

San Benito County Amateur Radio Association

San Benito County ACS/RACES

3226 Southside Road, Hollister & Zoom

Meeting Minutes

1900 Tuesday, September 5, 2023

1. Introductions 1900

Sara KJ6SAS President, Tim W6TST, Mel KK6MES Quartermaster, Heatherly N6HKT Secretary, George N6GWH, Billy W6WKB, Tony KK6ROU, Dave KD6LSH

2. Motion/approve Secretary's report. Approval of meeting minutes: moved by George, seconded by Tim to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Passed by vote of members.

3. Motion/approve Treasurer's reports – Skipped, Ron KD6ZXG, was out of town.

4. Review N6SBC repeaters status and current repair/upgrade projects.

Mel: put the Bear Valley repeater back up. Ron has been testing. Park Hill link is still not working. Ron suggests it may need a link from Call Mt to Bear Valley instead.

Tim mentioned that a SLO station comes into HPD as good as Bear Valley. He will talk to Ron about this. Jefferson to Bear Valley. Bitterwater Tully to Hernandez Valley. We need to try all the links at the rural schools. Tim has a map in SARTopog that will help with this effort.

5. San Juan Canyon (SJC) emergency communications. The complications of setting up a ham repeater may outweigh our capacity and practicality.

Sara: Let's just set it up and let the SJC hams use it. Tony's house can get just about everyone except Richard Pitschka. Perhaps a bigger antenna can be put up at Tony's house. Garvin is in Quinn Canyon, but not high enough for an antenna. Tony would have a hard time making it to Garvin's with UHF, and GMRS is UHF. Perhaps we put the antenna at Garvin's and try it for a while. GMRS is Part 95.

Mel is setting up a GMRS repeater and providing residents with GMRS radios, about 5-6W. It is a Retevis (Cost: approx. \$400).

We do have a GMRS repeater that belongs to the American Red Cross (ARC) as long as we still have a relationship with them. Tim is still the ARC contact for Comms in SBC.

We can make a list of what we have and what we need. We had some money from OES to use for SJC. We can put some of that stuff to use. The numbers of hams in the canyon are dwindling. Michael Reed possible new person? We keep wanting a perfect solution, but let's try something.

There were about 15 cars in their evacuation drill that they ran recently. GMRS has no coordination for their repeaters like the ham bands. No registered GMRS repeaters in SBC. Tony will reach out to Garvin to ask if he is willing to put up a repeater and antenna on his property. Tony said he knows of three other owners who would let us put up antennas, but they would all need power. \$35 fee for GMRS license for immediate family members, they don't have to be living with you.

6. Club communications.

We don't want to send out too many so people aren't inundated, but now so few people attend maybe they don't know what is going on.

Tim: our info is all over the place (website, HamClubOnline, Groups.io, Mail Chimp, etc.)

We have a Google calendar online and a manual calendar that Tim updates on our website.

He thinks we should send out reminders the day before a meeting and before the Nets.

Dave asked about having an announcement on the repeater. Tim mentioned that it makes for annoying announcements and it gets to the point that people turn it off.

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Sara: what are other successful clubs doing? We tend to have better numbers than the clubs around us.

Sara still has one newsletter that she is working on.

7. Upcoming Events

- a. OES: Wednesday Oct 4th, at 1900 at DOC.
- b. Sept 16th, the Preparedness Fair. Similar to NNO. Mel will help, maybe Billy.
- c. The San Benito County Fair. Thursday – Sunday. 900 kids over 2 days. Kids get the coloring sheets and the adults get the Ham Cram class. Order more rack cards from VistaPrint.
Mel will check with Jeff about the t-shirts. Stickers and buttons can be handed out.
Billy will check on price of bags.

d. WA1W

e. ShakeOut

f. CQP

g.

- h. Christmas party, Field Day, and Winter Field Day: it would be nice to have more planning happen. Tim doesn't have the bandwidth to do this.
Denise Cato mentioned that perhaps that Swank Farms would let us have Field Day there. [Heatherly saw Denise later in the month and she said she would plan Field Day 2024.]

Sara and Heatherly will coordinate the holiday party. We should start asking for donations earlier. Palomar Engineers may donate something. Sara will contact Palomar and DX. Heatherly will check with Ace Hardware and Java Express.

8. Adjourn

- a. Moved by Tim and seconded by Billy to adjourn the meeting. Sara adjourned the meeting at 2020.