



# BARK Newsletter

## BARK Board Members

Bill Gustavson	KG6GNI	Pres	07-10
Ken Wilson	K6WLS	Vice Pres	06-09
Gary Ford	N6GF	Secy/Treas	07-10
Jack Hendrick	K6JAC	Director	06-09
Hal Stoner Jr.	WB6KXV	Director	05-08
Val Thomsen	W6LED	Director	05-08
Bob Jordan	KI6BZR	Assoc Dir	07-10
Gary Ford	N6GF	Trustee	

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Berryessa Amateur Radio Klub

September 2008

### 2008 Annual Meeting

The BARK annual meeting will be held at 10am on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at the Red Cross, 120 Court Street, Woodland, one block north of Main Street. The tentative meeting agenda:

- Call to order and introductions
- Approval of minutes of 2007 annual meeting
- Treasurer's report
- State of the repeater system
- Director and officer elections
- Old business
- New Business

For the director elections, the positions of Hal Stoner, WB6KXV, and Val, W6LED, expire this year. Both are expected to be willing to serve again. Nominations can be accepted in writing or from the floor at the meeting.

A proxy statement is printed on the last page of this newsletter. If you are unable to attend the meeting and you do not have a proxy statement on file with the secretary, or you wish to declare a different proxy, please fill out this statement and see that it will be available to your proxy at the meeting. If you don't want to lose the membership roster that is on the back side of the proxy statement, please just create your own statement.

The proxy form is used to assign your vote to a member who will be able to attend the meeting. Your proxy will be able to vote in your stead on any business items voted on during the meeting. This proxy form will remain in force until you rescind it or submit a new form. Family members holding a current FCC amateur license of any class have full voting rights and they should also send in proxy forms. Ask your proxy to bring the proxy form to the annual meeting.

### Minutes, BARK Directors Meeting, June 7, 2008

The BARK Directors met at the Red Cross building in Woodland on Saturday, June 7, 2008, called to order by President Bill Gustavson, KG6GNI, at 9:10am. Attending were Vice President Ken Wilson, K6WLS; Secretary/Treasurer Gary Ford, N6GF; Directors Jack Hendrick, K6JAC, Hal Stoner, WB6KXV, Val Thomsen, W6LED, and members Damian Appert, AB6WB, and Doreen Appert, KE6ROR.

Gary, N6GF, reported that we currently have 58 members, although the dues of five have expired. Renewal notices have been sent, but only Zola Bergstrom, KC7WCE, has responded, saying that she was moving out of the area and would not be continuing her membership. Directors expressed interest in having a breakfast gathering for her before she leaves. They proposed and approved that she be named a life member.

Gary provided a short treasurer's report, saying that our balance in July 2007 was about \$1680 and our current

balance is about \$1270. The primary expense was that for the new 2m repeater.

The modifications needed on the new 2m repeater were discussed. Damian and Ken agreed to work together on this. In addition to connector changes, there is a need to build a timer circuit to turn on the fan in response to a COR signal and to keep it on for a desired amount of time.

The 440 PAVE-PAWS issue was discussed, in particular the issue of remotely controlling the 2m repeater. While we no longer have a command confirmation transmitted by the 440 repeater, we still have the 440 control receiver in place and working. A command can be given on the 440 control frequency to shut down the 2m repeater and this can be confirmed by observing that 2m is down. There was concern that it might not be possible to turn the repeater on again, so it was suggested that this be tested the next time the site is visited. The command confirmation could be transmitted on the 2m repeater, but of course this would not work if the command was to shut down the 2m repeater.

Instructions were sent by the ARRL to determine the amount of signal strength reduction we could achieve on the 440 transmitter for command confirmation if we were decrease power and use highly directional antennas at both ends and still have the system work. To make the necessary measurements, we would need a 440 receiver with an S-meter and a step attenuator. The availability of these items and their costs will be investigated.

Jack reported on the repeater maintenance committee, saying that everything appears to be working well. The vault fan is off now, but should be turned on the next time someone goes to the site. The solar panels are working well to charge the batteries. Gary will watch the electricity bills to see if they have been reduced significantly by the solar panels.

An Elmer class will be held after this meeting. Concern was expressed regarding the few people who were expected to participate. We decided that we would try this one more time, possibly after the October annual meeting. The next session will be announced at a YARS meeting to see if some of their members would be interested.

Val agreed to coordinate a fund raising effort by developing a list of gear that could be sold at the North Hills Radio Club ham swap next May in the Carmichael area.

## The President's Corner

### *BEHIND THE SCENES OF BARK*

I hope the 2008 year has been a good one for you. To say the least, 2008 has been, and will continue to be, an extremely busy one for me. Both of my sons were married this year, my wife and I made the "trip of a lifetime" as we traveled to Alaska in July, we were blessed with a new grandson in April, and to top it off, the last of my daughters is to be married on the first of November. Of course, this is all intermingled with traveling back east every two to three weeks. Add the time involved with work (we have never been busier and are short-staffed) and my duties at BARK and Yolo ARES – whew !! I am ready for another vacation to Alaska.

