



BARK Newsletter

BARK Board Members

Bill Gustavson	KG6GNI	Pres	04-07
Ken Wilson	KI6BWM	Vice Pres	06-09
Gary Ford	N6GF	Secy/Treas	04-07
Jack Hendrick	K6JAC	Director	06-09
Hal Stoner Jr.	WB6KXV	Director	05-08
Val Thomsen	W6LED	Director	05-08
Gary Ford	N6GF	Trustee	

Minutes from 2006 Annual Meeting

The BARK annual meeting was held on Saturday, October 14, 2006 at the Red Cross building in Woodland. President Hal Stoner (WB6KXV) called the meeting to order at 9:59am. The nine members present were Ken (KI6BWM), Bob (KI6BZR), Rex (KA6CSG), Secretary/Treasurer Gary (N6GF), Director Bill (KG6GNI), Director Jack (K6JAC), President Hal (WB6KXV), Director Val (W6LED), and Al (K6QDC). With twenty-two proxies, we met our quorum.

Secretary/Treasurer Gary (N6GF) reviewed the minutes from the 2005 meeting and presented a Treasurer's report. Our financial balance was about the same as that of the previous year.

Gary also reviewed status of the membership. The number of members was the same as last year, 54. Our membership has been nearly constant for eight years, with roughly equal numbers of people joining and leaving each year.

Members discussed club finances and budget. The establishment of a fund to cover major expenses was considered, but it was decided that the current method of asking for donations when major expenses occur was meeting our needs. In discussing our dues, it was noted our dues were

much lower than those of most of the clubs in our area and we had not raised them in many years. After some discussion, Bill (KGGNI) moved, Jack (K6JAC) seconded, and the members approved raising the dues to \$30 per year for both individual and family memberships. To allow for adequate notice, the change will be announced in the March 2007 newsletter and the new dues will go into effect on May 1, 2007. Gary will place the due expiration date for each member on the roster available on the web.

We then discussed capital improvements at the repeater. Our first need is for new backup batteries, as the current batteries are about six years old and they are not holding charge well. The membership approved the purchase of new batteries, with Bill (KG6GNI) and Jack (K6JAC) agreeing to make the arrangements to pick them up and get them installed at the site. There was discussion regarding the possibility of acquiring solar panels to charge the batteries, estimated to cost about \$150 per battery.

We discussed the need for a newer, more reliable 440 MHz repeater. There is a possibility that we could acquire a used Motorola repeater with 75W output. The repeater would have to be recrystalled for our frequency pair and a PL decoder installed. Some changes in power supply and wiring would

be required. Jack (K6JAC) will contact Blaine (KG6LCJ) about the availability of a used repeater and the costs of conversion and installation.

The BARK website and domain name are up for renewal. Members approved renewing both for another five years at a cost of \$90. Gary (N6GF) and Jack (K6JAC) will work on the renewal.

The possibility of an agreement for collaboration and cooperation between BARK and the Yolo County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (YOLOARES) was discussed. The membership was strongly supportive of a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two organizations that was prepared and presented by Bill (KG6GNI). The membership approved the draft, which is to be drawn up in final form and signed by the BARK president. The MOU establishes a cooperative relationship between BARK and YOLOARES. The BARK repeaters will be designated as a Tactical Net frequency for YOLOARES in an emergency. Bill (KG6GNI) will be the BARK representative to YOLOARES.

The next order of business was to elect two board members. The terms of Pete (KA6SHE) and Jack (K6JAC) had expired. Both had said they could serve again, but Pete said that he could step aside if someone else was interested. Ken (KI6BWM) and Jack (K6JAC) were nominated and approved by acclamation.

The new board then considered the officer positions. Gary (N6GF) agreed to continue to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer. Bill (KG6GNI) was nominated to serve as President by Hal (WB6KXV), with Val (W6LED) seconding. Ken (KI6BWM) was nominated to serve as Vice President by Bill (KG6GNI), seconded by Val (W6LED). The officers were approved by acclamation.

In new business, Bill (KG6GNI) proposed the preparation of monthly or bi-monthly email newsletters. He also proposed mentoring presentations on the web on issues such as packet or CW. There were discussions of emergency communications.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.

