

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on August 5, 2019 at Bellacino's in Princeton, WV <http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Skywarn® / ARES local simplex freq: 146.53. Our backup meeting location is at the Princeton, WV. Burger King.

The meeting was opened at 704pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS, President. There were 18 members and guests in attendance. He welcomed all and recognized Brenen McGraw K8BDM on his upgrade to Extra Class and receiving his new vanity call.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the July 1 and July 6 (called meeting), 2019 meetings and they were approved after adding George Leedy KJ4BXS to the July 6 meeting roster. Hooger also received 2 membership renewals tonight.

Matt gave Bruce Puckett's KJ4YTR Treasurer's report. Bruce paid a \$26.48 power bill for the '49 site. He deposited \$195.32 in dues and donations.. Hooger was given a bill for \$61.00 from Keith Jennings AD8L for his purchasing 100 new ERARC QSL cards. He needs to be reimbursed.

Don Anderson WD8OOR opted to give Mike Clemons KM4UCR the floor for the repeater report. The new antenna for 145.49 came in last Friday and he and others hope to mount it on East River Mountain sometime this week "after work" as Matt requested. Jay Belt K8CTI has new feedline that can be used. Mike said that he forgot the invoice tonight but the shipping was around \$104.00 and the antenna was around \$866.49. Mike will need to be reimbursed also.

Keith gave Roger Stefancic's KC8LGR Monday 730pm Skywarn Practice Net report. It is being held on Mondays (except the first Monday of the month) on the 147.09 at 0730pm. Anybody can check into the net. Roger is asking that other members volunteer to run the net with him and hopefully have enough net control operators on hand to rotate each week. He will email you the preamble and help in any way if interested.

Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer Co. WV ARRL Emergency Coordinator, said that he now has 10 ARES members signed up with him. He reported on the July 27, 2019 ARES exercise that started at the Mercer Co. 911 Center. Members split up and visited all of the fire departments and EMS locations in the County and contacted the 911 Center on 147.06 and 146.530 simplex via mobile and handheld radios. There were 22.5 man hours expended and now there is proof of how we can contact these locations due to documented propagation. Matt suggested that Charles share this information with the Mercer LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee). Charles had planned on this. He has two more requirements to fulfill the ARRL EC training. Matt mentioned that he would like for the Club to give a presentation on Amateur Radio at the September Mercer County Firefighters' Association meeting. He also said that we could participate in the "Preparedness Fair" that will be held in September. Jason Perdue KM4QMN

presented Charles / ARES with an ARES flag that was given to him from the Giles Co. area. There was discussion of our attending the October 1, 2019 Bland Co. LEPC meeting. It was also mentioned that the PL 103.5 145.35 KD4LMZ repeater in the town of Bland needs some looking after; hopefully by another Amateur or entity.

((Charles 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 ))

Keith Jennings AD8L will meet NEXT MONDAY AT 7PM at Bellacino's with anyone that may want or need some Elmering. The informal 'class' is going well and is being well received. The next ERARC ARRL VE test session will be on August 10, 2019 at 9am at the Mercer Co. 911 Center. NOTE: The new General test questions took effect on July 1, 2019. BE SURE that you study the new General material for upgrade for the next 4 years. One must bring a COPY of their license, a photo ID and \$15 to test; either via cash or check.

DMR: David Sexton AB8D will continue to hold a DMR net on Tuesdays at 0730pm on local Bluefield talk group 9. David would like some others to take turns running the net as well.

Matt and others thanked Greg Dominguez AF8GD for his release of the new Member's Booklet (in PDF form) and is requesting corrections, additions, clarifications and validations on the information within. Roger Cook KA4MDZ suggested that we not publish member's email addresses, phone numbers, etc. in a way in that the general public can view that information. Discussion. It was decided that only members will receive this personal information and that we will publish the handbook online minus such information.

Keith said that the Club will be incorporated for 60 years in 2020 and that we need to start thinking now about how to publicize and celebrate this milestone.

The 'to do' list:

(1) Possible auction/sale on excessive equipment at the 911 Center.

The meeting was over at 0813pm.

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

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. )