

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on February 5, 2018 at Bellacino's in Princeton, 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.

The meeting was opened at 7pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS, ERARC President. There were 15 members and guests in attendance. Matt welcomed everyone to the meeting. Concerning the Princeton Explore program on our 'to do' list, "This program is probably going to end", Matt commented.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the January 1, 2018 meetings and they were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid a power bills for the '49 site in the amounts of \$16.36 and paid the State of West Virginia \$25 for our business license. He deposited \$16.00 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. ERARC P.O. Box 1362 Bluefield, WV 24701. There is a downloadable application on the erarc website if needed. We appreciate your supporting local Amateur communications in our community.)

Don Anderson WD8OOR gave a repeater report. He has been working Echolink and has made some DX contacts via that mode. He is impressed with the performance. He says that we may hear some new Amateurs and/or DX via the 146.09 Echolink now. The new APRS hardware and software is being tweaked by him and hopes to have that mode online in the near future. Jay Belt K8CTI said that we probably need to find a new home for the 145.49 and 444.45 repeaters, etc. as K2 Towers has been purchased by American Towers and we may very well get asked to leave. There is a possibility that we could move 300 yards to the west onto the "Channel 40" tower and control building. He says that this move will probably have to happen. K2 Towers is to give us 3 months notice before such a move as per their contract with the ERARC but we've not been notified yet.

Roger Stefancic KC8GLR said that the Skywarn® Monday net at 730pm is going well. Steve O'Dell N8SNR is running the

AR

ES net after Roger's net and it is going well also. (Nets are weekly except for the first Monday of each month).

Matt would like to step down from the Mercer Co. ARRL EC position and would encourage anyone able to consider taking on the job. He said that he went ahead and ordered the two Kenwood TS-2000 HF radios and power supplies from Maine Trading Co. He will get the receipts to the Bluefield Area Foundation to fulfill their requirements. We were awarded \$2800 and the total spent was a bit over \$3000. Matt mentioned again about the HEART (Healthcare Emergency Amateur Radio Team) alliance between Healthcare facilities and disaster communications via Ham Radio. He is interested in the Club participating in such ventures so that we can show a return on investments such as from the BAF. ((Eastern Virginia HEART information: <http://dw.evhc.org/demo/index.php/communications/heart>) Western Virginia is included and growing and is spearheaded by Glen Sage W4GHS in Hillsville, Va.))

Gary Kadar N8GK asked that the Club consider using the Anderson Powerpole Connector system for all of the Club's equipment.

Discussion. Don Anderson said that he would take care of this as he has the crimper tool.

(<https://powerwerx.com/anderson-power-powerpole-sb-connectors>) On another subject, with discussion, Don made a motion, seconded by Gary Kadar to have the Club pay for any monies that are over the \$2800 grant for said equipment items. Vote taken. The motion passed.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that there will be an ARRL VE test session at 9am at the Mercer Co. 911 Center on Saturday, February 10, 2018. The current Technician question pool expires July 1, 2018. We can then think about putting new study manuals in the local libraries.

Gary also mentioned that the Bluefield State College Research building on Bland Street is practically empty and that it is a possible meeting location for us if needed or wanted. He says that although there is no food, it is available.

Greg Dominguez AF9GD mentioned that when he's been on Amazon, that the East River ARC is listed as a charity for their 'Amazon Smile' program in which we can receive a percentage of one's purchase when the ERARC is chosen as the charity. He will try to go through some purchases with that option and see how it may work for the Club.

Hooger has three SERA Repeater Journals in his possession and they are property of the Club. He asks if any member would like to take one home, to do so. He also mentioned that he had sent out a questionnaire to members concerning having member's email addresses posted on the website. He had three replies and all said that it was OK with them. One reply said that maybe we might want to list the addresses as name at yahoo dot com, as an example, to avoid 'web-bots' combing the website and 'taking' the email addresses for other's uses.

The meeting was over at 0748pm.

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

"To Do" / '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~~

(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 Pctn?
- (13) Possible linking our repeater(s) to KE4QOX's system
- (14) June 2018, Technician Study manuals for three local libraries?