

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on July 3, 2017 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 0658pm by Keith Jennings AD8L, ERARC President. There were 15 members in attendance including new member Brennan McGraw KC8FIB. Keith spoke about what a success Field Day was and thanked Matt Morris KC8LGS for use of his generator, everyone that brought food, WVVA for a great 90 sec spot on the news and for all of the help received. Jaiden Borich KE8GDP gave a great interview to the WVVA TV reporter

(<https://www.facebook.com/gindoll/posts/10155292976062347>) and Keith was interviewed also. (<http://www.wvva.com/category/137959/video-landing-page?clipId=13441134&autostart=true>) Special thanks to Randall Hash WB4BBF (180 contacts) for again working 40M CW and copying the ARRL Field Day Bulletin sent out by W1AW and to Don Anderson WD8OOR for providing breakfast for those that spent the night. Chris Hash KM4IFL (no relation to Randall) and his son came down from Marion, Va. and helped make FD contacts. The Bluefield Daily Telegraph sent Eric DiNovo, photo journalist, and Charles Boothe, writer, to cover the event also. Final claimed FD score to come.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the June 5, 2017 meeting and they were approved.

Keith gave the Treasurer's report as Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR couldn't make the meeting. He paid \$70.00 for a 2 year full membership to SERA, our frequency coordination body. (<http://www.sera.org>) and deposited \$31 in dues. **WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING DUES for the 2017-2018 ERARC calendar year. The cost is still \$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.** There is a downloadable application on the <http://www.erarc.com> website if

needed. We appreciate your supporting local Amateur communications in our community.

Don Anderson gave a repeater report. All are working except the Echolink connection and he is working with the phone company to remedy that situation. He asked if packet was still being used. Steve O'Dell said that it was and the DAREN network is still viable. <http://www.wc8ec.org> It was mentioned that APRS is very viable and it would be nice to get the Bluefield APRS system back online. <http://www.aprs.org/>

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 the number of check-ins is steady.

Matt Morris KC8LGS is the Mercer County, West Virginia ARRL Emergency Coordinator. He made the June 30 deadline for delivery of a grant application to the Community Foundation of the Virginias <http://www.cfvinc.org> He was fortunate enough to meet one the people that sits on the committee that awards these grants. He explained about the Club, the mission, etc. and felt really good about our chances for receiving a grant. He specifically requested funding for a new generator and two new HF radios. They will announce grant recipients in September. He is working on a power point presentation for delivery to community organizations, etc. that shows the value of the ERARC to the community. He will give the first presentation to the Princeton, WV Rotary Club on July 24 and hopes to talk to the Bluefield Rotary, PCH, BRMC and other entities. He reported that he is still working on a grant from the Bernard McDonough Foundation. He is still trying to come up with a date and time to meet with the Red Cross to discuss emergency communications.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that the next ERARC ARRL VE test session will be on August 12.

Keith asked if anyone had tried to work the June VHF contest. Harold Hodges N8NCP worked 6M from home but the bands were horrible. He made 6 contacts.

Greg Dominguez AF8GD said that he, David Sexton AB8D, Roger Stefancic and Steve O'dell are more than willing to help anyone with DMR questions. He said that there was a bogus DMR Facebook page that touted helping Amateurs with

their DMR problems. This or these persons ended up connecting to the Ham's computer and installing software that would allow the perpetrator to see what was on the amateur's hard drive.

"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, 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)), (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.
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Addendum for Amazon Smile:

From a Greg Dominguez email to Hooger:

"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"