New Batteries Installed

On Saturday, November 18, 2006, a group including Bill (KG6GNI), Ken (KI6BWM), Gary (N6GF) and Jack (K6JAC) went up to the repeater site to install the new backup batteries that were authorized for purchase during the annual meeting. Bill and Ken had purchased the deep-cycle batteries earlier in the week, at a total cost of \$283.75. They pulled the old batteries were out of the concrete block bin at the back of the building, dropped in the new batteries and prepared and installed new power cables. They also did some cleanup in the repeater room, but more work is needed.

BARK Directors Meeting

The BARK Directors met at Don's Diner in Woodland on Saturday, March 10, 2007, called to order by President Bill Gustavson, KG6GNI, at about 9am. Attending were Vice President Ken Wilson, KI6BWM; Secretary/Treasurer Gary Ford, N6GF; Directors Hal Stoner, WB6KXV; Jack Hendrick, K6JAC; Val Thomsen, W6LED; and member Pete Perata, KA6SHE.

The minutes of the October 2006 general membership meeting, as posted on the BARK website, were approved.

Gary, N6GF, provided a treasurer's report. He explained that member dues were adequate each year to offset our major annual expenses for electricity and insurance. We have annual income and expenses of about \$800 and we maintain a balance of about \$1,400. Our expenditures are expected to be the same for 2007. While it is good that we are breaking even, this means that we do not have excess funds that we could apply to upgrading our repeater systems.

There was a suggestion that we have a uniform dues collection date. Gary commented that while using the month of initial dues payment as the collection date is somewhat complicated for him to manage, it has been easier for members. If a member wishes to adjust his or her collection date to January, they could pay an additional two dollars per month of adjustment. It was agreed that the current process would be continued.

We had a long discussion of capital improvement. Bill presented copies of a draft of a list of equipment owned by BARK, with the thought of estimating both a date and cost of replacement. The directors agreed that our most pressing current need was for a new 440 repeater. We approved a plan to announce on the net and by email that we were taking donations for a new repeater, with the intention of buying and installing a new repeater by late June of this year. Several possible repeater suppliers were suggested and several directors offered to gather detailed information on specifications and costs. Hal and Jack suggested a Yaesu/Vertex repeater, with the possibility that it would be self-contained with a power supply and battery backup capability. Gary pointed out that an additional battery would be needed, as the current 440 repeater is not on our battery backup system.

Bill announced the creation of a repeater maintenance committee. Jack was asked and he agreed to lead the committee. Jack will recruit four people who would be able to get to the repeater site on short notice to resolve problems. Access to a 4-wheel drive vehicle is needed, due to the condition of the road. Jack will also prepare a short list of items to check during each visit to the site. Bill noted that several groups are gaining access to the road to the site. Ken recommended that we install a lock on the battery box. Bill will look into having a new sign made for the door, with a phone number so that we could be notified by anyone who observed any problems.

Bill provided copies of the executed memorandum of understanding between BARK and Yolo County ARES that had previously been approved. The BARK 2m repeater will serve as the ARES secondary repeater in the event of an emergency.

Bill provided Ken and Gary with copies of the materials in his President's file. Ken reviewed some of the documents to discover that our non-profit status is 503(c)(4), civic leagues or social welfare organizations. As 503(c)(3) is the more common status, we will need to research the conditions and benefits of our status.

We had a short discussion of the possibility of email newsletters and expanded features on our

website. Gary will determine the file size quota for our website and see if we are able to run interactive scripts.

The next meeting will be scheduled in June, with the primary topic to be the purchase of a 440 repeater.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

The President's Corner

Just a Repeater Club?

Well, here we are in the early months of 2007 and I find myself not only reflecting back on all that we have accomplished as a club, but the numerous items we still have yet to accomplish. I have heard several times that we are just a "repeater club" but when I see the all things that have been and still are on our "agenda," it makes me realize that we are far more than "just a repeater club." As with any organization, it takes active members to ensure that everything runs smoothly, and we should be proud that we have many members that work very hard to keep the club and repeater equipment operating on an even keel.

As you may or may not be aware, there has been a lot going on behind the scenes. We have replaced the antenna tower (destroyed when the tower collapsed from vandalism), replaced the emergency power storage batteries and associated wiring (the batteries were near the end of their useful service life and the mice had gnawed on the wiring), and replaced the packet radio (the unit just stopped transmitting).

Want to Help!!

For those of you who want to join in, there is so much more to do! The present club project consists of replacing the 440 repeater. The unit is slowly failing and it is down to just a few watts of power output. As of this writing, we are awaiting delivery of a new Hi-Pro unit, which will complement our 2-meter Hi-Pro. That should put us in the position of having an array of equipment with many more years of useful service.

