

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on August 7, 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. Our backup meeting location is at the Bluefield, Va. Burger King. WE WILL MEET THERE NEXT MONTH ON SEPT. 4 DUE TO LABOR DAY. (The Valley Restaurant will be closed on that Monday.)

The meeting was opened at 7pm by Keith Jennings AD8L, ERARC President. There were 19 members and guests in attendance. Keith welcomed everyone and in particular David Garrett KA4TXY, his wife Gail, and Paul Gonzalez KT4AS.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the July 3, 2017 meeting and they were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report . He paid \$1 to K2 Towers for a one year tower lease and deposited \$114 in dues. **WE ARE STILL 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 to remedy that situation. He said that the Packet software and hardware (not including the 2M radio) will have to be replaced and 'start again from scratch'. Steve O'Dell said that he checks into the DAREN (FM 145.69) occasionally. (<http://www.wc8ec.org>). The local APRS (FM 144.39) system is still down and will need to be re-vamped too. (<http://www.aprs.org/>) DMR 445.45, FM 442.45, FM 224.46, FM 147.06 and FM 53.37 are all working fine. The FM 145.49 is still having problems. Keith mentioned that the NWS at Blacksburg cannot get into the Windmill Gap 147.06 and must rely on the Bluefield, Va. 145.49 in order to inquire about local weather events.

Roger Stefancic KC8GLR said that he held a 146.53 simplex exercise during a recent Skywarn® net. Steve O'dell N8SNR had nothing new on the Mercer Co.

ARES net but said that he has ARES applications for those that are interested in being part of that entity. Both nets are on Monday (except first Monday) at 730pm, one after the other.

Matt Morris KC8LGS is the Mercer County, WV, ARRL Emergency Coordinator and reported that The Community Foundation of the Virginias <http://www.cfvinc.org> will announce grants in September. He has specifically requested funding for a new generator and two new HF radios. He continues to wait to hear about a grant from the Bernard McDonough Foundation. He has produced a 20 minute power point presentation in which he introduces the Club, our mission and our value to the community. He gave the first presentation to the Princeton, WV Rotary Club on July 24 and they were very receptive to this information. The Rotary members basically said, 1) 'Wow, we didn't know that you did that' and 2) 'are you different than CB radio?' He hopes that we can produce a nice letter of thanks and to seek funding. He and Greg Dominguez AF8GD hope to go to Beckley, WV within two weeks to talk to a Red Cross representative about the ERARC and emergency communications.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that there **will be an ARRL VE test session this coming Saturday**, August 12, 2017 at 9am at the Mercer County, WV 911 Center. He also mentioned that there is a new question on the FCC applications that says, basically, 'Have you been convicted of a felony?'

Keith said that we had an email from the Charleston, WV VE group announcing a General Class Cram Session in on August 26, 2017 starting at 745 am. Testing will begin at 145pm for ALL licenses. Info: terry.sanner@frontier.com

Hooger sent in the Field Day report to the ARRL in time to get published. We are claiming 1170 QSO points and 1090 bonus points. Keith asked if anyone would be interested in participating in the September 9-11, 2017 VHF contest. Discussion ensued about locations, etc. etc. <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

Hooger read an email from Chris Hatcher KC8AFH concerning Beckley, WV DMR repeaters 443.875 +cc1 is on and 442.875 going online soon. Another email from Mike Farnsworth KD8VLL inquired if and who may be attending the WV ARRL State Convention the weekend of August 19. <http://qsl.net/wvsarc/>

The BSA Mountain Dominion District of the Buckskin Council has asked if the ERARC would again participate in Jamboree On The Air at BSA Camp Roland on October 21, 2017. We do have Amateurs that have already volunteered to take part. Each ERARC participant will receive a JOTA/BSA t-shirt. If you would like to participate, please let Hooger know your shirt size. W4OF@hotmail.com, thanks!
<http://www.camproland.com> <http://www.buckskin.org>

Keith opened the floor for nominations for officers for the upcoming 2017-2018 year. He said that Bruce and Hooger have both said that they will continue with Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Steve O'Dell has decided to 'run' for the VP position and Matt Morris said that if the membership will have him, that he'll try the President's office. There were no other nominations made. Voting, and any further nominations, will take place at the September meeting at Burger King in Bluefield, Va.

"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 0747pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.
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