



General Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2018, 10:00

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

Attendees:

Bill Gustavson K6BIL, Bob Jordan KI6BZR, Bill Ragsdale K6KN, Dennis Kelleher KI6HHA, Dave Woodruff KM6AJS, Doug Hollowell KK6LDS, Doreen Appert KE6ROR, John Prenton W6FAQ, Mick Bowlin W6KRY, Ken Wilson K6WLS, Damian Appert AB6WB, Joe DeAngelo AG6QO

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

Treasurer's Report :

Doug provided the current account balance of \$2,454.75. Balance as of December 31, 2017 was 2182.67. This month's report will be completed shortly and provided to officers.

Secretary's Report:

Paul was down with a cold and did not attend. Outgoing Secretary had no comments or reports. Joe asked Mick to take meeting minutes.

Old Business

Officer Transition:

Joe introduced himself as the newly appointed President of BARK, after a December election by the Board of Directors. He also introduced Mick Bowlin as the new Vice President, Paul Jordan KJ6GCP as new Secretary, and returning Treasurer, Doug KK6LDS (note change of callsign from KJ6VHE).

Joe thanked Bill K6BIL, Ken K6WLS, and Bob KI6BZR for their many years of outstanding service as President, Vice President and Secretary, respectively, and anticipates their continued assistance and fellowship in the future.



Repeater Site Damage and Repair Status:

Joe gave a brief accounting of the wind storm of December 2017 which caused the collapse of our vault neighbor's, Crystal Communications' tower, which in turn struck our FM repeater's antennas, feed lines and mounting structures damaging or destroying them.

Ken, Joe, and Bill K6BIL negotiated with Crystal Communications for replacement materials to repair the damage. Crystal Communication's president was prompt in sending replacement parts.

Ken gave a report on the progress of repairs, which involved :

- A trip by K6WLS and K6KN to assess damage, and put up a temporary antenna arrangement to get the repeater back on the air. Thank you Ken and Bill for enduring the cold and wind to get us back on the air!
- A trip by K6WLS and W6KRY to take down the damaged equipment.
- A trip by K6WLS and AG6QO to begin the process of installing the replacements. Currently Ken reports that the new receive antenna is installed at its proper position, and new heliax is installed from the receive antenna down to a new lightning arrester box, and new heliax is installed from the lightning arrester to the shack south wall. Also, a repair was made to the bent transmit antenna mounting cross-member, and installed. The repeater continues to operate on the temporary antennas.
- Next will be a measurement of the transmit antenna feedline health and decision whether it can continue to be used with the new transmit antenna.
- Thanks to all, for helping with this repair! Especially Ken, whose tower maintenance prowess and efforts are invaluable to the club!

Solar Power Improvements-:

Ken also gave an update on the intention to install solar panels at the repeater site, due to repeated loss of PG&E power for extended periods of fire and storm. K6WLS, K6KN and AG6QO have been working as an ad hoc committee in experimenting and recommending the solar installation configuration.

Epic Powergates from West Mountain Radio were recommended by K6KN at an earlier meeting. Both K6WLS and AG6QO have purchased these, along with 180W solar panels and Joe has tested them out on an AGM battery at his location.



Joe did some calculations and estimates that three of these 180W panels with three independent powergates in conjunction with three 100AH batteries could potentially be used to operate the station off-grid continuously, with excess capacity for expansion.

Future reports will be made by this committee.

Backup Repeater Status:

K6KN gave a report on backup repeater status:

- A clone of the current operational repeater is ready to go at K6KN's home. The plan is to take this repeater up the hill within the next month, perhaps at the next trip up the mountain.
- Bill is working on a "qualification or baselining checklist" to ensure that replacement repeaters are equal or better to the current baseline (after repairs are completed).
- Fusion repeater has some operational design flaws in digital mode and continues to be located at K6KN's home QTH for further experimentation at a low priority.

New Business

2018 General meeting schedule:

Joe announced that due to K6BIL's potential retirement sometime this year, and the possible (unlikely?) loss of his current office as a meeting location, we are seeking recommendations for possible backup locations.

Under consideration by the board, thus far are Raley's in Woodland, which is heavily booked, Bel Aire in Woodland, which has not been met with much encouragement, Heath and Human Services EOC in Woodland, which may have some difficult red-tape, and Winters EOC, which Joe has received approval for fee-waived use.

