

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on June 5, 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 AD8L, ERARC President. There were 21 members / guests in attendance. Keith welcomed everyone especially Jamie Brewster KN4DWG and visitor Steven Scott who is interested in getting licensed. He said that he will not seek re-election for President this fall due to more and more of his time being devoted to the care of his mother. He also mentioned that only 6 ERARC members showed up at the Mercer Co. Fly-in and Car Show on May 27 and had hoped for more participation. The bands were 'dead' but the whole event was deemed a success.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the May 1, 2017 meeting and they were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid \$300.00 for our liability insurance policy. (This policy is a must for us when we use the grounds at Boy Scout Camp Roland.)

As some of you may remember, one of our Treasurers, Bob Frazier WB8NRK SK, would start accepting dues for the upcoming year while at Field Day in June. With that being said, WE ARE ACCEPTING DUES for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. \$15 per Amateur and \$1 for additional Ham at the same address. See an officer (or other member if need be) or mail to: **ERARC P.O. Box 1362 Bluefield, WV 24701**. We appreciate your supporting local Amateur communications in our community.

Don Anderson gave a repeater report. There was recent concern about our repeaters not being coordinated, not active or not even being listed in the Journal of the SERA, our coordinating body. <http://www.sera.org>. Mark Williams KQ4Q contacted the SouthEastern Repeater Association and took care of all of the deficiencies associated with coordinations and notifications. John Riddle N8RIG is the FCC trustee of the repeaters and cannot be the contact with the SERA. (On a list provided to me, the following repeaters are located in McComas, WV (Windmill Gap): 147.06, 53.37, and 442.45. These are located in Bluefield, VA: 444.45 (DMR) and 145.49. The 224.46 is located in Bluefield, WV. This new repeater has a -1.6 Mhz offset with a 103.5 PL tone and has an active link to the Dismal Peak 220 repeater.) Don was just told tonight that

the 145.49 audio has failed and it will be checked ASAP. There was discussion as to whether the Club should become a Full Member with the SERA or not. (Individuals can join as Associate Members for \$25/yr. and includes the SERA Repeater Journal) The cost is \$35/year or \$70/ 2 years. After more discussion, Don made a motion, seconded by Steve O'dell N8SNR to join the SERA as a Full Member for two years at \$70. A vote was taken, the motion passed.

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. Roger said that 'we' were contacted several weekends ago to be on standby for Weather Spotter activation.

Matt Morris KC8LGS is the Mercer County, West Virginia ARRL Emergency Coordinator. He is asking for information that he can put into a presentation for delivery to community organizations, etc. that shows the value of the ERARC to the community. He specifically needs to know of instances where Amateur Radio has helped with emergency communications during times of need. He would like to have stories about local, state, regional, national and/or worldwide instances where Hams have made a difference. If you can help Matt out, please email him at jmattmorris@me.com. He reported that he is still working on a grant from the Bernard McDonough Foundation. He is also working on other avenues of funding such as the Community Foundation of the Virginias <http://www.cfvinc.org>. **If you have any input at all, please email Matt.**

Gary Kadar N8GK reported on the ERARC ARRL VE test session held on May 13, 2017. There were two new Technicians and one upgrade to General. The next test session will be on August 12.

Field Day is June 24-25, 2017 and we will setup at the BSA Camp Roland in Bastian, Va. Don Anderson WD8OOR is FD Chairman. He asked who was planning on working what band, towing the generator, tower, etc. We will meet the morning of June 24 at breakfast and go from there. <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

David Sexton AB8D mentioned that Jason Johnson KC5HWB of YouTube "Ham Radio 2.0" fame will be on the WV DMR net on Thursday June 15 on talk group 3154. If you would like to listen to the net, click on this link: <https://hose.brandmeister.network>

"To Do" list: check the 440 radio at the 911 Center. 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. (9) Continue to look into the Amazon Smile program <see info below> (10) Suggestion: list the DMR talkgroups, help pages, links, etc. on the ERARC website. <http://www.erarc.com>

The meeting was over at 0758pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary. ERARC
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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”