

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on August 5, 2013; Ryan's Steakhouse Bluefield, VA.

<http://www.erarc.com>

the meeting was opened at 703pm by Stephen Rector W8QHC, ERARC President. There were 7 members and guests in attendance. All were welcomed.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the July minutes.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. He paid a phone bill in the amount of \$21.12. **He reminds us that membership renewals are due by August 31.** Only 15 members have renewed as of today and there were around 90+ members last year. **Roger would like members to email him at rdstefancic@yahoo.com with updated/preferred email addresses, phone numbers, etc. Renewals are still \$15.00 per amateur per year and an additional \$1 per amateur at the same mailing address. Send renewals to: ERARC, P.O. Box 1362, Bluefield, WV 24701. Thanks!** Hooger will also send out renewal reminders via email.

Steve asked about the September 14-15 ARRL VHF contest. Gary Kadar N8GK said that he knew that he had to work those days and would not be able to participate. Don Anderson WD8OOR said that if there was any participation, that it would probably be decided at breakfast on that Saturday morning. See

<http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf> for more information.

Don gave a repeater report. The 147.06 is 'broken' and he is awaiting a controller to replace the bad one. The old controller kept the radio keyed up continually. The 145.49 was off the air this morning and Jay Belt K8CTI went to the mountain and got it working again but Don did not know what he did to the repeater. This machine has some strong interference which is overloading the receiver, causing weak 144.89 signals to not open the receiver as they should. He and others are working on this problem. This machine works fine on a dummy load but when connected to the antenna, has this overwhelming receiver interference. The 442.45 will hopefully be back on the air soon.

Gary said that the next VE test session would be this Saturday on August 10 at 9am at the Mercer County 911 Center. We received a flyer in the mail for the 'Tri-State Amateur Radio Association' Hamfest for this Saturday, August 10 from 830am to 1pm in Huntington, WV.

Information: <http://www.orgsites.com/wv/taraclub> and for the Shelby, NC Hamfest August 31 and September 1.

Information:

<http://www.shelbyhamfest.org>

Steve mentioned a request from the Tazewell County Tea Party wanting a speaker on how Amateur Radio could be of help during a national/regional emergency. They have postponed their meeting but he is going to contact the ARRL and see if they have any DVDs on the subject. This material may be of interest to the Boy Scouts and/or other

organizations also. A visitor, Louie Rocchetti from Princeton, came in and inquired about Amateur Radio and about testing for a Technician license. We mentioned the ARRL study guides in the local libraries for his use. The meeting was over by 740pm but we talked to Louie until past 8pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC
Secretary.