

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on March 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 17 members in attendance. Matt welcomed everyone to the meeting...

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the January 1, 2018 meetings and they were approved after making one correction to them. The cumulative "To-Do" list was read also.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid a power bill for the '49 site in the amount of \$15.51, paid \$3010.85 for two TS-2000 HF rigs and associated equipment and reimbursed Ginny Fisher KF4YBU \$50 for a room-use fee at La Fiesta for the Christmas dinner. The Community Foundation of the Two Virginias grant of \$2800 offset the bulk of the cost of the HF rigs. The radios and power supplies were purchased at Main Trading Company. (<http://www.mtc.com>) They gave the Club the best deal. (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. "They're all working fine," was his report. The APRS is still being worked on. Jay Belt K8CTI had nothing to add.

Roger Stefancic KC8GLR said that the Skywarn® Monday net at 730pm is going well. Hooger mentioned that he had emailed members just that day to advise NWS weather spotters about a webinar on March 14, 2018, 630-815pm from the Blacksburg, Va. National Weather Service. The email included a link (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2548396762584256258>) to register for the webinar. "The presentation will provide an overview of the verification process undertaken by the NWS after a warning event. The topics will include a definition of verification, what constitutes a report, who provides it, and its means of delivery. Also, we will take a look at how your reports are used by the NWS and other agencies."

Matt said that he will continue as the Mercer Co. ARRL Emergency Coordinator. He has come to a point where he feels confident that he now has time to properly train for that position. He and Greg Dominguez plan on meeting with the local Red Cross official on March 15, 2018 at 1pm at Chili's in Princeton to discuss interoperability, etc. Any interested Amateur is invited to attend.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that there were two upgrades to General at the last ARRL VE test session. One person didn't quite pass the Technician test. He also mentioned that the FCC does not mail out licenses anymore and several recent testees did not have access to a copy of their license which is mandatory when upgrading. He said that one can print out an 'Official' copy of a license as well as an 'unofficial' copy. He urges all newly licensed (or renewals) to go to the FCC website, register and print out a copy of their license. He mentioned that he got a new lot of supplies from the ARRL VEC and said that the ARRL is petitioning the FCC to expand HF privileges for the Technician.

Greg Dominguez AF8GD said that Roger Stefancic KC8LGR has programmed the new TS-2000 HF/UHF/VHF rigs with repeater frequencies, PL tones, etc. etc. He has had them on the air for at least ten hours each. Greg suggested instructional YouTube videos by Rick Frost K4RUF on the TS-2000. Greg said that he would like the Club to consider purchasing WINLINK "Global

Radio Email" hardware for one of the TS-2000s. (<https://www.winlink.org/>) He says that the hardware (a signaling soundcard and cable) would be around \$140 and that the software is free. He has been working with WINLINK at home and has used it to send email via HF to a receiving station, to the internet and back to his rig/computer combination. If the internet was out locally, we could use HF to send email to Charleston, etc. WINLINK has Forward Error Correction and messages will go through completed. Greg suggested that we have a dedicated dual band antenna at the 911 Center for WINLINK. "We" can register the Club call and/or individual callsigns. Discussion. Don Anderson made a motion, seconded by George Leedy KJ4BXS to purchase said WINLINK equipment, wiring, etc. for the Club. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Matt said that he and several other members had participated in a roundtable ad hoc meeting recently and talked about anything Club or Ham related. He said they came up with a number of subjects and topics which could then be brought to our monthly meeting. First and foremost, the meeting with the Red Cross needs to happen and then may lay some groundwork for other items such as 1) The HEART program, see below, 2) possibly go to the State Office of Homeland Security and check on interoperability, etc. 3) Get Amateurs trained to enter local hospitals, etc. and provide emergency communications; IDs, HIPPA privacy training, etc. etc. More to come. 4) etc. etc. Harold Hodges suggests using the National Traffic System for passing information. He's checked into the WV State ARES/RACES nets to represent Mercer County. The meeting was over at 0742pm.

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) Get packet system running
- (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?