

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on April 3, 2016 at The Valley Country Restaurant, Green Valley, WV. <http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Backup meeting location at Burger King, Bluefield, Va. The meeting was opened at 7pm by Keith Jennings NO8P, ERARC President. There were 15 members / guests in attendance. Keith welcomed everyone and especially the freshly retired David Sexton Alpha Bravo Eight Delter. He said later that Jaiden Borich KE8GDP and his father Johnny KE8GDO were at breakfast on Saturday and Jaiden is really excited to try a contact with the International Space Station.

<http://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html>

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the March 6, 2017 meeting and the minutes were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. He deposited \$45 in dues and paid \$62 for Post Office box rent. WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING DUES. \$15 per Amateur and \$1 for additional Ham at the same address. We appreciate your supporting local Amateur communications in our community.

Jay Belt K8CTI was asked to give a repeater report. Most all of the repeaters are in good shape. The 145.49 is having some noise getting into the receiver, it may need some antenna work. The new 220 is awaiting final frequency coordination and is actually in Bland Co., above the overlook and out to the east maybe a ¼ mile. Right now the antenna is at 160 feet and it was installed by the <http://www.WVVA.net> group. Thanks! The repeater is on the bench right now as Jay is tweaking the audio via the CAT - 800 controller. <https://www.catauto.com/>. There will be a link to the Dismal Peak 220 repeater.

Skywarn (Roger Stefancic KC8GLR) and Mercer Co. ARES (Steve O'dell N8SNR) nets: no announcements. Gary Kadar N8GK: The next ERARC ARRL VE test session will be on May 13, 2017. Greg Dominguez has changed his call sign to AF8GD from N3MPR.

Matt Morris, KC8LGS Mercer Co. EC is looking into different avenues for possible grants for equipment for the Club. He has been on contact with Mike Farnsworth KB8VLL concerning grants opportunities. Mike is the Vice President of the WV Amateur Radio Council <http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/>. After discussion, Matt asked if 'we' could meet and go over the application process for one Foundation in Parkersburg, WV. We decided on Saturday, April, 22, 2017, after/during breakfast.

Hooger read over the renewal for the ERARC member's Sam's Club memberships. \$45. Deadline is May 18. Hooger, Kadar, Hodges and Stefancic said that they will renew. Those not here tonight: Don Anderson, James Wood and David Cox. There are two more slots for membership. If you are interested in taking one of these slots, email Hooger at w4of@hotmail.com. First come/first served AND dependent on if the three above renew or not, there may be more. Hooger must renew first then the others can renew at any Sam's location. Hooger showed the members a flyer for the Raleigh, NC Hamfest and ARRL Roanoke Division Convention that will be held on April 15, 2017. <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest>. He also showed two free Hamfest entry tickets for the June 4, 2017 Breezeshooters Hamfest and ARRL-WPA Convention in Prospect, PA. <http://www.breezeshooters.org>. Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/breeze.shooters>. These tickets were donated to the Club. We will keep mentioning this Hamfest and these free tickets. Thanks!

Keith reminded all about the Special Event Amateur Radio station that we will setup at the Mercer County Airport fly-in and car show on May 27, 2017.

Robert Cook KA8MDZ will give a presentation at the next meeting on the Civil Air Patrol. Field Day 2017 is coming up in June. <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

It was mentioned that Roger Stefancic KC8LGR made contact with VP8LP in the Falkland Islands with his HF rig and hexbeam. Harold Hodges reminded all to checkout <http://egsl.cc>. He had a lot of virtual QSL cards there waiting on him to reply.

"To Do" list: check the 440 radio at the 911 Center. AND: Matt Morris KC8LGS had asked us to think about any 'wants' or 'needs' that we could possibly get via grants that he could fill out on our behalf. Items mentioned (1) 440 radio for 911 Center (2) a new HF radio for the Communications Trailer (3) a new HF antenna for our use, Yagi vs. Hex Beam (4) New HF rig for 911 Center ((Gary said that it would be nice to make this one a remote HF base for members to

use)) and (5) Keith said that it would be nice to find a larger place to meet that had food. The meeting was over at 0746pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

ERARC

P.O. Box 1362

Bluefield, WV 24701