

ABARC Anchor Bay Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 815, Gualala CA 95445 <http://www.abarc.net>
Minutes May 3, 2010 7:30 PM
Bill Platt Center, Gualala, CA 95445

CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA APPROVAL AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:33 PM by President Jack Haverty K3FIV. The agenda was approved as presented. Approximately 19 people were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting. Everyone in attendance introduced himself/herself with name and call sign.

APPROVAL OF January 18, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Ken KE6WC and seconded by Bryan KI6GGH that the meeting minutes of January 18, 2010 be approved as published on the club web site and as distributed via email previously to all club members. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Don K3DH reported that the club as of today has a total of 73 members who have paid dues for 2010. The total amount of funds in our account presently is **\$2,755.74**. Ken, KE6WC moved to accept the treasurer's report and Arthur (KI6VEV) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Don also announced that the club had three new handi-talkies that are available to members on loan for club events. Any member may borrow a radio by contacting Don K3DH and signing out a radio. Don also announced that it was found the telephone line in our club room at the Anchor Bay Fire station was out of order. The telephone company did repair the problem and stated they would reimburse the club for the service charges we paid during the period of the line outage. After some discussion by the membership it was decided that the club maintaining this telephone line was not cost effective and it was decided to terminate this telephone service. It was clarified that this is phone service separate from the auto patch which will remain in service. The club room phone will not be disconnected until we receive our refund from the phone company. Don reported that most of our club's monthly expenditures are for maintenance of the telephone service.

ELMER SESSION REPORT

Fred W6WTI announced that the next Elmer session will be held at the Platt Center on Wednesday May 19 at 1:00 following the ABARC luncheon. The topic will be Traffic Handling and Net control procedures. Fred encouraged everyone to volunteer as net control to get experience in practicing the procedures in preparation for emergencies. He reminded everyone that club members have always expressed a strong interest in emergency communications and that interest strongly correlates with net control procedures and traffic handling. Fred welcomes questions at the Elmer sessions and wants suggestions for future topics. Contact Fred at w6wti@arri.net with any ideas you have for future Elmer sessions. Jack K3FIV suggested that we should occasionally modify the way we do our weekly net. For example instead of an alphabetical roll call by call sign suffix we might ask for check ins geographically.

ABARC VEST COMMITTEE REPORT

Cathleen W8CAT chaired a committee composed of Marcia KG6NHX, Lynn KI6QZV, Betsy KG6YMB and Jan K1JRW who investigated different types of vests the club might obtain for use during club special event activities. She arranged a "virtual" meeting and each member reviewed five different vests and gave Cathleen input. Cathleen reported that a consensus was reached recommending a polyester Incident Command vest costing \$20. It is available in numerous colors and sizes. It has numerous pockets and clear plastic windows in front and back for display of identification. After some discussion people in attendance at the meeting supported the club making a quantity purchase of this vest in yellow. Interested members would then purchase their individual vest from the club. The club would also maintain some extra vests at the club house. Using her great judgment, Cathleen was authorized to investigate quantity pricing and contact Dennis with the information who will email all members asking if they wish to purchase a vest and if so what size vest they need. Dennis will provide that information to Cathleen who will place an order for the vests. The estimate is that the club would purchase approximately 40 to 50 vests depending upon quantity discount pricing and response from members who wish to purchase the vest. There was a mention that CLSD (Coast Life Support District) did have some money for community emergency equipment and supplies. Jack will investigate to see if ABARC would be eligible to use any of these funds to purchase our vests.

RADIO OTHER THAN REPEATERS (DX, HF, CONTESTS)

Jack K3FIV raised the topic of other types of activities people might be interested in doing such as contesting and DXing. Discussion followed and some interest was expressed in field day participation.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES REPORT

Ken KE6WC invited interested persons to come to his house for ARRL Field Day on Saturday June 26 and Sunday June 27. For anyone interested, the field day packet is on our web site. Ken pointed out we don't have to do it for 24 hours straight. Ken stated that we can do whatever we want. About 12 people in attendance expressed an interest in participating and they were encouraged to contact Ken. At this time we don't have any information about the July 4th parade. As soon as we hear something, we will contact people via the Tuesday night net and email.

ABARC REPEATER STATUS REPORT AND TRAINING NEW CONTROL OPERATORS

Bob WA6M reported that all repeaters are working. Don will make a list of how to turn the repeaters on and off. Jack asked about how the training of people to help take care of the repeaters is going. Bob reported that the committee conducted a field visit to the Sea Ranch Repeater and the Gualala repeater. He indicated that a future field visit of the committee is planned to Pt Arena. Bryan KI6GGH asked how to use the ABARC auto patch and Ken demonstrated. Dennis said he would email the instructions to any member who wanted them but that they would not be put onto our website because that would make

the information available to anyone on the Internet. Bob also indicated that a commercial repeater was offered to the club but as yet he has not heard from the individual. Ken pointed out that these commercial repeaters have a high current draw even on standby which can be an issue.

