

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on May 1, 2016 at The Valley Country Restaurant, Green Valley, WV. <http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Skywarn local simplex freq: 146.53. Backup meeting location at Burger King, Bluefield, Va. The meeting was opened at 7pm by Keith Jennings NO8P, ERARC President. There were 18 members / guests in attendance. Keith welcomed everyone.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the April 3, 2017 meeting and they were approved. Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid \$213.62 for our equipment insurance. 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.

Greg Dominguez AF8GD (ex-N3MPR) asked if any of us had heard about Amazon Smile. He explained that a 0.5% of an Amazon purchase can be donated to, for example, the ERARC. (see addendum below) There was some discussion and we will look into it.

Don Anderson gave a repeater report. Most all of the repeaters are in good shape. DMR is having internet problems, Echolink, packet and APRS are all offline at present. The link between 145.49 and 147.06 is down. The new 220 frequency is 224.46 - 1.6 Mhz offset with a 103.5 PL tone. (tx freq is 222.86) There is an active link to the Dismal Peak 220 repeater. Skywarn (Roger Stefancic KC8GLR) and Mercer Co. ARES (Steve O'dell N8SNR) nets: no announcements. Both nets are on Monday (except first Monday) at 730pm, one after the other. Gary Kadar N8GK: The next ERARC ARRL VE test session will be on May 13, 2017.

Matt Morris, KC8LGS ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Mercer Co. WV, could not attend but Keith gave his brief report on the April 29 ERARC effort to fill out an online grant application with a West Virginia foundation. We can ask for up to \$25,000 it was reported. The application must be accepted first before asking for specifics.

There are two more slots for Sam's Club membership at \$45 each. If you are interested in taking one of these slots, email Hooger at w4of@hotmail.com . We still have two free Hamfest entry tickets for the June 4, 2017 Breezeshooters Hamfest and ARRL-WPA Convention in Prospect, PA. We will not meet again until after this hamfest is over. <http://www.breezeshooters.org>. Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/breeze.shooters> . These tickets were donated to the Club. Robert Cook KA8MDZ then gave an interesting presentation on the Civil Air Patrol. Many questions were answered afterwards. Thank you Robert!

It was mentioned that Cary Hubbard KB8VOK had passed away on April 5. He was the son of Drema Ritchey KD4NQF. Keith asked for a moment of silence in his memory and the family's loss. There was discussion about our giving to charities when Club member's immediate family passes on. Bruce will send a donation to the Hubbard's chosen charity.

Walmart dot com has a TYT 380 DMR handheld for \$81. David Sexton AB8D says to be sure that you don't end up with a VHF model which is a 2M DMR HT as the majority of DMR repeaters are operating on 440.

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.

Field Day 2017 is coming up in June at Boy Scout Camp Roland in Bastian, Va.

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

"To Do" list: check the 440 radio at the 911 Center. and: Matt Morris KC8LGS had asked us to think about a 'wants' or 'needs' list. 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. (6) Upgrading the DMR internet interface for more reliable availability (7) Get the APRS system up and running again (8) Get the packet system up and running again.

The meeting was over at 0746pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary. ERARC P.O. Box 1362 Bluefield, WV 24701

Addendum for Amazon Smile:

From a Greg Dominguez email to Hooger:

"As promised at the meeting last night, Amazon has a program that pays money to organizations if the organization is setup and the purchaser uses <https://smile.amazon.com>.

The first step in setting up is to go to: <https://org.amazon.com>

On the page that opens note the next to last paragraph. There is a link to GuideStar:

<http://www.guidestar.org/Home.aspx>

Entering East River Amateur Radio Club in the search box will list the club at the top of the results list. Clicking on the club name will open the information page.

73,Greg - AF8GD"