

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on October 1, 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 now at the Princeton, WV. Burger King.

The meeting was opened at 700pm by Keith Jennings AD8L. Matt Morris KC8LGS ERARC President is sick. There were 16 members in attendance. Keith welcomed all especially new member Tom Joseph KN4TSJ from Bluefield. He has a home in New Bern NC that barely escaped severe damage from Hurricane Florence. He told us of the devastation in the city and how he had coped with the aftermath.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the September 3, 2018 meeting and they were approved. He made two changes to the minutes from the last meeting. He also handed out copies of our "to do list" to each member. **WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN JAMBOREE ON THE AIR ON OCTOBER 20, 2018 AT BOY SCOUT CAMP ROLAND, BASTIAN, VA. 9-930 IS 'GO-TIME'.**

Keith gave KJ4YTR Bruce Puckett's Treasurer's report. He paid a power bill for the 145.49 site in the amount of \$14.36, reimbursed Greg Dominguez AF8GD \$203.05 for a digital conversion kit and cables for the TS-2000 HF at the 911 Center, reimbursed Don Anderson WD80OR \$71.48 for shipping one of the TS-2000 back to California for warranty work, paid the SERA \$70 for a two year primary membership for the Club and deposited \$16.00 in dues. Hooger will give Bruce an invoice from Don for reimbursement of \$66.35 for the purchase of three ARRL Technician Q&A study guides. (Keith delivered the Technician study guides to the local libraries in Princeton, Bluefield WV, and Bluefield, Va. Each book has his phone number for contact as well as our website information, etc.)

Don Anderson and Jay Belt K8CTI gave their repeater report. "They're working; some better than others," Don said. Jay seconded his report. Keith said that we all need to thank Mike Clemons KM4UCR for tower climbing and repairing the broken 2M antenna at the 911 Center. This antenna is to be used for the APRS system there. Roger Stefancic KC8LGR and Don both commented that the G5RV HF system needs to be put up higher off of the ground.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR said that the Monday 730pm Skywarn Practice Net was going well. Any Amateur can check into the net. Steve O'Dell N8SNR mentioned that the Mercer County ARES net **will be back** on the air this coming Monday after the Skywarn net.

With Matt being absent, there was no Mercer Co. ARRL Emergency Coordinator's report. It was mentioned that the Club did not make a showing at the Princeton Autumnfest last weekend due a lack of participation from Club members. Matt was hoping for 4 members and only got commitments from two people. Gary Kadar N8GK said that other than having to pay to have our Club represented at the event, that even one potential member was better than nothing. He gave Roger as an example. Roger got interested in Ham Radio when he took his son to Jamboree on the Air many years ago.

There was discussion about the ERARC website. Don Anderson has yet to talk to David Lester N8VFR about the site. Greg and David Sexton AB8D did get DMR information to David and it was on the website within 24 hours.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that the ERARC ARRL VE Coordinator is still available to anyone that would be interested in that position. Dave Sexton AB8D and Keith both said that they would conduct the November testing session with Gary in attendance. Gary said that one person needs to be the contact person and that person keeps the inventory of testing materials, etc.

Hooger has officially signed up the Club with the Amazon Smile Program was. We can receive 0.5% of most Amazon purchases when someone designates the Club as their charity when ordering.

Keith opened the floor for nominations for office for the 2018-2019 year. Matt, Hooger and Bruce had volunteered to stay in office and Keith Jennings AD8L was nominated last month for Vice President. There were no other nominations made for any of these offices. Keith took a vote for each individual office and these four were elected.

Charles Priest KN4OOH was asked about the REMIND DOT COM program. He said that as a music professor, he uses <http://www.remind.com> for notifying his students of changes in meeting times, locations, etc. He said that we can use this free service for Club members to be notified of just about anything. He was asked to give a demonstration at the next meeting concerning this free service. (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.) Charles also mentioned that Bluefield College’s Appalachian Festival in April may be a good place for the Club to setup and educate the public on Amateur Radio.

Roger Stefancic was approached by someone from Oakvale School, inquiring if the Club could help with parking duties on October 27 during a School festival. Discussion. We will help out the School. See future emailings concerning this event. Thanks. Roger also mentioned that we now have 5 HF rigs and only a few HF antennas. He said that he thinks that we should have a sale or auction for some of the extra ERARC equipment at the 911 Center’s storage facility as some of it is ‘gathering dust’. (This includes power supplies, etc. that are not currently being used)

Keith mentioned the great article that Greg passed around concerning the future of Amateur Radio: <http://offgridham.com/2017/08/the-future-of-amateur-radio/> He also mentioned the email to the ERARC from John Humphrey concerning his running for the Roanoke Division VP. *“Greetings ERARC, There is an election coming up and not the one in November! On or about Oct. 1st all ARRL members will receive the ballot for the ARRL Roanoke Division Director and Vice Director election. I am on the ballot as a candidate for Vice Director. A letter was sent to all affiliated clubs with my information and described issues related to this election. Your meeting is probably before those ballots or my letter reach members so I ask that your club membership check out my information on-line at www.qrz.com/db/w4im. All I ask is that ARRL members review this information and, if found worthy, vote for me to be the next Vice Director. I would also encourage you to consider Bud, W2RU, for the Director position, <http://www.w2ru.net> . Please encourage all ARRL members to return their ballots promptly. Only about a third of the ballots were returned in the last Roanoke Division election. Thank you and 73!! John Humphrey W4IM Stafford, VA w4im@arrl.net www.qrz.com/db/w4im “*

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, We now have 5 HF rigs

- (2) New repeater site to replace 145.49 We will have to move next summer per Jay Belt
- (3) Glenwood park for Field Day 2019 Matt Morris checking
- (4) Update membership roster on website Bruce is formulating a new roster
- (5) "Welcome" booklet for new members Greg working on this
- (6) ERARC QSL card for anyone taking VE testing Gary Kadar mentioned "cheap QSL" site on internet
- (7) Jamboree on the Air JOTA <https://www.scouting.org/jota/> OCTOBER 20
- (8) Adjust orientation of HF antenna at Camp Roland Roger said we'll fix on weekend before JOTA.