



BARK Newsletter

BARK Board Members

Bill Gustavson	KG6GNI	Pres	07-10
Ken Wilson	KI6BWM	Vice Pres	09-12
Gary Ford	N6GF	Secy/Treas	07-10
Jack Hendrick	K6JAC	Director	09-12
Bob Jordan	KI6BZR	Director	08-11
Ione Hendrick	W6ION	Director	08-11
Erika Refsland	KI6PDZ	Assoc Dir	07-10
Gary Ford	N6GF	Trustee	

Vol. 38, No. 1

Berryessa Amateur Radio Klub

March 2010

Change in Weekly Net Schedule

An important notice to those members that join us on the Tuesday night net: beginning March 21, the BARK net will be held on Sunday evenings at 1930 hours. On the remaining Tuesday nets, this change in days will be announced. After the net has moved to Sunday, for several weeks reminders will be given on Tuesdays at 1930 to alert members to the change in days.

It is our hope that this change will promote participation in the net. Many members indicated that they would be more readily available to check into the net on Sunday evenings. This net will be followed by the BARK Packet net which begins at 2000 hours. For information on using packet radio, the club website offers some great information. Hopefully you will find yourself addicted to this very useful and interesting form of Ham communication

New Website

Club member Greg Kruckewitt, KG6SJT, has been working very hard to create a new BARK website. This website will allow us to take advantage of a large amount of memory which will permit the addition of multiple menus and pages. For instance, we will have an equipment sales page and technical information on such items as packet and antenna construction. Greg has agreed to be the site webmaster and he has spent many hours designing the current site. The new site will shortly become the official BARK website – the link to the website is www.barkradio.org.

Change in Newsletter Editor

After 21 years of editing the BARK newsletter, I will turn over this task and the position of secretary to Bob Jordan, KI6BZR. I have enjoyed this task, which for five years meant producing six newsletters a year, nine years producing four newsletters a year and more recently, down to two newsletters a year. By relinquishing this task, I will have more time to devote to maintaining and improving the BARK repeater hardware. As an electrical engineer, this assignment is more appropriate to my background. Thanks to Bob for his willingness to take on this task.

Gary Ford, N6GF

Board Meeting January 16, 2010

A BARK board meeting was held at the LSCE Office, 500 First Street, Woodland on Saturday, January 16, 2010. Board members present were Bill Gustavson, KG6GNI, Ken Wilson, K6WLS; Jack Hendrick, K6JAC; Ione Hendrick, W6ION; Gary Ford, N6GF; and Bob Jordan, KI6BZR.

Gary provided an update on the checking account and the status of dues collection. The group reviewed Bill's operating budget and anticipated expenditures for 2010. Gary provided a few adjustments on expense amounts.

Bill described interference being received from the Cloverdale 146.970 repeater. After some discussion, Bill agreed to write a letter to the group to explain the problems we have been experiencing.

Ken reported that the new 2m transceiver is working correctly. He and Damian Appert, AB6WB, need to take

the transceiver up to the site for installation. The problems with the 2m portion of the power controller need to be investigated, as the 2m transceiver is currently connected to the unused controller for the former 220 system. This task will be deferred until the spring when the weather improves.

Recent news on the PAVE-PAWS system was reviewed. After discussion, Bill agreed to provide a report to Dan Henderson at the ARRL about our low power use of our 440 system for control purposes.

Bill reported that he continues to collect information about an Echolink for our 2m repeater. He has a June target date for implementation.

A successor or successors for Gary as secretary/treasurer was discussed. Gary explained that he would begin to write up his duties and to provide his computer files with explanations as to their purpose.

The board agreed to have Bill talk to Greg Kruckewitt, KG6SJT, about the possibility for him to assume management of the club website. Gary reviewed his financial records quickly, reporting that it appeared that our last payment to the provider was in 2001.

Jack explained the responsibilities of the repeater operator. There is need for a backup who can monitor frequently. There is a need to add material to the systems operations manual.

The problems with the power controller were discussed. This homebrew system is difficult to maintain and there is a desire to replace it with a commercial system. Bill will contact Maggiori to get their recommendations.

Jack, as chair of the Repeater Maintenance Committee, recommends turning over this responsibility to Ken, as he does not get up to the site often. Bill will send to Jack his description of actions to take when visiting the site, asking him to revise as needed.

There is a need to cut back brush to provide a defensible area around the building. This should be done in the spring when the weather improves.

Bob, chair of the Membership Committee reported that we gained two new members from the testing session. Club information should be sent to HRO in Oakland. Ken showed a club membership card, explaining that a template is available to print 10 per sheet

A letter will be sent to Hal Stoner, WB6KXV, granting him life membership.