Regardless of the amount of time I spent on non-radio club activities, the club and the repeater continued to run like a well-oiled clock. Why is that? It is because, like most other successful organizations, and BARK is no exception, there exists a small group of very dedicated individuals that continually perform very important functions necessary to continue the normally flawless operation of the BARK repeater and operation of the club that we have all become accustomed to. So, who are they, and what do they do?

*Gary Ford, N6GF* – Gary is our Secretary/Treasurer, and in addition to the duties associated as a repeater trustee, Gary ensures the club's books are balanced, dues are collected, members are reminded to pay their dues (a very time-consuming task I might add) the bills are paid on time, and exacting minutes of every meeting are kept. He generally does all of these essential duties with no fanfare nor knowledge by the rest of the members.

*Ken Wilson, K6WLS* – Ken is the Vice President of the club and has been one of the most active, if not **the** most active member of the club. He has handled everything from maintenance at the repeater site, to learning the duties associated with being repeater control operator, to assisting with the installation of new facilities at the repeater site, and helping with modifications to the club's new 2-meter radio.

*Jack, K6JAC* – Jack is the control operator for the repeater (kind of the club's policeman) and chairman of the club's Maintenance Committee. Jack always treats the repeater as if it is one of his own children, worrying and monitoring every heartbeat of the operation, 24/7. If you misuse the repeater, or do not follow proper radio protocol, expect Jack to admonish you over the air. If he has your phone number, you will get a call.

To some, this may seem overboard, but in the long run, it keeps us all on an even and professional keel. Thank you, Jack. Jack has also been very active in the maintenance of the repeater site and in the training of members in proper maintenance of the repeater.

There are several other members who contribute, and I could probably use up the space of the newsletter covering each one. But the next time you see one of these members, please just extend a brief thanks – it will be greatly appreciated by those who have dedicated so much to this club without asking for any accolades. From me, thank you all so very much.

#### *IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BARK REPEATER*

As you may remember, the BARK membership purchased a new 2-meter repeater last year. Since receiving the new unit, we have made modifications to the new unit to ensure its seamless installation into the repeater facility. These modifications included a timer for the fan, and the installation of connectors for the various power input, output and control features of the radio. Damian, AB6WB and Ken, K6WLS performed the modification work. The radio is now ready for installation, which has not yet been scheduled. The existing radio appears to continue to perform properly, but it is our intention to install the new radio, bring the old radio in for a “tune-up” and place it at the site as a backup.

Last year, we replaced all three backup power batteries. Part of the normal maintenance routine is now to check and record battery condition and voltage, and we have found all three to be holding up very well.

To express appreciation for the use of the repeater in holding their weekly nets, Yolo ARES donated a solar cell charging unit to BARK. To supplement that gift, BARK members purchased two more. BARK members fabricated the mounting frames for all three units. The cells and frames were installed earlier this year on the roof of the repeater vault and presently assist the AC charging units in maintaining battery charge. The solar cells charge the batteries through automatic switching devices, charging the batteries in times of power outages. This will greatly improve the reliability of the repeater to maintain operations, especially during times of emergencies.

#### *EQUIPMENT DONATION TO BARK*

Recently, BARK officers were contacted by BARK member Jim, W6RWI, regarding the availability of ham towers and antennas. Jim called in response to a call from the family of Jim Allen, W6IQH, who is now 93

years old, received his ham ticket in 1933, and wanted to donate his equipment to an organization that could benefit from the equipment.

Jim does not want any money for the equipment and it is an excellent opportunity for BARK to salvage the equipment and with some luck, to sell it to enhance the BARK coffers.

The equipment consists of several antennas, rotors, and two towers. One tower appears to be stout enough to be used by a major radio station and is going to be a chore to move and haul. The other is a tilt up tower. Both appear to be in excellent condition. Work is still in progress in the removal of the towers and any assistance by BARK members in helping with the removal, will be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in helping with lowering the remaining tower and assist with loading the same, please contact either myself or Ken, K6WLS. We expect to be working on the project the weekend of September 13. Pictures of the equipment will be posted in the near future for member viewing.

#### *IN SUMMARY*

Overall, it has been a great year for BARK. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the great organization, look forward to a discussion on the future of BARK and hope to see all of you at the meeting.

73's, Bill Gustavson, KG6GNI

#### **Internet Linking of Our 2m Repeater**

Several members are interested in linking our 2m repeater to distant repeaters through the internet. There are several approaches to this, with the most popular being IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) and EchoLink. We hope to have some discussions on this in the coming months. For more information, consult: [www.irlp.net](http://www.irlp.net) or [www.echolink.org](http://www.echolink.org).

