

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on September 3, 2018 at Burger King in Bluefield, Va. <http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Skywarn® local simplex freq: 146.53. **Our backup meeting location is now at the Princeton, WV. Burger King.**

The meeting was opened at 700pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS President. There were 15 members in attendance. He welcomed all.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the August 6, 2018 meeting and they were approved. He also handed out copies of our “to do list” to each member.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave his Treasurer’s report. He paid a power bill for the 145.49 site in the amount of \$14.49 and deposited \$113.00 in dues and donations. He said that we had paid \$1 in rental to K2 Towers (the company that owned the ’49 site) last year at this time. Jay Belt K8CTI said that K2 was purchased by another company and if we do have to move the 145.49, it would probably be next summer. Don Anderson WD8OOR gave him a bill for \$59 to ship one of the Kenwood TS-2000s to California for warranty repair. Don also gave him a bill from the SouthEastern Repeater Association <http://www.sera.org> for \$70 for two years membership as repeater owners. They used to give two individual memberships but now it is only one.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR said that the new format for the Monday 730pm Skywarn Practice Net was going well. Any Amateur can check into the net.

Until further notice, the Mercer County ARES net will NOT meet weekly.

Don Anderson gave his repeater report. “The repeaters are working well now,” he commented. Greg Dominguez AF8GD has the APRS system working at his home. It will be moved to the 911 Center when a dedicated 2M antenna can be in place. There was some discussion about Packet. Packet is still functioning in WV but APRS gives us so much more capability.

Matt gave the Mercer Co. ARRL Emergency Coordinator’s report. He and others met at Bellacino’s in Princeton on August 16 and discussed several subjects related to Amateur Radio, the Club and Emergency Communications. The Princeton AutumnFest is on September 29 and the Club will setup at the event; possibly using the Mercer Co. 911 Communications Trailer. <https://wvtourism.com/event/princeton-autumnfest-4/> He hopes that several ERARC members will volunteer to man the event and get the word out about us and what we can do for the community. There was discussion about the ERARC website. Don Anderson will talk to David Lester N8VFR about the site. Hooger has had no problem with having David add anything to the site. David had contacted Hooger in early July to inquire about the July minutes as Hooger was on vacation and they were unusually late getting emailed to David. Greg and David Sexton AB8D will get something together about DMR for David to put on the website.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that the ARRL VE test session on May 12, 2018, at the Mercer County 911 Center was attended by 9 examiners and 5 applicants. We had a 12 year old from Giles County for Technician, a lady from Blacksburg for Technician (KN4OOG), a fellow from Princeton for Technician, a man from Princeton for upgrade to General and from Bluefield, Charles Priest KN4OOH who went to General in one sitting.

Congratulations! Gary asked if anyone was thinking about participating in the September VHF contest September 8-10, 2018. <http://www.arri.org/september-vhf> .

Hooger went over the 'to do' list that we have. Jay Belt K8CTI and Michael Clemons KM4UCR hope to get to the 911 Center this coming Saturday and diagnose/repair the 2M antenna there that is having problems. This antenna will be used for APRS. The Amazon Smile Program was discussed. Hooger will go ahead and sign the Club up with them. We can receive 1% of most Amazon purchases when someone designates the Club as their charity when ordering. Matt will contact the caretaker at Glenwood Park for next year's Field Day. He may be able to reserve both shelters, giving us a lot of real estate for antennas, etc. Don Anderson has the Powerpole connectors and crimpers and will get the Club field equipment at the 911 Center changed over to this system.

Hooger made a motion, seconded by Steve O'dell, to change our backup meeting location to the Princeton, WV Burger King. Discussion. A vote was taken, the motion passed.

Matt opened the floor for nominations for office for the 2018-2019 year. Matt, Hooger and Bruce will stay in office. Greg nominated Keith Jennings AD8L for Vice President. There were no other nominations made. We will vote at the next meeting.

Charles Priest said that as a music professor, he uses <http://www.remindme.com> for notifying his students of changes in meeting times, locations, etc. He said that we could use this free service for Club members to be notified of just about anything. To partake in this service, text "@w8mop" to 81010. The system will text you back and asks your name. You can use your name or callsign or both. The system will then text you back and the rest is easy to follow. Your phone number WILL NOT be displayed anywhere. He will go ahead and setup the service for our Club.

The meeting was over at 0808pm.

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

"To Do" / 'wants' or 'needs' list. Items mentioned:

- (1) A new HF antenna for our use,
- (2) New repeater site to replace 145.49
- (3) Glenwood park for Field Day 2019
- (4) Update membership roster on website
- (5) "Welcome" booklet for new members
- (6) ERARC QSL card for anyone taking VE testing
- (7) Jamboree on the Air JOTA <https://www.scouting.org/jota/>
- (8) Adjust orientation of HF antenna at Camp Roland