Board Meeting March 6, 2010

A lengthy board meeting was held in Woodland on Saturday, March 6, 2010, primarily to follow up on the issues addressed in the January meeting. Attending were those who attended the January meeting, plus member Greg Kruckewitt, KG6SJT.

Gary read the minutes of the board meeting from January 16, 2010, reported the three expired memberships and provided an update on the checking account. The balance is about \$1,980, which is about \$25 less than the balance at this time last year.

Jack presented a proposal for a letter to be sent to members whose dues had expired. The letter would encourage members to pay their dues on time, but would also assess a penalty of \$5 for late payment. Bill suggested instead an incentive for paying early. We agreed that a rule was needed a rule as to when a member is to be dropped from the roster. After some discussion, it was approved that upon delinquency, we will alert members at 30 days and 60 days, deleting them from the roster if they have not renewed by 90 days. Ken recommended posting the policy for membership dues on the website, with an announcement on the weekly net. Two alternatives were discussed: an additional charge for rejoining after a year, or a \$5 incentive for paying dues 30 days early. After discussion, neither of these alternatives were approved. There was some discussion of the wording of the announcement on the weekly net and the letters to be sent to members whose dues have expired. Bill asked Jack to send his draft to the board members as an email attachment for further discussion.

Greg was invited to the meeting to describe his efforts to develop a new website, currently under construction at the URL www.barkradio.org. Bill had authorized Greg to purchase the domain name and the website hosting, which will cost \$60 per year. He explained that the server for this website has database capabilities that can be used to provide several valuable services and functions. For example, these capabilities can be used to maintain the membership roster, generating email reminders as needed. All of the member email addresses could be maintained in the database and be used to send out reminders for the weekly net and the annual meeting. A net check in list could be maintained. Gary recommended that we switch to this new website, with the old website used to redirect visitors to the new website. Greg accepted and board approved that he would serve as the webmaster until January 1, 2011, with his dues waived for his efforts. After discussion, the board agreed that we will move to the new website as soon as possible, rather than necessarily at the end of March..

As agreed in the January board meeting, Bill sent a letter to club managing the Cloverdale 146.97 repeater that has created interference for our 2m repeater. He reported that he has not received a response from the club.

Ken reported that there has been no change in the status of the new 2m repeater since the last board meeting.

Bill reported to Dan Henderson at the ARRL about our low power use of our 440 system for control purposes. Bill later talked to Henderson, who thanked him for the report and said our use of 440 was not a problem and that we should continue.

Bill reported that he continues to collect information about establishing Echolink on our 2m repeater. He is still working on this and he has a tentative June target date for implementation.

A successor or successors for Gary as secretary and treasurer was discussed. Bob offered to take both duties. Bill suggested that his wife, an accountant, could establish new business practices for the treasurer. Gary will send the current budget and checking account spreadsheets to Bill, for his wife to build a new process, which Ken may maintain as the new treasurer. Gary had provided a description of his current duties prior to the meeting. However, with the information from the meeting regarding a new web-based membership roster and new processes for the treasurer, he will revise the write up of his duties in this light.

The trustee position was discussed, with Gary agreeing to continue in this role. When he has completed and passed along his secretary and treasurer responsibilities, he will devote more time to the technical management of the repeater.

We discussed the possibility of replacing the commercial repeater controller and our homebrew power controller. The repeater controller is difficult to program, as the control interface software does not meet current standards. The power controller is difficult to maintain. Bill provided information on repeater controllers from Computer Automation Technology and power controllers from West Mountain Radio. Gary will prepare a block diagram of our current system and consider new commercial controllers.

The possibility of moving the weekly net from Tuesday to Sunday has been discussed on the net, with positive feedback. Bill recommended that we experiment with this change for about six months. The board approved beginning the Sunday night nets on March 21. Gary will announce the change in the March newsletter that he hopes to distribute by March 15. The change will also be announced on the website and the next two Tuesday night nets.

Bill noted that we need to better define the functions and responsibilities of the officers and directors. He suggested that we plan to have one annual meeting of the full membership and three quarterly meetings of the board each year. Bill read from the club bylaws regarding the responsibilities of the officers and the board. We discussed the misunderstandings regarding the experiment with the new website.

Gary and Ken plan to go to the site on Saturday, May 22 to investigate the programming of the repeater controller and to look into the problems with the power controller. We decided that this would be a general clean up day, with other members invited to help. They will be asked to meet at the bottom gate, with Ken to be contacted for directions. Ken will let the Wirth family know that we will have more than one vehicle traveling to the repeater site, with other cars to be left inside the gate. Several members will bring chain saws to cut back brush to provide a defensible area around the building.

Bob reported he has sent out about 40 email messages to hams in the region through arrl.org, inviting them to join the club. He has not received any responses as yet.

