

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on March 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 700pm by Keith Jennings AD8L, ERARC Vice President. There were 17 members and guests in attendance. He welcomed all; especially these guests that were introduced by Charlie Hampton K8CEH: Chris Quesenberry KB8YRJ Princeton, WV, Cindy KN4OOG and Bill KN4CQV Turner, Christiansburg, Va. and Jason Perdue KN4QMN from McCoy, Va. Keith mentioned that David Sexton AB8D was going to give a presentation on DMR tonight but he could not attend the meeting and also said that President Matt Morris was sick.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the February 4, 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 \$14.31, paid the State of WV \$25 to re-register our not-for-profit status and deposited \$60 in dues.

Don Anderson gave the repeater report. "Most are working." The 145.49 had been moved to a 'test' site to see if another antenna system may fix the rx/tx problems. Jay Belt K8CTI said that this site houses several commercial broadcast systems and that the noise floor is too high to be an acceptable home for the '49.

The Monday 730pm Skywarn Practice Net is still on hold for the time being.

Charles Priest KN4OOH, the new Mercer Co. WV ARRL Emergency Coordinator, talked briefly about ARES. He has talked with Bob Hoge N8RIR, the Mercer County 911 Director and has contacted Michael Maxson W8SI WV Section Emergency Coordinator and Ann Rinehart KA8ZGY WV Assistant Section Manager. He says that there are new requirements for the EC that include taking and passing testing for up to 11 FEMA online courses. There is NO formalized training for local entry into an ARES group.

He is asking that those interested in helping with the local ARES group to send him your name, call sign, email address and phone number. charletpriest@gmail.com

His goals include getting the ARES net up and running again and going to locations where emergency shelters could be setup and check radio propagation from those sites to repeaters and/or the 911 Center. Keith said that Charles has upgraded to Extra Class and is already a member of ERARC VE testing team.

Keith said that there were three new Technicians and an Extra upgrade at the February testing session at the 911 Center. New member Eddie Spence is now KE8LKN. Gary Kadar N8GK said that he has transferred all of the VE testing materials to Keith. It was mentioned that Eddie Barrett N1DHM is looking for a straight CW key and will trade it

for a Baefong handheld. He was at the last Saturday morning breakfast at the Valley Country Restaurant.

Keith passed around a picture of his idea for a new ERARC QSL card for our consideration as well as a flyer for the March 23 Charleston, WV Hamfest.

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/west-virginia-section-convention-charleston-hamfest-computer-show-1>

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR mentioned that he had downloaded an application for his phone called "Repeater Locator" that uses the GPS function to notify one of local Ham repeaters.

Bill Turner KN4CQV asked that we keep the 147.135 Dismal Peak Amateur Radio group up to date with our Club's meeting times/dates and VE testing dates/times for promotion on their nets.

Keith talked about the Elmer program that Matt mentioned last meeting. He would like to meet ***NEXT MONDAY AT 7PM at Bellacino's*** with anyone that may need some Elmering. This impromptu meeting is open to anyone that may have questions as related to Amateur radio and/or those that may be able to offer assistance to the same.

The meeting was over at 0748pm.

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.)

SHOP AT AMAZON? HELP THE ERARC @: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/55-0632875>

Check out a radio-active site at: <http://www.erarc.com> , The East River Amateur Radio Club. We'll be glad that you did!> <https://www.facebook.com/w8mop>. and/or:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/296680905352/>