As an experiment, the August FCC Test Session and the BARK General meeting will be held at the Winters EOC.

If any member has alternatives which should be considered, please make it known to one of the board members.

The 2018 General Membership and FCC test schedule is as follows:



Sat. Feb 10, 10am-noon - 500 1st St, Woodland
Sat. May 12, 10am-noon - 500 1st St, Woodland
Sat. Aug 11, 10am-noon - Winters EOC, [702 Main St, Winters, CA 95694](http://www.barkradio.org)
Sat. Nov 10, 10am-noon - TBD -
Check back for locations for the Nov meeting.

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

Sat. Feb 10, 7:30am - 9:30am LDS Chapel on Pioneer, Woodland
Sat. May 12, 7:30am - 9:30am LDS Chapel on Pioneer, Woodland
Sat. Aug 11, 7:30am - 9:30am - Winters EOC, [702 Main St, Winters, CA 95694](http://www.barkradio.org)
Sat. Nov 10, 7:30am - 9:30am - LDS Chapel on Pioneer, Woodland

BLM Lease Renewal:

BARKs lease for the site on Mount Berryessa Peak expires in January 2023. The board has formed a committee to investigate and execute the renewal.

On this committee are AG6QO, AB6WB, and K6KN. Also, K6BIL has volunteered to participate by making initial contact with the BLM, with whom he has dealt before. The committee will report at next general meeting.

Repeater Site Road Maintenance:

The board has explained that all commercial (for-profit) tenants on the Berryessa Site are assessed a stiff road maintenance fee for access to the site.

BARK has not been held to provide the same level of support because of its non-profit, volunteer nature. The board has recommended for property owner and site neighbor relations, that BARK make a token donation for road maintenance to Bob Wirth.

K6BIL moved that the club donate \$100 to this cause. W6FAQ seconded the motion. A vote was counted and the membership approved the measure unanimously.

Joe will draft a letter on behalf of the club to accompany the donation. Joe and Doug will sign and Doug will forward both to Bob Wirth.



BARK Website:

BARK has a great website due to the generous work done by Greg, KG6SJT, and several others who have helped him maintain and fund it.

Until now, the web hosting account was held by Greg. It was co-hosted with Sac Valley ARES and Yolo Co ARES websites, and funding was done on an ad-hoc basis and at times grew a bit fuzzy as to responsibility.

Joe and Ken discussed this with Greg and Greg was amenable to BARK taking over the responsibility for funding the site, and in doing so Doug created a BARK web hosting account. He, Greg, and Joe have transferred the website to the new account, and it will be paid from BARK funds. Donations of time and money for the maintenance of the site will continue to be gladly accepted.

Also, Greg deserves MUCH THANKS for all the work he has, and continues to put into it. It is greatly appreciated by the club, and we ask his continued valued contributions to the effort.

Donation:

Through the advocacy of Greg, KG6SJT, and Mike Burton N6KZB, who mentioned our recent wind damage to some members of the CREBC XE2BNC Baja Radio Club, that club made a donation of \$90 dollars to BARK to assist in repairs.

Many thanks to Greg, Mike, and the CREBC for the kind assist!

Bylaws Update:

The board has recommended a review and update of the club bylaws. The only record of complete bylaws we have are the original 1973 version, and two resolutions which were passed in the past few years. One was the resolution on proxy voting for non-present members, and the other was the increase of the number of directors to seven.

The board is recommending that the entire bylaws be consolidated, reviewed and updated. And so we are forming an ad-hoc committee to do this. On the committee are W6KRY, KI6HHA, and AG6QO. K6BIL has volunteered to have the original bylaws scanned, and OCR'd so that we have an electronically editable version to start with.

The committee will report progress next meeting, to include expected date for a draft recommendation. Once the draft is available, the board will review and vote on the draft. After board approval, the new



draft will be brought to the general membership for approval, with at least one quarter's notice for comment.

Legal Counsel:

Joe has suggested that it would be a good idea to seek legal counsel when updating the official bylaws and other documents of the club. The general membership was asked for recommendations for attorney's who might be willing to do low-cost or pro-bono work in reviewing these sorts of documents for the club.

Hamfest:

Mick mentioned to the group that there is a Hamfest in Loomis on March 17. See Mick for more details.

Presentation:

AB6WB gave an excellent presentation comparing the design and pros/cons of switching vs. linear power supplies.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05.