Another test session will be conducted by Ken on Saturday May 1.

Membership News

Since the November 2009 newsletter, we gained two new members, while losing five; bringing our total membership to 54.

New members are:

KJ6DVS	Dan Stromness	Dixon
KJ6EHV	Isaac Oshima	Sacramento
KI6PVI	Ray Grout	Davis

A few 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 May, 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.

Treasurer's Report, March 2010

Balance 7/09	\$2,251.86
Income:	
Dues	\$622.00
Patches	\$6.00
Miscellaneous	\$75.00
Expenses:	
Operating	\$902.84
Correspondence	\$31.45
Miscellaneous	\$23.99
Current Balance	\$1,996.58

Operating costs include \$320 for liability insurance, \$305 for a new antenna, and the electric utility costs.

BARK News 21 Years Ago

For my last newsletter, I have dug into the archives to find out what was happening when I started writing the newsletters in 1989.

At the time, the president was Jim Dawson, K6HVM, since deceased. Current member Pete Perata, KA6SHE (now K6SHE) was vice president, current member Al Lindquist, K6QDC, was treasurer and net control. Directors were Dick Frame, K6KYU, Pete Visalli, W6HKB and Gene Hurn, KG6PL, all of whom have left the club. The trustee was Dave Oliver, WB6VKH, who has also left the club.

Membership dues were \$20 a year and our membership was growing rapidly. We had 20 new members in the previous several months, bringing our total membership to 67.

Dave maintained three repeaters at the time, including our current 2m and 440 repeaters, plus a 220 repeater with input on 222.32MHz and output on 223.92MHz. Only the 2m repeater had PL tone access and it was activated rarely, to resolve interference problems.

Once every 3 minutes of continued use, the 2m repeater identified as WB6VKH/R in Morse code, accompanied by 1 or 2 dits. These dits indicated the current mode. When a conversation longer than 5 minutes has ended, the identifier sounded off with "73 OM," accompanied by 1 or 2 dits and 1 or 2 dahs. These dits and dahs indicated the receiver and transmitter in use at the site.

Dave had been working on a 2m remote receiver project. It was intended to extend the mobile range of the repeater to the north all the way into Redding and to the west into Willits. The remote receiver was to be located

on Baldy Mountain, located about 31 miles north of Berryessa Peak, just north of Highway 20 near the county line between Lake and Colusa counties. The repeater was to "vote" for the strongest signal between the main and remote sites. While Dave expected that this system would be installed by the summer of 1989, the project stalled and was never completed.

In a February 1989 board meeting, Dave described his talks with a Reno repeater group about linking with them to provide communications between the Reno area and the Sacramento valley. The Reno group had installed the WA7RPS repeater on Mount Rose the previous summer, which operated on 146.115+ and provided some coverage of the Sacramento valley.

The board discussed the need for ideas to increase the use of the 220 and 440 repeaters. Informal nets had been held on the 220 repeater on Saturdays at 10am and on the 440 repeater on Saturdays at 10:30am, but they had not attracted many users.

The site manager, Harry, WB6YCL (now deceased), had taken a video camera to the repeater site and recorded several views. I still have a copy of the VHS tape, although I have not viewed it in many years to see if it is still intact.

Yolo County ARES/RACES was conducting a net on Monday evenings at 8:30pm on the 2m repeater. The board approved the net for a trial period of three months in the fall of 1988, and in December, they voted to allow the group to continue the net indefinitely. The ARES/RACES coordinator was BARK member Mark, KA6YSC. He shared net control duties with Tim, N6JXN (another BARK member); Kyle, KB6OLL; Richard, KB6HQS, and Jeff, N6MYF. Several of the ARES/RACES members were also members of BARK, and many were members of the Yolo Amateur Radio Society (YARS). The frequent public service activities of YARS are often discussed on the net.

An announcement was provided for a recently-opened store in the Sacramento area that provided sales and service of ham radio equipment. Quad A's Electronic Supply, 7366 Auburn Blvd., #3, Citrus Heights, owned by Sam Ansell, WA6POM, had been in business for nearly a year. He provided sales and service of the three major brands of ham radio gear, several of the lesser brands, and several brands of accessories. The stock of ham gear was small, although a complete collection of detailed catalogs was available and an order service was provided. This store did not last long as I recall.

To end the newsletter, I provided a review of the ICOM IC-2GAT 2M walkie talkie, written by Bob Parnass, AJ9S, and posted to an early internet news group. Bob gave me permission to include it in the newsletter.

