**Minutes of the San Bernardino Microwave Society Meeting of 6 December 2012**

Chris Shoaff, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**Guests Or Not Seen In a Long Time**

* No one. Nor any New People. Dang (Only 17 people. We are going down each month)

**The Secretary’s Report**   
Walter Clark’s report was approved by the members

**The Treasurer’s Report**

* $2003 in the general fund, no deposits, no expenditures
* auxiliary fund (beacon and OVR projects) dropped $150 to $6,850 (this is to Doug for the 24 G Beacon Parts)

**Old Business**

* **Christmas Party is Still On**
* **Owens Valley** 
  + There was no discussion on the small mount at OVRO.
* **Beacons**
* **The 24 GHz Beacon**
  + No discussion but Doug spent $150 (details?)
* **The 10 GHz Standard Beacon**
  + Chris mentioned during the Activity Reports that the PCB for the L.O. needs improving

**New Business**

* + Bill Burns would like to turn over responsibility of the newsletter to someone else. (He’s had this job since forever.) Your secretary volunteered to be interim. Rein volunteered to participate in the newsletter as well as the website.
  + In the discussion on Rein's interest in maintaining the website it came up that he needs access to password and name for submitting and modifying the website. The secretary gathered there was a consensus that he be given that by Dave.
  + Mel suggested that between Rein and Walter, they be the ones to decide whether the US Post Office delivery of the newsletter should be dropped. The secretary saw no objection from the membership.
  + There was discussion on how the newsletter can be improved. The consensus among those doing the talking was that Rein and Walter should improve the shit out of both and make them refer to each other constantly as much as possible.

**Activity Report (going around the room)**

(Listed here is what the Secretary feels was the highlight of this part of the meeting)

Doug Millar

* bought a signal generator (2 to 18 GHz)
* mentioned an interesting facts about dates for EME contesting and the presence of background noise sources.
* he gave us a hint of the speakers for next year.

Rein Smit talked about his WSPR experience on 10 GHz with regard to weather.

**Larry Johnson:**

* **brought in his latest project, a field strength meter from 1 MHz to 18 GHz.**
* purchased an HP Oscillator at TRW Swap Meet

Bill McNally drove 400 miles gathering test equipment.

Dan Welch:

* is proceeding on machining parts for the next Am Sat called Fox-1
* taking names for 10 GHz omni antennas

Mel Swanberg

* is working on the 3 GHz Synthesizer part of the L.O. for the 24 GHz beacon
* he tried firing up three old 25 watt old-dusty X-band TWTs
* lots of activity on Cactus

Marty Woll

* Spent some time in the Philipeans, doing some ham activities there.
* He reminded us of the VHF Sweepstakes in
* He was involved with ARRL band plans now in the “scrub” version

Courtney Duncan

* He has his 20 watt 23 cm rig really working well.
* He recently received an 817 (Yaesu transceiver) and plans to use it for 10 GHz.

Walter Clark

* talked about his work making round to WR90 transitions
* He brought a transition made with a 3D printer

**Jerry Martis**

* **Asked for help with making and testing a 5.8 GHz LNA for imaging satellite work**
* **His project is to enable anyone in the world to use his 2.4 meter dish on that frequency. And someday do that in X-band**

Dick Bremer said his power amp was fixed by Brian Yee

Chris Shoaff is working on the X-band beacon

**Members and Guests on the Aether**

* Manning the TV broadcast equipment at our meeting:
  + Gary Heston who owns the gear and operates the TV equipment
  + Tom Board was on the south camera
* On video
  + Don was on with super high fidelity sound
  + Robby was watching (transmitting gear is on the fritz)
* Don Hill reported the following on internet:
* Regular viewers on the Internet are members Susi and Gordon Lewis. They were at the Christmas party.

**Tech Talk**

Doug’s very valuable talk compared the features and cost of three levels of test equipment. For your secretary, even the beginner level was mostly out of reach but the next two levels, were not that much more costly. (The levels seemed to be less than $6dB apart.) But the point well taken was; if you can spend thousands of dollars for test equipment, Doug, along with Dennis, Mel and others in the audience made it clear that the most for you money was the equipment in Doug’s highest level. No mention was made of brand new test gear other than the impression I got, was that with brand new stuff, such as a $12K spectrum analyzer, the improvements are of diminishing returns for the amateur. Details on this fascinating talk are available on Doug’s website.

Recording Secretary, Walter Clark (714) 882-9647