

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on August 6, 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 11 members and one visitor in attendance. Matt had Tom Joseph KN4TSJ introduce himself to the group. He moved to Bluefield about a year ago from Newbern, NC and has been a General Class Amateur for about a year. Matt asked that everyone introduce themselves to Ted and we all did.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the July 2, 2018 meeting and they were approved. Packet was explained to those in attendance. It's slow but with forward error correcting, a whole lot of information can be transferred from one location to another AND since it's digital, this information is pretty much confidential vs. voice.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR was not in attendance but Matt gave his Treasurer's report. Bruce paid a power bill for the 145.49 site in the amount of \$15.40, reimbursed Don Anderson \$103.19 for tires for the antenna trailer and deposited \$202.00 in dues and donations. Bruce needs to give up the Treasurer's position due to increased work demands on his time. Matt asked that any member consider stepping up and taking on this position. Bruce has done a really great job for the Club and we appreciate his efforts and all of the time that he has devoted to the Club. **(We are accepting dues for the 2017-2018 ERARC calendar years.** 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.) In Bruce's absence, Hooger accepted dues for 5 memberships tonight. He was also given a receipt for \$48.89 from Roger Stefancic KC8LGR for a duplexer for the 911 center. This item allows 2m and 440 from the Kenwood TS-2000 to use one antenna connection.

Don Anderson WD8OOR gave his repeater report. He said that the link between '49 and '06 is having intermittent problems and that he needs to go to the '49 site and probably just reset the link system. The 2M antenna at the 911 Center still needs attention due to its recent failure. He and/or Jay Belt K8CTI plan on checking on it. Harold Hodges N8NCP asked why '49 and '06 were linked. Discussion. Don said that the '49 increases the footprint to the south and the '06 to the north, allowing more people to be able to talk to all of the coverage areas.

Roger Stefancic: 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 on 145.49- and/or 147.06 pl 103.5. He plans on changing the format of the net and part of it will include name, call, location and current temperature / weather. He hopes to mimic the Blacksburg Skywarn net's format. It is held on Wednesdays at 9pm on 147.225. Several of our members have heard and/or checked into that net before.

Steve O'dell N8SNR: not present for a current ARES net report.

Matt gave the Mercer Co. ARRL Emergency Coordinator's report. He and 4 others attended the Mercer Co. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) on Tuesday and met with a Charleston Homeland Security official. They went over a list of possible disaster situations and ranked them from probable to improbable and discussed particulars on some of them. (He said that over a hundred email reminders were sent out about this meeting but only a handful of those invited showed up.) He also said that he and ERARC members had recently met at Bellacino's and talked about a number of topics, including getting more licensed Hams in the area; particularly younger amateurs. He would like to meet again sometime soon and talk in more depth about discussion topics mentioned tonight. Hooger will send out announcements for the next upcoming meeting.

Gary Kadar N8GK mentioned that the next ERARC ARRL VE test session would be this Saturday, August 11, 2018 at 9am at the Mercer Co. 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 as well as a photo ID. He said that we must make sure to use the new 605 form that has the new question of the applicant having any criminal history. On another note, he really would like for another person to take over the ERARC VE team as its coordinator. He has been the VEC for about 15 years. Discussion. It was mentioned that one member in particular may be interested in this position. He was not present at the meeting tonight.

Hooger asked if the new Technician study manuals for the local three libraries had been ordered. Discussion. Don Anderson WD8OOR said that he would order the books for the Club. We will reimburse him for his expenditures.

Matt asked Hooger about his conversation with Derrick Ruble, the Tazewell County 911 Director. Mr. Ruble wants to get all of his dispatchers licensed as Amateur Radio ops. He has said that he would try to make this meeting tonight

but didn't make it. Hooger will contact him and see if he can come to the next meeting. He needs help with before and after the Technician exam, etc.

Greg Dominguez AF8GD will contact the Red Cross representative and see about what we can do to help them with their communication needs. He also said that one of the new Kenwood TS-2000s doesn't work properly on VHF/UHF and it is being sent back for warranty repair.

The meeting was over at 0752pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary. ERARC P.O. Box 1362
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"To Do" / 'wants' or 'needs' list. Items mentioned:

- (1) Get packet system up and running. Don working on this.
- (2) Continue to look into the Amazon Smile program.
- (3) Suggestion: list the DMR talkgroups, help pages, links, etc. on the ERARC website.
- (4) New repeater site to replace 145.49?
- (5) Anderson Powerpole Connector system. Don has these items and crimpers.
- (6) Glenwood Park for Field Day 2019?
- (7) Kenwood TS 2000 at 911 Center and Greg Dominguez AF8GD working on Winlink/digital.