

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on October 2, 2017 at <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 Matt Morris KC8LGS, ERARC President. There were 15 members and guests in attendance. Matt welcomed everyone and thanked the membership for their vote of confidence in him by electing him as President.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the September 4, 2017 meeting and they were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid a \$14.73 power bill (for the '49 site) and he deposited \$60.00 in dues. Hooger mentioned that both Matt and Steve O'dell N8SNR, Vice President, need to get onto the Club's signature card for our checking account at our bank. (**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. 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. "They are working," he said. Jay Belt K8CTI agreed.

Roger Stefancic KC8GLR said that we will use the 145.49 repeater during the Skywarn® net so that the NWS in Blacksburg, Va. can contact Amateurs in our area if needed. They cannot hit the '06 machine. These two are linked which increases the foot print. The Mercer Co. ARES net, moderated by Steve O'dell N8SNR, is now on Thursdays. Both nets are at 0730pm.

Matt is also the Mercer County, WV, ARRL Emergency Coordinator. He reported that The Community Foundation of the Virginias <http://www.cfvinc.org> has awarded the Club a grant for purchase of Kenwood TS-2000 HF equipment and associated items. He continues to wait to hear about a grant from the Bernard McDonough Foundation but doesn't feel like this one will pan out. He and Greg Dominguez AF8GD are

still attempting to talk to the Beckley, WV Red Cross officials about emergency communication.

Gary Kadar N8GK reminded us about the November 11, 2017 ERARC ARRL VE testing exam.

Don Anderson said that Cruz Soto KE8BRP is using his remote base to connect McDowell Co. repeaters to the 145.49. He asked if anyone was still using packet digital communications. Discussion. He says that there's no use in reviving the ERARC packet if no one is using it. He asked about APRS. Greg Dominguez gave examples of using this mode with the Red Cross during mock disasters in Maryland and how much data can be passed with almost no breach of personal information due to the digital aspect of APRS. Discussion. Don will work on getting our APRS system back up and usable. He said that John Riddle N8RIG probably has most of the APRS hardware at his home. The tri-bander antenna is going to be placed at BSA Camp Roland soon.

Gary Kadar suggested that we indeed have individuals that can volunteer for disaster services when the need arises. It's one thing to say that we can do it, it's another to actually do it, he implied.

Hooger mentioned that he, David Lester N8VFR and several others had emailed one another concerning the publishing of member's email addresses on the Club website. Discussion. Hooger will send out an email to ERARC members and see if there is a preference of having email addresses posted or not. Bruce will send Hooger an updated membership list to accomplish this.

George Leedy KJ4BXS again suggested that we find a more accommodating place to meet. Discussion.

The BSA Mountain Dominion District of the Buckskin Council is thankful that the ERARC is again participating with 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. Those who have volunteered to help include Roger, Keith, Greg, Bruce and Hooger. Hooger is going to teach the Radio Merit Badge during JOTA.

Matt asked about our Christmas Dinner / Meeting in December. Discussion. Hooger will have his wife, Ginny KF4YBU check with La Fiesta in Bluefield, Va. for this event.

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

"To Do" list / A 'wants' or 'needs' list. Items mentioned:

- (1) get 440 running at the 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) ~~packet~~
- (9) Continue to look into the Amazon Smile program
- (10) Suggestion: list the DMR talkgroups, help pages, links, etc. on the ERARC website
- (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. KE8BRP~~