MENDOCINO COUNTY RERPORT

Ken KE6WC said there was no report from Mendocino County. He also announced that he is looking for a volunteer to replace him as the Mendocino County Coastal Emergency Unit Leader. No one volunteered.

SONOMA COUNTY REPORT

Fred W6WTI reported that Sonoma County has financial woes according to Ken, KE6N. The Sonoma County DES has had to absorb one personnel cut as its part in helping address the tight financial times. Sandy Covall-Alves and Christopher Helgren have not been affected ... so far. Also ACS is on an even tighter budget, so we shouldn't expect much by way of new stuff. One consequence of the belt tightening is that the ACS Van won't be able to be maintained in running order (approximately \$2,000 in repairs was needed to make it road-worthy). DES and ACS agreed to decommission the van. The radios & antennas have been removed from the van and will likely be re-configured into 'radio in a box' type units for portable deployment (HF, VHF, UHF). Roger Sigtermans KF6RWE is retiring from ACS next month. Roger has been responsible for many ACS administrative support functions such as maintaining the roster, training and swearing in new ACS Members. As part of adjusting to this loss, DES will be requiring that new Disaster Service Worker 'swearing in' will be performed by a paid DES staff member. A consequence of this is that future Level I Training and DSW oaths will be administered in Santa Rosa. (That pretty much precludes any chance of providing Level I training out here on the coast.) The hope is to present Level I training 3 or 4 times a year in Santa Rosa. Database of Volunteers - Denise Harrison, KI6HHH will absorb the balance of the admin functions that Roger has been doing. She'll be sending out a roster to each Unit Leader in the near future for review update/correction. Expiring IDs. You may have an ACS ID card that has expired. Ken advises that they understand that IDs expiring in 2010 will be honored through the end of the calendar year. They're implementing a process for renewal. They may use a combination of US Mail and EMail to verify/update address information and will use the file photo to issue new ID DSW cards. Alec McTaggart K6ASM reviewed the EOC test performed 2 weeks ago. Apparently most aspects of this test went well. (Note the Coast Unit hasn't been able to participate in some time due to equipment/operator availability issues in Santa Rosa. Ken, KE6N advised that the ACS Radio Room at the EOC will be out of service for a couple of months while it is remodeled to accommodate the installation of a back up radio dispatch operation for the Sheriff's Office. The backup station is necessary in order to maintain operations in the event that something were to interrupt standard operations in the dispatch center. Construction is hoped to be completed in July. No drills should be planned which rely on the EOC Radios to be available. EOC Antennas - A benefit to ACS of this will be the updating of coax down leads and installation of updated antennas for the ACS radios (HF, UHF, VHF). Operational improvements for WinLink 2000 are expected. Round Table: South County conducted a drill. They also set up a special event station for Petaluma's 'Butter and Egg Day' event on Saturday 4/24. Operations were on VHF as well as 40 and 20 meters ssb and cw. Central County announced that they have 6 new members. They have good participation in Net Control rotations. Bob, KE6LNI noted that some of his volunteer operators were unclear about the distinction between ARRL's ARES and the ACS as an extension of County Government. (If anyone has questions along this line, please contact me at W6WTI@arrl.net) Russian River unit noted some mis-use of Lo Band

equipment. The responsible party has been made aware of the problem. I noted our need to replace the battery at the North Fire Station and the importance of actually testing and measuring voltage of batteries intended for emergency service. Fred asked how many of us use deep cycle batteries to power their stations ... several do. He reinforced the issue that battery voltage under load should be checked periodically to make sure that batteries are maintaining their charge capacity. Just because the battery tender/maintainer has a green light doesn't mean the battery is at 100% charge. He mentioned that there are good sources of information on maintaining batteries on the web. (Battery exchanged following the meeting. (thanks to K6ASM for helping move the batteries.) I also took note that ABARC had to take similar action on its Comm-Van for similar reasons. Interestingly, both Petaluma and Rohnert Park have new Comm Vans for public safety use. There was no report from Sonoma Valley or North County. Sonoma County Annual Volunteer Recognition was held Thursday April 28, 2010. There was an interest in reviewing forms with CLSD.

NEXT ABARC MEETING

There was discussion about our next ABARC meeting to be held in either September or October on a Saturday as a BBQ. Jack K3FIV will contact Leighton & Alice Nelsen to ask if they would be willing to host the club BBQ at their home as they have in the past on Sept 11, 18 or 25. He will let everyone know if the Nelsen's are willing and if so on what date they choose. Dennis KI6HHA will post the date, time and place on the website and email everyone as soon as it has been determined.

OTHER ITEMS AS INTRODUCED

No other items were introduced.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Betsy KG6YMB and seconded by Marcia KG6NHX that we adjourn the meeting. Jack K3FIV adjourned the meeting at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Kelleher, KI6HHA

ABARC Secretary-Webmaster