Of course, all equipment will ultimately fail, so we must do everything we can to delay that process. One way of accomplishing that is to perform preventative maintenance on the equipment. In that light, Jack, K6JAC, has taken the lead and now heads the Repeater Maintenance Committee. Jack will cross-train any club member wanting to help out as to what to look for, how to do it and when to do it. Jack is formulating a standardized inspection sheet for the equipment so we can start tracking what maintenance work is performed and a schedule to accomplish future maintenance. To assist with website maintenance, some of the club members are also being cross-trained to assist in keeping the website up to date. Ready to help? Well join in! You will enjoy not only learning something new about Ham radio, but will enjoy the comradery. Besides the view of the valley from the repeater station is awesome – you will want to bring your camera and come back, again and again.

All Things Must Fail Some Day!

Like all things that are man-made, they fail after some use. There is no way to plan when something will fail but you can plan for a failure. How do we plan? One way is by anticipating how long something should last (like a set of 40,000 mile tires), and setting aside enough money to replace that item when failure does occur. Accordingly, the club’s Board is developing a service life listing for all club equipment, placing a value on it, and setting forth a plan to pay for future replacement of that item. The first step was to slightly raise the annual dues, a decision that was put into effect the first of the year. The next step will be to finalize and implement the service life plan. More on that later.

And So Does Life

As it is with life, sometimes all the great feelings of accomplishment are tempered by life’s harsh realities, as was the case last year with the passing of Al Bergstrom, KD7AUF. Those of us that knew Al, affectionately referred to him as Big Al, which was not only a reflection of his being, but of Al’s big heartedness. Though he suffered quietly with physical disabilities, we will remember him as one who played life’s game, looking always at the good things in everyone. For

that single attribute alone Al, you will always be remembered as the epitome of a winner. We will miss you. God’s speed on your journey.

Membership News

Since the September 2006 newsletter, we lost four members while gaining no new members. This drops the total membership to 53.

Several memberships have expired since the last newsletter. Please check the mailing label on this newsletter to find your membership expiration date. If your membership has expired, or will expire soon, the date will be highlighted.

Note that the annual dues are now \$30 for both for an individual or a family membership. Please send renewal checks, made out to BARK, to Gary Ford, N6GF, at the return address on this newsletter. If I do not receive your dues by early June, I will send a reminder.

You are encouraged to invite other hams to join the club. Just have them send their dues to the return address on this newsletter and to provide their name, address, and call sign.

Financial Report

The following is the report of financial activity for the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2006:

Balance 7/06	\$1,808.26
Income:	
Dues	\$547.00
Miscellaneous	\$30.29
Expenses:	
Operating	\$873.74
Correspondence	\$35.17
Bank	\$24.00
Current Balance	\$1,452.64

The primary expense was our liability insurance, with its annual premium of \$327, and our utility bills, included in operating expenses.

Miscellaneous income includes a donation by KF6MD.

