

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on September 3, 2019 at Burger King 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 700pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS, President. There were 17 members and guests in attendance. He welcomed all and recognized Pete Beavers KN4WRJ who passed his Technician test at our last VE test session. Pete introduced himself to the membership. He's a retired policeman and currently teaches criminal justice in McDowell County.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the August 5, 2019 meetings and they were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. Bruce paid a \$12.90 power bill for the '49 site. He deposited \$62.00 in dues and donations. He has received an invoice from Mike Clemons KM4URC for the new 145.49 commercial antenna and several membership renewals tonight.

Mike Clemons gave a report on 145.49. The Club was given permission to test a site on East River Mountain in Bluefield, Va. but the owner of the site has had to cancel his offer due to upcoming construction. Mike has received permission to test another site on the West Virginia side but that site will not be available for several weeks due to construction at that site.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR said that the Monday 730pm Skywarn Practice Net is going well. (It is being held on Mondays (except the first Monday of the month) on the 147.09 at 0730pm.). He is still looking for other Amateurs to run the net on a rotating basis. Matt asked about the 145.49 and the National Weather Service's need to contact local Amateurs during weather events. Discussion. The '49 cannot be used by the NWS at present and Matt asked if the owner of the 146.955 WZ8E repeater could be contacted to see if the NWS could use that machine for contact. Jay Belt K8CTI will contact the owner, Nelson Linkous. There was also discussion of using the 147.135 too.

Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer Co. WV ARRL Emergency Coordinator, said that he now has 10 ARES members signed up with him and welcomes more. He talked about the Hurricane Net on 7.268 and 14.325 and his experience with the net. C6AID was one of the Ham ops in the Bahamas and he has gone off the air during the current Hurricane Dorian event. He said that ARES may be activated and that FEMA and the ARRL will only use Amateurs that have taken the FEMA ISO minimum educational classes as participants. <http://www.arrrl.org/emergency-communications-training> He wants to have a five minute ARES meeting right after this ERARC meeting. *((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](mailto: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 meeting is going well and is being well received. Three new hams passed their respective testing at the August VE testing. The next ERARC ARRL VE test session will be on November 9, 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 mentioned that he would like to go to the Mercer Co. Firefighter's Association meeting this month and give an informational talk on Amateur Radio. Charles Priest said that he would like to attend also.

Gary Kadar N8GK spoke about our 'to do' list specifically downsizing our inventory at the 911 Center. He said that we should keep anything that does work and get rid of items that do not work or are of no use to the Club. He noted that we paid good money to get these items and many were donated to the ARES group. Roger Stefancic suggested that we meet at the 911 Center in October or November to allow members to see just what is there and to show off the HF/VHF/UHF/Digital setup in the Center.

Gary also spoke about the September 14-16, 2019 VHF contest. <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

Matt opened the floor for nomination of officers for the 2019-2020 year. Discussion. Matt, Keith, and Hooger will be willing to keep their current offices. Bruce Puckett would like to step down. Matt asked for any offers to take over the Secretary's position. No takers. He asked that we think about this situation and we'll bring it up at the next meeting.

Charlie Hampton K8CEH spoke to the group thanking the members who helped get the tower down at Arlie Hick's N8AH home and for all of the help that he has received since becoming an ERARC member. He really appreciates the Club and is donating \$50 to the treasury.

Matt said that the Tazewell County Sheriff's Department has a Rhone tower on Morris Knob that needs to be removed and that the Club is more than welcome to have it. We have to take it down. Discussion.

The 'to do' list:

- (1) Possible auction/sale on excessive equipment at the 911 Center.
- (2) ERARC turns 60 in 2020.
- (3) Tower on Morris Knob.

The meeting was over at 0747pm.

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. )*

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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:

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