

Minutes of the Butte Radio Club Monthly Meeting

Date: September 6, 2025

Location: Butte Library

Time: 10:30 AM

In Attendance:

Gene Bodenberger – N7ARO, Jack Hook – KK7IZN, James Burk – KG7OMB, Verne Brown – KK6DIO, Rob Sisson – KE7IYU, Tom Hoffman – KZ7T, Guest Brian Schrage – KD7TSN (joined right after the meeting), Rodney Pewitt – N7TRG, Erik Bodenberger – KA7JMH, Alan Christensen – KE7AZB, and Steve Shannon – A17KS

Treasurer's Report:

For the past three months: We started June with \$2444.50 in the treasury. In June we received \$25 in dues and \$15 in donations leaving a balance going into July of \$2484.50. In July we had no cash flow so the balance going into August was \$2484.50. In August we received \$32 in donations and paid \$233 for our annual insurance, leaving a balance at the end of August/beginning of September of \$2283.50.

Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report:

Motion Made: Steve Shannon

Seconded: Erik Bodenberger

Vote

Aye: Unanimous

Nay:

Abstain:

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Any Corrections?

None

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting with noted corrections

Motion Made: Jack Hook

Seconded: Tom Hoffman

Vote

Aye: Unanimous

Nay:

Abstain:

Old Business

Outstanding Budget Items:

Unknown: Forest Service Fees

Unknown: Electrician – Unknown at this time – see New Business, Repeater Update

List of Items to be completed in 2025:

Look for grants from NorthWestern Energy, Butte Community Foundation, Town Pump Foundation, etc.

Transfer of title for trailer – Once the trailer is transferred, we may have to fill out the request for exemption from Property Taxes for MT DOR.

Steve was unable to find a title for the trailer at the old hospital. Rick DuPrey will look to see if he finds a registration. We may have to file for a lost title, then transfer the trailer, including whatever re-registration needs to be done.

Gun Show Table:

Rick Duprey set it so we could share a table with the Butte Gun Club at the Gun Show in late July, thinking that we might be able to promote membership in the Butte Radio Club from the attendees at the Gun Show. Jack put together a very nice presentation that included his go-box, some applications, and flyers. He also manned the table all day with the exception of a brief period when Steve covered for him so he could eat and get refreshed. With the exception of a couple friendly visitors there was unfortunately no interest expressed by passers-by.

New Business

Repeater Update

As of September 4, Sandra Walund and I have spoken several times. She called me in June because she was being contacted by third parties asking about our repeater and she didn't appreciate it. I assured her that we would continue working through the process with her. She calmed down and since then we have had three or four pleasant calls. That last one was in August. She said she was locking the door and concentrating on getting our permit ready. She was waiting for input from the Washington DC people and the mapping people. She said our permit will only be for 5 years this time because the Forest Service isn't sure what will happen to the Highlands Lookout tower. They know they have some structural problems and they don't know what they will do with them.

However, during our September 1 Monday Night 2 Meter Simplex Net we were interrupted by the repeater identifying itself. Tom said he had heard it since that afternoon! So, we switched over to the repeater and conducted the net on the repeater. The week before only three people participated. We had 11 on September 1, including from Belgrade, Bozeman, Whitehall and Anaconda. WB6MMC from Whitehall said his scanner picked up the repeater on the previous Wednesday, August 27.

Steve called Rob Morris and left a voicemail on September 2. Rob called back on September 4. Rob said while he was up on Red Mountain doing the annual maintenance he took the end of the power cable that ran to our repeater closet and connected it to a breaker in his panel. He said he “stole” a breaker, but before he could explain what he meant by that the call was dropped. I was in the middle of asking what we need to do. Hopefully he’ll call again when he has better service.

During and after the meeting James, Jack, and Steve discussed going up there. They decided that the best timing would be to go on Sunday, September 14. Steve will call the Forest Service (Sandra Walund) to see if he can get a key during the week to be used on the weekend.

Registered Agent

Cliff Gade is listed as our Registered Agent. A Registered Agent is required to be able to be served process papers during normal business hours. There are several in the state that do this professionally. Steve will make a recommendation based on the list of Registered Agents listed with the Secretary of State for Montana.

Replacement 2 Meter Repeater

Tom Hoffman generously donated \$2,000 to pay for a new replacement repeater. James will communicate with representatives who deal in radios to see about pricing and availability of some good repeaters. He is interested in a purpose built repeater, such as Icom, Kenwood, Hytera, or Bridgecom. The Yaesu DR-2x is not in consideration because it’s comprised of two mobile FTM-400 radios in a single chassis and does not perform quite as well as some other repeaters.

[Any other business for the good of the order:](#)

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion Made: Rodney Pewitt

Seconded: Steve Shannon