**BARK Membership Roster
March 2010**

Callsign	Name	Address	City	Zip	St
KI6ATE	John Gustavson	1339 Harley Way	Folsom	95630	
N6BHX	Jim Brunk	514 Palms Dr.	Martinez	94553	
KI6BZR	Bob Jordan	36588 County Road 21	Woodland	95695	
KI6DCQ	Hope Wolf	PO Box 304	Yosemite	95389	
N7DTW	Sam Bledsoe	18080 County Rd 70	Brooks	95606	
KJ6DVS	Dan Stromness	385 Maden Court	Dixon	95630	NM
KJ6EHV	Isaac Oshima	1776 Clayton Way	Sacramento	95835	NM
K6FLA	Fred Anderson	12296 Stone Canyon Ct.	Paradise	95969	
N6GF	Gary Ford	226 Diablo Ave.	Davis	95616	TR
KG6GNI	Bill Gustavson	1733 Tehama Dr.	Woodland	95695	
W6ION	Ione Hendrick	19409 Co. Rd. 93	Woodland	95695	
K6JAC	Jack Hendrick	19409 Co. Rd. 93	Woodland	95695	
K5JCH	John Hendrickson	3024 Dyer Way	Placerville	95667	
N6KIX	Rob Brunk	2832 Zamora Lane	Davis	95616	
W6KJX	Lu King	3344 Chesapeake Bay	Davis	95616	
N6KLB	Rick Littlefield	1709 Bidwell Place	Woodland	95695	
N6KMH	Carl Valdrow	1136 Princeton Place	Davis	95616	
K6KN	Bill Ragsdale	P.O. Box 1500	Woodland	95776	
WB6KXV	Hal Stoner Jr.	1910 Nevada St	Gridley	95948	LM
K6LAV	LaVonne LaMoureaux	211 Cypress Dr	Woodland	95695	
KM6LC	Harvey DeBoer	2701 Klamath Dr.	Rocklin	95765	
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	
KI6PDZ	Erika Refsland	19409 Co. Rd. 93	Woodland	95695	
KI6PNB	Barry Kemp	76 Gaia Way	Chico	95973	
KI6PPR	Ed Russell	915 Lincoln Court	Dixon	95620	
KI6PPS	Bonnie Russell	915 Lincoln Court	Dixon	95620	
KI6PVI	Ray Grout	921 3rd Street	Davis	95616	NM
K6QDC	Al Lindquist	808 San Tomas	Davis	95616	LM
KD6QHH	Mark Ochoa	16645 Co. Rd. 97a	Woodland	95695	
N6QOX	Sue Littlefield	1709 Bidwell Place	Woodland	95695	
W6QPV	Rose Jolly	4618 Crestridge Rd.	Fair Oaks	95628	
KF6QZB	Jason Littlefield	1709 Bidwell Place	Woodland	95695	
KI3REN	Kitren Glozer	24524 County Road 95	Davis	95616	
W6RLT	Robert Tate	235 Hollow Oak Drive	Cohasset	95973	
KE6ROR	Doreen Appert	P.O. Box 222	Dunnigan	95937	LM
W6RWI	Jim Jolly	4618 Crestridge Rd.	Fair Oaks	95628	
KA6SHE	Pete Perata	50 Cora Court	Walnut Creek	94596	LM
KG6SJT	Gregory Kruckewitt	3344 Chesapeake Bay	Davis	95616	
KF6SML	Mark Anderson	P.O. Box 1557	Linden	96236	
KG6UEY	Bill Gustavson	1733 Tehama Drive	Woodland	95695	
K6USS	Robert Kawahara	3621 Forni Road	Placerville	95667	
KI6VWH	Anne Chapman	3560 Huntsman Dr.	Sacramento	95826	
KI6VWI	Skip Chapman	3560 Huntsman Dr.	Sacramento	95826	
AB6WB	Damian Appert	P.O. Box 222	Dunnigan	95937	LM
KC7WCE	Zola Bergstrom	Box 409	Kirkersville	43033	
K6WLS	Kenneth Wilson	637 Fairview Drive	Woodland	95695	
N9XQ	Mike Bruss	24524 Co. Rd. 95	Davis	95616	
KC6YFG	David Nishikawa	39938 Sharon Ave.	Davis	95616	
WB6YNM	Al Harral	P.O. Box 175	Bethel Island	94511	

NM: New member since November 2009; LM: Life member; TR: Trustee

BARK Repeater

Band	Input	Output	PL in/out
2m	146.37	146.97	123.0/123.0

Weekly Net: BARK Tuesday Night Net:
Tuesdays, 7:30pm local time, net control
rotating. Moves to Sundays, 7:30pm on March
21, 2010

BARK Website: www.bark2m.com

BARK Patches

BARK fabric patches are available by sending
\$6 (payable to BARK) c/o 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 the repeater, or by email
to fordge@pacbell.net.

Deadline for September 2010: August 15, 2010

Material may be excerpted from the *BARK
Newsletter* without prior permission, provided
BARK is credited as the source.

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