

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on April 2, 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 16 members and guests in attendance. Matt welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially newest member Keith Meadows KE8EXK

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the March 5, 2018 meeting and they were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR was not in attendance but Matt gave his Treasurer's report. He paid a power bill for the 145.49 site in the amount of \$15.20 and sent \$8.74 to the ARRL for additional insurance for recently acquired equipment. (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 his repeater report. The 440 and 147.06 are working well now. He went to the '06 site and changed out an IC chip that had failed, probably due to lightening. He keeps some of these chips on hand just in case and now he's out of his supply of them. The link between '06 and 145.49 had failed and is/was up and working when Don left the Windmill Gap site. BUT... the '49 controller 'went nuts' he said and kept repeating the same thing over and over so he drove to the East River Mt. site to attempt a fix. He powered down the '49, waited, powered up and it was still announcing the same thing. He took the controller off of the mountain and shipped it to the manufacturer for upgrade, repair and getting the NWS weather radio connected back to the controller. It should be back within two weeks he said. When asked about the APRS, Don said that Greg Dominguez had the hardware at the meeting tonight and it is in the final stages of being put on the air. Jay Belt K8CTI had nothing to add. Gary Kadar asked if we had a backup controller/repeater for '49 and Don said 'yes' but that since the controller should be back within two weeks, they didn't plan on bringing out a backup unit. Matt mentioned that it seems like the '49 is having a lot of problems lately and asked what was needed to fix its problems. Don said that it probably would need a newer antenna and since we are probably going to have to move from the current site to another, that we'd worry about all of that when the move occurs.

Roger Stefancic KC8GLR said that the Skywarn® Monday net at 730pm is going well. Steve O'Dell was not present tonight but sent word that he's out of town and will resume the ARES net when he comes back.

Matt gave the Mercer Co. ARRL Emergency Coordinator's report. He and Greg Dominguez AF8GD were not able to meet with David Neal with the Red Cross last month due to an illness in Mr. Neal's family. Matt said that the new meeting date will be next Tuesday or Wednesday at noon at the Princeton, WV Chili's. An email will be sent out for those interested in attending. On May 3, Matt hopes that a large contingent of ERARC members can meet at the 911 Center with Mr. Shott of the Community Foundation of the Virginias, WVVA, WVNS and others to 'show off' the new Kenwood TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF rigs and give the CFV some community exposure. George Leedy KJ4BXS suggested that we accept a 'facsimile check' again from the Foundation. Hopefully this can happen at 6pm when the WV ARRL Fone Net and ARES Net will be on HF.

Greg Dominguez has the Winlink hardware and software in his possession for connection to the new TS-2000 rig. The APRS and Winlink setups will be placed at the 911 Center. Each system will have its own dedicated PC/monitor. Greg cautions that there will have to be some training for sure on Winlink.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that the next ARRL VE test session would be on May 12, 2018. **He asks that if we talk to anyone that plans on a license upgrade, that we ask that the person register with the FCC via user name and password and print out an official Amateur Radio license and bring it to the testing.**

Matt started to talk about the ARRL Field Day, June 23-24, 2018. After discussion, Don Anderson will be FD Chairman and although the Bastian, Va. BSA Camp Roland is available, we will also look for other possible FD sites in order to be more in the public's eyes.

The meeting was over at 0800pm.

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 antenna for our use,
- (3) Upgrading the DMR internet interface for more reliable availability _____
- (4) Get packet system running
- (5) Continue to look into the Amazon Smile program

- (6) Suggestion: list the DMR talkgroups, help pages, links, etc. on the ERARC website
- (7) new repeater site to replace 145.49?
- (8) June 2018, Technician Study manuals for three local libraries?
- (9) Anderson Powerpole Connector system