BARK Membership Roster
April 2007

Callsign	Name	Address	City	Zip	St
KI6ATE	John Gustavson	1339 Harley Way	Folsom	95630	
W6BEM	Ed Lar Rieu	1753 Orion Way	Sacramento	95864	
N6BHX	Jim Brunk	514 Palms Dr.	Martinez	94553	
KA6BTU	Cliff Simes	P.O. Box 906	Dixon	95620	
KI6BWM	Kenneth Wilson	637 Fairview Drive	Woodland	95695	
KI6BZR	Bob Jordan	36588 County Road 21	Woodland	95695	
KA6CSG	Rex Mathews	2332 Edinburgh Drive	Elverta	95626	
N7DTW	Sam Bledsoe	18080 County Rd 70	Brooks	95606	
K6FLA	Fred Anderson	12296 Stone Canyon Ct.	Paradise	95969	
N6FYM	Bill Warren	1901 University Ave.	Sacramento	95825	
N6GF	Gary Ford	226 Diablo Ave.	Davis	95616	TR
KG6GNI	Bill Gustavson	1733 Tehama Dr.	Woodland	95695	
KF6IMS	Mike Bruss	24524 Co. Rd. 95	Davis	95616	
W6ION	Ione Hendrick	19409 Co. Rd. 93	Woodland	95695	
K6JAC	Jack Hendrick	19409 Co. Rd. 93	Woodland	95695	
W6JJC	Jack Chechowitz	9792 Red Cedar Circle	Sacramento	95827	
N6KLB	Rick Littlefield	1709 Bidwell Place	Woodland	95695	
N6KMH	Carl Valdrow	1136 Princeton Place	Davis	95616	
KC6KWP	Robert Fischer	807 Cleveland St.	Woodland	95695	
WB6KXV	Hal Stoner Jr.	8320 Cranford Way	Citrus Heights	95610	
KM6LC	Harvey DeBoer	2701 Klamath Dr.	Rocklin	95765	
KG6LCJ	Blaine Cassandra	1285 Stratford Ave.	Dixon	95620	
W6LED	Val Thomsen	2562 Stoney Creek Cir.	Acampo	95220	
N6LGE	Jean Brunk	514 Palms Dr.	Martinez	94553	
KE6MBL	James Robb	1313 Sequoia Pl.	Davis	95616	
KF6MD	Dale Lingenfelter	1951 Grand Pheasant Ln	Lincoln	95648	
W6MMG	Alex Newbold	2712 Belmont Cyn	Belmont	94002	
KF6NOH	Sheryl Appert	11572 Pyrites Court	Gold River	95670	
K6QDC	Al Lindquist	808 San Tomas	Davis	95616	LM
N6QOX	Sue Littlefield	1709 Bidwell Place	Woodland	95695	
WA6QPW	Mary Ann Harral	P. O. Box 175	Bethel Island	94511	
W6QPV	Rose Jolly	4618 Crestridge Rd.	Fair Oaks	95628	
KF6QZB	Jason Littlefield	1709 Bidwell Place	Woodland	95695	
KE6ROR	Doreen Appert	P.O. Box 222	Dunnigan	95937	
W6RWI	Jim Jolly	4618 Crestridge Rd.	Fair Oaks	95628	
KA6SHE	Pete Perata	50 Cora Court	Walnut Creek	94596	LM
KG6SJT	Greg Kruckewitt	3344 Chesapeake Bay	Davis	95616	
KF6SML	Mark Anderson	7100 Shoreline Dr. #42	Stockton	95219	
KG6SWR	Connie Daniels	P.O. Box 144	Rumsey	95679	
KG6UEY	Bill Gustavson	1733 Tehama Drive	Woodland	95695	
WA6UIM	Barry Lar Rieu	P.O. Box 2966	Gardnerville, NV	89410	
K6USS	Robert Kawahara	3621 Forni Road	Placerville	95667	
KF6VFF	Eric Bergstrom	5019 Combsville Rd.	Napa	94558	
AB6WB	Damian Appert	P.O. Box 222	Dunnigan	95937	
KC7WCE	Zola Bergstrom	7600 Knoxville Rd	Napa	94558	
KG6WXG	Robert Tate	235 Hollow Oak Drive	Cohasset	95973	
AC6XQ	Gene Luhdorff	6449 Laguna Mirage Ln	Elk Grove	95758	
AC6YC	Jim Daniels	PO Box 144	Rumsey	95679	
WB6YCL	Harry Fredericks	22375 Co. Rd. 88	Winters	95694	LM
KC6YFG	David Nishikawa	39938 Sharon Ave.	Davis	95616	
WB6YNM	Al Harral	P.O. Box 175	Bethel Island	94511	
AB6ZI	Douglas Appert	11572 Pyrites Court	Gold River	95670	

NM: New member since September 2006; LM: Life member; TR: Trustee

BARK Repeaters

Band	Input	Output	PL in/out
2m	146.37	146.97	123.0/123.0
70cm	449.10	444.10	71.9/-

Weekly Net

BARK Tuesday Night Net: Tuesdays, 7:30pm local time, net control rotating, 2m repeater.

BARK Website

www.bark2m.com

BARK Patches

BARK fabric patches are available by sending \$6 (payable to BARK) to Gary Ford, N6GF, 226 Diablo Ave., Davis, CA 95616

BARK Newsletter Contributions

Contributions to the *BARK Newsletter* are welcome and encouraged. Submit material to Gary, N6GF, by mail using the address given in the roster, on the air on either of the repeaters, or by email to fordge@pacbell.net.

Deadline for September 2007: August 15, 2007

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c/o Gary Ford, N6GF
226 Diablo Ave.
Davis, CA 95616