Power distribution. - Joe and Bill K6BIL leads on this

Put the new repeater on burn-in at ground level. Characterize it (document specs.) Plan phase in. - Joe lead on this

Update our dual mode Yaesu DR-1X Fusion repeater in stages: 1) apply firmware updates, 2) install the timing module, 3) develop an external test panel, 4) bring on line. - Bill K6KN lead on this

Research moving to a short vanity call sign. - Bill K6KN lead on this.