

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on September 4, 2017 at Bluefield, Va. Burger King <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.

The meeting was opened at 7pm by Keith Jennings AD8L, ERARC President. There were 16 members and guests in attendance. Keith welcomed everyone and in particular Keith Meadows KE8EXK, Paul Gonzalez KT4AS and Cruz Soto KE8BRP.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the August 7, 2017 meeting and they were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR could not make the meeting so Keith gave the Treasurer's report. There were no pay-outs and he deposited monies from dues and donations.

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. "Most are working," he said. The 145.49 and 147.06 link is back on now.

It was mentioned that David Lester N8VFR, the ERARC webmaster, has totally re-done the <http://www.erarc.com> website. Check it out and see what a great job David did! David is co-owner of <http://swifnet.us> and <https://gomonogram.com/> on Jefferson Street in Bluefield, WV.

Keith reported that the Greenbank Radio Observatory detected 15 very rare FRBs (Fast Radio Bursts) a week ago. This Observatory is located in the National Radio Quiet Zone in Greenbrier County, WV. See: <https://phys.org/news/2017-08-distant-galaxy-high-energy-radio.html>

Roger Stefancic KC8GLR said that we will use the 145.49 repeater during the next Skywarn® net. Steve O'dell N8SNR had nothing new on the Mercer Co. ARES net. Both nets occur at 0730pm on non-ERARC meeting Mondays.

Matt Morris KC8LGS is the Mercer County, WV, ARRL Emergency Coordinator. He reported that The Community Foundation of the Virginias <http://www.cfvinc.org> will announce grants probably in early November. He has specifically requested \$2500 in funding. He continues to wait to hear about a grant from the Bernard McDonough Foundation. He plans on joining the Princeton, WV Rotary Club in order to get to know the local business environment, etc. He and Greg Dominguez AF8GD are still attempting to talk to the Beckley, WV Red Cross officials about emergency communication.

Gary Kadar N8GK reported on the August 12, 2017 ERARC ARRL VE testing exam. There was one upgrade to General (congratulations Matt Morris), and one individual took the Technician test but didn't pass the test.

Keith asked if anyone would be interested in participating in the September 9-11, 2017 VHF contest. There was discussion about going to Onieda Peak in Springville, Va. vs. the overlook area atop East River Mountain in Bluefield, WV. No one said that they would or could participate. <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

The BSA Mountain Dominion District of the Buckskin Council is thankful that the ERARC is again participating in Jamboree On The Air at BSA Camp Roland on October 21, 2017 from morning to about 5pm or so. 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! Hooger said that Ed Evans WV8ED will not be able to attend the JOTA event and that 'we' have been asked if any member of the Amateur community would consider teaching the Radio Merit Badge. This Merit Badge is easily taught with one of several PowerPoint presentations (ex; <http://www.k2bsa.net/jamboree-radio-merit-badge/>). Hooger has been asked to consider teaching the signs, signals and codes Merit Badge: <https://www.slideshare.net/rockmarttroop23/signs-signals-codes-merit-badge> Local BSA URLs. <http://www.camproland.com> <http://www.buckskin.org> Roger Stefancic KC8LGR said that we need to go to the Boy Scout camp and install the large Mosley tri-bander beam on the tower sometime before JOTA.

Keith opened the floor for nominations for officers for the upcoming 2017-2018 year. 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 took place for each new candidate and each was confirmed.

Jay Belt K8CTI said that the owner of the site for the 145.49 and 444.45 DMR have removed their equipment and is asking us to pay for the electricity that we use. They will still take care of the heating and cooling bill. we either need to move ASAP or pay the \$18-\$20 / month electrical bill. There was discussion about this including Don Anderson saying that we paid about the same amount per month when we had to take care of the phone line there several years ago. It was also mentioned that we could save around \$280 / year if we could find another site. Don made a motion, seconded by Gary Kadar, to assume responsibility for our power bill at the '49, Double Gates, Bluefield, Va. site.

Paul Gonzalez KT4AS thanked Keith for his dedicated hard work as President during the year. A round of applause ensued.

Cruz Soto said that he would like to connect some McDowell Co., WV repeaters to our 145.49. He had originally asked if he could link to the 147.06 but he is having lots of interference problems due to the frequencies that need to be used. There was some discussion on this subject. To be continued at a later date.

Matt said that he had been contacted by "Explore Adventures in Science and Civics" from Princeton, WV concerning the science of Ham Radio and our use of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) in our hobby. He asks that we consider helping with the Explore program and hopefully getting some licensed amateurs out of the program. More to come.

See: http://www.ptonline.net/news/flannigan-guides-kids-to-explore-adventures-in-science-and-civics/article_ac3fb12f-691d-5008-816c-a9b9959d3a5b.html

"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 (10) Suggestion: list the DMR talkgroups, help pages, links, etc. on the ERARC website. <http://www.erarc.com> (11) New repeater site to replace 145.49? (12) Participate in the STEM / Explore program in Princeton? (13) Linking 145.49 to McDowell County via Soto Cruz. (14) install tri-bander beam at Camp Roland.

The meeting was over at 0807pm.

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