

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on June 3, 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 Matt Morris KC8LGS, President. There were 14 members and guests in attendance. He welcomed all and especially: Darla Ellison N8QJL and Jason Perdue KN4QMN. He asked that we keep his mother and sisters in our thoughts and prayers as they're experiencing medical issues. He also asked that we not forget Bill Sowers K8WBS who has recently experienced a stroke.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting and they were approved. It was noted that Cindy and Bill Turner were called the 'Lesters' in the minutes and this has been corrected. He handed out copies of our "to do list" to each member. No one voiced any changes to this list but Matt wants to re-visit this list before this meeting is over. Hooger also received a membership renewal.

Matt gave Bruce Puckett's KJ4YTR Treasurer's report. He paid a power bill for the 145.49 site in the amount of \$11.94 and deposited \$76.00 in dues. **WE ARE ACCEPTING RENEWALS FOR MEMBERSHIPS! PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE ERARC. DUES ARE \$15 PER HAM AND ADDITIONAL \$1 FOR OTHER HAMS AT THE SAME ADDRESS. ERARC, P.O. Box 1362, Bluefield, WV 24701. Thanks!**

Don Anderson WD8OOR gave the repeater report. "They're mostly working", he said. The 6M machine is back on the air. The 145.49 is still problematic with receive/transmit problems and will hopefully be moved relatively soon. Mike Clemons KM4UCR and others heard some amateurs on DMR saying that they couldn't get into the '49. It was mentioned that the NWS in Blacksburg has dropped the 145.49 off of their liaison repeater list due to not being able to get into it. Mike is going to check with a local tower owner and see if we may be able to move the '49 to a 'new' site. A move will involve checking out the '49 feedlines, etc. before going live. Matt suggested that we purchase new feedline, antenna, etc. to get it functioning correctly and on the air ASAP. Don Anderson WD8OOR said that we need to wait to act on this until after Field Day. Discussion. Jay Belt K8CTI also agreed that just the move from the current site to the 'new' site could solve some of the current problems. Keith Jennings said that the 147.06 receive frequency is "covered up" with static in the area of Applebee's in Princeton. He attributes this to new WV DOT lighted signs that have recently been installed in the area.

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

Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer Co. WV ARRL Emergency Coordinator, said that he had attended the May Mercer Co. Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting at the 911 Center and had talked to Tim Farley, the coordinator, about a July 27 event for Mercer Co. ARES. This will involve our visiting all Fire Departments in the County and checking our propagation to the 911 Center. Mike Clemons said that Bland County, Va. has a fledgling LEPC and asked if Charles would like to attend. They will meet on Tuesday at 0930 at the Bland Co. Library.

((He is asking that those interested in helping with the local ARES group send him your name, call sign, email address and phone number. charlestpriest@gmail.com He now has 10 Hams on his call-up list.))

Keith Jennings AD8L would like to meet **NEXT MONDAY AT 7PM at Bellacino's** with anyone that may want or need some Elmering. This meeting is open to anyone that may have questions related to amateur radio and/or those who may also give input. The next ARRL VE test session will be on August 10 at the Mercer County 911 Center. At the last VE session on May 11, three tested: Brenen McGraw KC8FIB upgraded to General, Henry Farmer KC3FVH upgraded to Extra and another fellow just missed

a General upgrade. Keith then mentioned that the Mercer Co. Fly-in and Car Show was a great success and that around 18 people stopped by the ERARC booth and inquired about Ham Radio, etc.

Matt asks that anyone interested come up with a new ERARC QSL card design by next meeting. Of those suggested, we will vote on one and get new QSL cards printed up. Our current QSL cards were possibly printed in the 70's and have some incorrect/dated information on them. Matt said that George Leedy KJ4BXS had looked into the 4' X 10' ERARC banner that we are looking to purchase. Matt is going to contact Venture Printing and see what options are available. Discussion. Hooger suggested that we end up with a multi-use vs. single-use (i.e. Field Day declaration) banner.

DMR: David Sexton AB8D would like to try another DMR net on Tuesday at 0730pm on local Bluefield talk group 9. He would like to make up a new group so that those out of the area can check in.

Don Anderson: Our annual Field Day operation will be at Glenwood Park on June 22-23 at Shelter 8. <http://www.arrl.org/field-day> He talked about who could take the tower trailer, 911 Trailer and possibly the generator trailer. (The generator trailer may be in use by the 911 personnel.) **THE POT LUCK DINNER WILL BE AT 6PM on Saturday.** (See future emails for more details.) He hopes to be out of the park by noon on Sunday as the shelter is probably rented. **THOSE THAT CAN WILL MEET AT THE 911 CENTER AT 1PM ON FRIDAY JUNE 21 TO LOAD THE TRAILER, ETC. AND MOVE IT TO GLENWOOD PARK.**

Hooger said that Derrick Ruble, Tazewell Co. 911 Director would like an ERARC member to get the 911's HF radio and make sure that it works properly. It is new, but as we have found out, things do happen. David Sexton said that he would be more than happy to do this for Derrick.

Matt went over the 'to do' list and we narrowed it down to:

- (1) "Welcome" booklet for new members Greg Dominguez AF8GD working on this
- (2) Possible auction/sale on excessive equipment at the 911 Center.

There was discussion on each item on the list. Some were taken care of, some were not. Gary Kadar N8GK is concerned that some of the equipment was donated to the Club for ARES and should be maintained for ARES. Jerry Connelly KC8TES, SK past Mercer Co. EC made sure that the ARES group would have a large variety of communication devices in its possession. Charles Priest will look over the ARES equipment and use it accordingly.

The meeting was over at 0805pm.

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

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

- (1) "Welcome" booklet for new members Greg Dominguez AF8GD working on this
- (2) Possible auction/sale on excessive equipment at the 911 Center.

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.)

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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/>