

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on May 7, 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 in attendance.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the April 2, 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 \$14.69 and sent \$255.60 for equipment insurance. There were no deposits made.

(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. The 145.49 is on his workbench and is having a software problem that he hopes to correct asap.

Matt gave the Mercer Co. ARRL Emergency Coordinator's report. He and Greg Dominguez AF8GD, Roger Stefancic KC8LGR and Keith Jennings AD8L met with David Neal with the Red Cross and discussed interoperability with each other. David highly suggested that 'we' train to be RC volunteers (online courses) and thus would have an easier entry into emergency operations with

Please check into the Skywarn practice net, followed by the Mercer County ARES net every Monday (except the first one in each month) at 0730pm.

Matt said that he's tried to meet with the Mercer County (Homeland Security?) contact, Tim Farley concerning ERARC emergency communications. **He has setup a meeting with Tim this Wednesday at 10am at the Courthouse in Princeton. Anyone interested in attending, please let Matt know.**

jmattmorris@me.com . Gary Kadar N8GK asked Matt if he has been attending the Mercer LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Council) meetings. No, he

said. He will contact the person that schedules these meetings and try to attend as the ERARC representative.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that the next ARRL VE test session will be on May 12, 2018, 9am, at the Mercer County 911 Center. **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 copy of their Amateur Radio license and bring it to the test session.**

Matt talked about the ARRL Field Day, June 23-24, 2018.

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day> Don Anderson will be FD Chairman and the event will be at the Bastian, Va. BSA Camp Roland. Don said that we will work out details at the June meeting. We will also look for other possible FD sites in order to be more in the public's eyes for next year. George Leedy KJ4BXX said that he had talked to a Bluefield, Va. town council member about meeting at Graham Recreation Park in the town. Greg Dominguez, Roger Stefancic (and others?) met the caretaker at Glenwood Park to see the options for Field Day sites. The report a really nice shelter, lots of antenna trees, and other amenities. Rental is \$75 but we hope that this negotiable.

Gary asked if anyone was thinking about participating in the June VHF contest June 9-11, 2018. <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf> One person said that they may work it from home.

It was mentioned that the Mercer County Airport is hosting an air show and car show on May 26. Keith Jennings said that he would go and setup an ERARC ham radio presentation if others would commit to come and help man it. He has the Club's banner, HF radios, antennas, etc. Several members said that they would come and help.

Matt mentioned that Bruce had given him some data to think about. We are down around 20 members this year and this represents about a \$300 loss in dues. He says that we consider having a membership drive, etc.

The meeting was over at 0737pm.

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