

BARK Newsletter

BARK Board Members

Bill Gustavson	KG6GNI	Pres	07-10
Ken Wilson	K6WLS	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. 37, No. 2

Berryessa Amateur Radio Klub

November 2009

2009 Annual Meeting

The BARK annual meeting was held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at the Red Cross building in Woodland. President Bill Gustavson (KG6GNI) called the meeting to order at 09:32am. Nine members present: President Bill (KG6GNI); Vice President Ken (K6WLS); Director Bob (KI6BZR); Sam (N7DTW); Director Ione (W6ION); Director Jack (K6JAC); Al (K6QDC); and Mark KD6QHH. With 22 proxies, we met our quorum.

Treasurer-Secretary Gary, (N6GF) reviewed the minutes from the 2008 annual meeting. A vote to approve the minutes was called, seconded and approved by a unanimous vote. Gary also presented the Treasurer's report, with a balance of \$2,226.51 at the end of July 2009. This is nearly \$700 more than the July 2008 balance, due to the increase in membership, but Gary noted that he would soon be making the \$300 annual insurance payment. He also said our total membership is 57, eight more than at the same time last year.

A discussion of the membership followed. Bill proposed that Damian (AB6WB) granted life member status for his technical contributions to the BARK repeater system. His proposal was moved, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote. Gary asked if this should be considered a "family life membership" and it was agreed that this should be the case.

In the discussion of BARK membership, Jack noted that former director Val (W6LED) had fallen off his roof, crushing one of his feet. He has undergone surgery to repair the damage and is undergoing a lengthy recuperation. Bill said that he would send a get-well card on behalf of the club.

The next order of business was to elect two board members. The terms of Ken (K6WLS) and Jack (K6JAC) had expired. Both agreed to serve again, so they were nominated and elected by a unanimous vote.

The new board then considered the officer positions. Bill (KG6GNI) agreed to continue to serve as President, Ken (K6WLS), agreed to serve as Vice President and Gary (N6GF)

agreed to continue as the Secretary/Treasurer. All were approved by acclamation.

Gary announced that he wished to step down from his duties as secretary/treasurer in October 2010, having served in these positions for 20 years. He suggested that it would be possible to separate these responsibilities into two positions to reduce the workload. He expressed his willingness to transfer the responsibilities and assist with the transition during the next year.

Bill proposed that a directors meeting be held in February or March of 2010. A specific date will be proposed later.

Bill proposed the establishment of a membership committee and Bob, KI6BZR agreed to serve as the committee chair.

Fund raising ideas were discussed, including the possibility of a raffle at the general meeting. HRO in Oakland may be willing to provide some prizes.

The possibility of monthly or quarterly meetings, possibly involving weekend breakfasts, was discussed, but no firm action was taken.

The board agreed to maintain the current membership dues.

The board discussed offering license exams. Ken (K6WLS) agree to lead this effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

The President's Corner

Thanksgiving 2009 is just around the corner and we have plenty to be thankful for. Yes the economy is very sluggish right now, but it could be a lot worse, as it was at the end of the 70's. I just pray for a rapid economic recovery and always for the safe return of our troops; hoping that all will be home soon after completing their mission (performed very well despite difficult strategic situations and excessive political gamesmanship).

Last time as I sat here writing for this op bit, I was looking out the window and observing a storm that was passing through. The current weather is very pleasant but I know that a very large and warm El Nino sits off the coast. We all know that the presence of a strong El Nino usually brings or promotes very heavy winter rains along with the associated flooding we are so susceptible to. So again, even though it is very pleasant out now, make sure all of your radio gear is ready for emergency operation this winter. Take advantage of the nice weather to check all of your gear for proper operation.

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Earlier this year, we experienced a problem with the 2M antenna at Berryessa Peak. Upon inspection, we determined one of the outer shell couplings on the antenna had worked loose and allowed moisture to collect internally. Temporary repairs were made and the antenna put back in service.

Recently, the repeater site was again visited to perform normal pre-winter weather maintenance and to temporarily replace the antenna so repairs could be made in a more controlled environment. Upon closer inspection, it was decided to not only repair the existing antenna, but also to purchase a new unit. Last week, the new antenna was installed and the old, refurbished antenna, stored at the repeater site as a backup.

Our thanks to Jack (K6JAC), and Ken (K6WLS – who provided the tower climbing effort) for their many trips and hours spent and to Bob (KI6BZR), and Bill (KG6GNI) providing assistance, as needed, with the repair effort.

At last report, all equipment is operating very well.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE OF THE REPEATER FACILITY

Keeping the BARK repeater up and operational requires a reliable on-going maintenance program. Currently, only a few members participate in the maintenance program. We need more members to step up to support the effort.

If you would like to commit to assisting the club with performing maintenance, in addition to learning a lot about radios and associated equipment, please contact Jack, K6JAC.

