

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on February 4, 2019 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 Princeton, WV. Burger King.

The meeting was opened at 703pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS, ERARC President. There were 21 members and guests in attendance. He welcomed all especially: Eddie Spence (testing this Saturday) Darrell McGlothlin KM4HDM, Robert Cook KA8MDZ, Harry Wert W3SYH and Jim Wood KC8LGT. It was mentioned that David Sexton AB8D was going to give a presentation on DMR tonight but he could not attend the meeting.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the January 7, 2018 meeting and they were approved. He handed out copies of our "to do list" to each member. No one voiced any changes to this list.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid a power bill for the 145.49 site in the amount of \$14.60, reimbursed Don Anderson WD8OOR for shipping a Kenwood TS-2000 for repair and deposited \$20 in dues and donations.

Don Anderson gave the repeater report. "Most are working." He said that the 6M machine is off the air and the 145.49 still has tx/rx problems. Jay Belt K8CTI has access to two commercial antennas and 7/8" feed lines for the 145.49 and will try them out in order to rule out problems with the current antenna system.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR said that the Monday 730pm Skywarn Practice Net is still on hold for the time being.

Charles Priest KN4OOH, the new Mercer Co. ARRL Emergency Coordinator said that he is in the process of getting the education requirements done, etc. He met with outgoing EC Matt Morris to discuss goals for ARES. Charles reminded the group that the Club is more than welcome to setup at the April 13 Appalachian Festival on the Bluefield College campus and show the public about Amateur Radio.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that the next ARRL VE test session will be this coming Saturday at 9am at the Mercer County 911 Center. He still has the box of testing materials and is still registered with the ARRL VEC as the local coordinator. He went ahead and scheduled the Club's test sessions for the upcoming year with the ARRL. In a previous meeting, Keith Jennings AD8L and David Sexton had said that they would give Gary a break and take the VE coordinator's position. He also mentioned that we will now get digital bank statements from New People's Bank vs. paper statements.

Matt said that he is in the process of confirming our reservation for Field Day at Glenwood Park on Rt. 20 between Bluewell and Princeton, WV.

Hooger mentioned that he had emailed Amateurs on his email lists about a Basic Skywarn Class in McDowell County at the 911 Center on this coming Thursday, February 7, at 6pm. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2328224867435023/?ti=ia> <https://www.weather.gov/rlx/Skywarn>

Matt said that Greg Dominguez AF8GD is still working on a 'welcome' booklet for new members as well as it having information for all members. It will be in digital form and Greg is asking for suggestions as to the content. He listed these subjects that were found in the 2014 ERARC Handbook: 1. ERARC Repeaters 2. ERARC Officer List 3. ERARC Activities 4. ERARC Membership List 5. AREA Repeaters Information (includes repeater codes that should be removed) 6. ARES and Skywarn Operation 7. ERARC Elmer Information 8. ERARC JOTA Information 9. Safety 10. EchcoLink Information 11. W1AW Schedule 12. ERARC ARRL VE Team Schedule 13. Field Day Information 14. Vanity Call Explanation 15. Helpful Radio Vendor Contact Information. **Some suggestions from the audience included: a) License renewal information b) how to check the status of a new license or vanity license c) pictorial representations of how simplex, repeater use, DMR, EchoLink, HF, digital modes, etc. work . d) maps of where the local/area repeaters are located e) pictures/videos of the ERARC repeater sites, antenna systems, equipment, etc. f) sample licensing tests (questions/correct answers)**

Matt talked about an Elmer program. Charlie Hampton K8CEH said he studied, tested, got on the air and is very very pleased with all of the help that he has received from Club members. Darrell McGlothlin mentioned that he is a Volunteer Examiner and that we Amateurs need to follow up with newly licensed people to keep them interested, answer questions and get them on the air. Too many times, the newly licensed never get on the air, he said. Matt mentioned that it may be nice to list more local Hamfests via email on a more frequent basis with the thoughts that several people could carpool and attend.

The meeting was over at 0754pm.
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) “Welcome” booklet for new members Greg working on this
- (4) New ERARC QSL card for The Club
- (5) Increase the height on the G5RV HF antenna at the 911 Center.
- (6) Possible auction/sale on excessive equipment at the 911 Center.
- (7) Fix the 145.49 receive/transmit problems.

Repeated information here: “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. (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.)