#### **Rex Mathews, KA6CSG, Silent Key**

We lost long-time member and former director Rex Mathews, KA6CSG, on Sunday morning, August 31, 2008. Rex had been a member for about 20 years, attending most of the annual meetings during that time. He had recently been named a life member.

#### **Zola Bergstrom, KC7WCE, Moving to Ohio**

We have honored Zola Bergstrom, KC7WCE, as a life member as she leaves the area to move to Ohio. Zola

has served as net control, attended our annual meetings, and co-hosted a camping trip to Lake Berryessa. Zola would appreciate hearing from BARK members by email at KC7WCE@yahoo.com. If we implement internet linking, we would be able to keep in touch over the air.

### Membership News

Since the March 2008 newsletter, we lost four members while gaining four new members. This leaves the total membership at 49.

New members are:

KD7JFL	Ryan Snow	Woodland
KI6PDZ	Erika Refsland	Woodland
KC6WIE	Bud Hubert	Yolo
WS6Z	Wes Hardaker	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 November, 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, September 2008

Balance 7/08	\$1,328.92
Income:	
Dues	\$207.00
Patches	\$18.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Maintenance	\$20.00
Expenses:	
Operating	\$20.00
New Equipment	\$0.00
Correspondence	\$0.00
Bank	\$6.00
Current Balance	\$1,547.92

Operating expenses are low, as our PG&E bill is currently being covered by the rebate we were given for service interruptions this winter.

### ARRL News

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 25, 2008.

In late August, the ARRL responded to a series of concerns raised by repeater owners regarding the ongoing PAVE PAWS interference mitigation project at Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, California. In a lengthy e-mail dated August 20, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, addressed a series of concerns raised by Tom Naso, N6MVT, of Lafayette, California; Naso is owner or trustee to several involved repeaters.

Naso's letter can be found here:

[www.arrl.org/news/files/pavepaws\\_query\\_2008aug20.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/pavepaws_query_2008aug20.pdf)

Henderson's reply can be found here:

[www.arrl.org/news/files/pavepaws\\_response\\_2008aug20.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/pavepaws_response_2008aug20.pdf)

"Tom raised a series of thoughtful, valid concerns," Henderson stated. "The ARRL's response to his queries, though lengthy, attempts to address them in detail. With Tom's permission, we are releasing both his original e-mail and the ARRL's response in order to get the most accurate and full information out to repeater owners and users as possible. It also gives us the opportunity to make sure a couple of other issues relating to the PAVE PAWS situation that have arisen are brought to the public's attention."

Henderson said that the biggest challenge the ARRL -- and through them the affected repeater owners -- continues to face is "the balance between not being able to know full technical details of the interference and the testing techniques and the desire/need to know information. It's a tough challenge. And while there have been a few errors in identifying call signs (because of errors in databases being used by the Air Force), there were actual measurements made of signals identified by the Air Force testing group."

Henderson pointed out that the ARRL continues to pursue valid concerns that can be based on fact and backed up with solid data that are raised by repeater owners. "We will continue to expect the FCC to perform its responsibilities. If a permanent shut-down order comes from the FCC, we expect that the licensee is given their full rights for due process."

**BARK Membership Roster  
September 2008**

<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>St</b>
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	P.O. Box 134	Strawberry	95375	
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	
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	
KD7JFL	Ryan Snow	21872 County Road 99	Woodland	95695	NM
W6KJX	Lu King	3344 Chesapeake Bay	Davis	95616	
N6KLB	Rick Littlefield	1709 Bidwell Place	Woodland	95695	
N6KMH	Carl Valdrow	1136 Princeton Place	Davis	95616	
WB6KXV	Hal Stoner Jr.	1910 Nevada St	Gridley	95948	
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	
W6MMG	Alex Newbold	2712 Belmont Cyn	Belmont	94002	
KI6PDZ	Erika Refsland	19451 Co. Rd. 93	Woodland	95695	NM
K6QDC	Al Lindquist	808 San Tomas	Davis	95616	LM
KD6QHH	Mark Ochoa	815 Saratoga Dr.	Woodland	95695	
N6QOX	Sue Littlefield	1709 Bidwell Place	Woodland	95695	
WA6QPU	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	
W6RLT	Robert Tate	235 Hollow Oak Drive	Cohasset	95973	
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	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	
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	LM
KC6WIE	Bud Hubert	P.O. Box 383	Yolo	95697	NM
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	
W6YOB	Jim Crowley	12175 Mead Rd.	Middletown	95461	
WS6Z	Wes Hardaker	P.O. Box 382	Davis	95617	NM

NM: New member since March 2008; 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.

**BARK Website:** [www.bark2m.com](http://www.bark2m.com)

**Proxy Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_  
(name and call) (name and call)

as my agent with full power of substitution for me and in my name, place, and stead, to attend the annual meeting of Berryessa Amateur Radio Klub ,and any adjourned meeting thereof, and thereat, as my proxy to vote upon all matters coming before such meeting the same as I could if personally present.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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