PACKET RADIO

Just a reminder that the BARK repeater site has a packet radio for use by any licensed, amateur radio operator. The BARK club possesses some very knowledgeable and talented individuals who are very much into packet radio. In fact the BARK web page has information and links to a great deal of information on packet radio which will make it very easy for you to become involved. If you are interested, and need help, contact the club experts Al (WB6YNM), or Jack (K6JAC).

Repeater System Report

The power controller for the 440 repeater failed, so Ken, K6WLS, and Damian, AB6WB, switched over to the power controller from our former 220 repeater. When time allows, the failure will be investigated and repaired.

Ken found one of the solar cells to be partially shaded, so he raised it to keep it in the sun. We currently have three 15W solar cells used exclusively to charge the power backup batteries. There is interest in investigating a fully solar powered operation. We currently average about 5 Kwh per day. If we went

fully solar with battery storage and operated all of the systems on 13.6VDC, we would not have the losses associated with our current set of power supplies.

It is time to install the new 2m repeater that was purchased some time ago. This would allow us the opportunity to get some time on it before the bad weather hits and perform any debugging and make any required repairs to the existing unit. The PL problem encountered previously should now be resolved.

Another minor project is to turn off the 2m transmitter final amplifier cooling fan for the winter.

W6YOB and WA6QPU Silent Keys

Jim Crowley, W6YOB, of Middletown became a silent key in the summer of 2009. An extra class ham, he was a long-time member of BARK and was active in ARES, DX, and traffic nets.

Mary Ann Harral, WA6QPU, wife of Al Harral, WB6YNM, of Bethel Island, became a silent key 0n October 5, 2009 at the age of 80. Mary Ann and Al have been BARK members for many years. A former teacher, Mary Ann was very active in retirement as an artist and dog trainer.

Ham Radio Licensing Test Session

BARK is sponsoring a Ham Radio licensing test session on December 12 from 8:00am to noon. Technician, General, and Extra class tests will be administered. The test session will be held at the Red Cross chapter building located at 120 Cross Street in Woodland. For additional information, please contact Ken, K6WLS. We look forward to your participation and please welcome any of your ham friends to join us.

Treasurer's Report

The following is the budget summary for the 2008-2009 fiscal year:

Balance 7/08	\$1,328.92
Income:	
Dues	\$1,157.00
Patches	\$18.00
Miscellaneous	\$480.00
Expenses:	
Operating	\$630.85
Correspondence	\$53.98
Bank	\$72.58
Resale	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Balance 7/09	\$2,226.51

In the time since July 2009, we have received about \$200 in membership dues and have had about \$450 in operating expenses, so our balance on November 6, 2009 is \$1,993.41.

Membership News

Since the March 2009 newsletter, we gained three new members, but lost six, so our membership total dropped to 54.

New members are:

KI3REN	Kitren Glozer	Davis
KI6VWH	Skip Chapman	Sacramento
KI6VWI	Anne Chapman	Sacramento

Several 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 June, 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.

ARRL News

From Chris Hintz and Eric, KC0VZU, at Sacramento's National Weather Service office: "The 2009 Skywarn Recognition Day Event is a little over one month away (Dec 4-5)". The Sacramento Section is making plans to participate in the event.

FCC Public Notice DA 09-2259 clarifies section 97.113 forbidding amateur operations for pecuniary interest for an employer. A waiver is available for exercises, but it is not On October 27, the FCC's automatic. Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) granted the first waiver that allows amateurs who participate in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drill to communicate on behalf of their employers during the drill. The waiver request was made on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. That state conducted a full-scale exercise on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 from 8 AM-5 PM (EDT) to test their emergency response to the possible release of chemical agents at Blue Grass Army Depot, located near Richmond, Kentucky. By using and understanding the waiver process, we can gain a full understanding of that section of our rules.

Are you enjoying the fall operating season? Whether it is because radio conditions improve or just because our attention returns to indoor pursuits as the days get shorter, onthe-air activity always picks up at this time of the year.

BARK Membership Roster November 2009

Callsign	Name	Address	City	Zip	St
KI6ATE	John Gustavson	1339 Harley Way	Folsom	95630	Ot
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	
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	111
KF6HHH	Daniel Cameron	829 Ridgeview 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	
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		P.O. Box 1500	Woodland	95776	
	Bill Ragsdale Hal Stoner Jr.	1910 Nevada St			
WB6KXV	LaVonne LaMoureaux		Gridley Woodland	95948	
K6LAV		211 Cypress Dr		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	
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	NM
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	
KF6VFF	Eric Bergstrom	5019 Combsville Rd.	Napa	94558	
KI6VWH	Anne Chapman	3560 Huntsman Dr.	Sacramento	95826	NM
KI6VWI	Skip Chapman	3560 Huntsman Dr.	Sacramento	95826	NM
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 March 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.

BARK Website: www.bark2m.com

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

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 either of the repeaters, or by email to fordge@pacbell.net.

Deadline for March 2010: February 12, 2010

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