

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on October 7, 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 700pm by Keith Jennings AD8L, Vice President. There were 14 members and guests in attendance. He welcomed all and recognized Tom Joseph KN4TSJ. He mentioned that Roger Stefancic's KC8LGR mother has passed away on Sunday. Our condolences go out to the family.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the September 2, 2019 meeting and they were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. Bruce paid a \$12.66 power bill for the '49 site and paid \$61.00 to Keith for his purchase of 100 new ERARC QSL cards. He deposited \$129.55 in dues and donations and \$8.55 from the Amazon Smile program. Mike Clemons KM4UCR still needs to be reimbursed for the new 145.49 antenna. We are currently accepting dues for the upcoming year. \$15 per Ham and \$1 additional for each Ham at the same address.

Don Anderson WD8OOR was asked to give a repeater report. "They're mostly working," he stated. Hooger mentioned that he's received emails from a member concerning getting Echolink back in working order. Don said that he's working on it. Greg Dominguez AF8GD said the APRS is down and needs a new computer and other work to get it back on the air.

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 147.06 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. The Net preamble is in the ERARC handbook that Greg recently put together for the membership.

Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer Co. WV ARRL Emergency Coordinator, said that he now has 11 ARES members signed up with him and is looking for more. He reported on the September Emergency First Responder showing at the Princeton city offices. There were 18 man hours expended and 5 ARES members helped showcase Amateur radio at the event. The monthly ARES net is on the third Thursday at 0730pm on the 147.06 repeater. He hopes that we can remedy the HF antenna problem at the 911 Center. It will not allow using 80M at this time. It was mentioned that David Sexton AB8D has the parts and a plan to fix this problem.

((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 tonight after the meeting for his "Hams Helping Hams" informational class hoping to avoid the Monday nets during the same time. The informal gathering is going well and is being well received. 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.

The Tazewell Sheriff's Department is willing to give the Club a 45' Rohn tower that is currently on Morris Knob west of Tazewell if we take it down. Discussion. George Leedy KJ4BXS said that it could be stored at his house if needed. Jay Belt K8CTI, Don Anderson and Mike Clemons say that they can go to take it down on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. They will make contact with Tim Honaker KE4MFM with the Sheriff's Department to coordinate.

Gary Kadar N8GK suggested that we go over the excessive equipment at the 911 Center sometime after the holidays.

Keith brought up election of officers for the upcoming year. Mike Clemons has volunteered to take the Treasurer's position. Discussion. A vote was taken to keep the current officers for the next year and add Mike to his new office.

Jamboree on the Air is being held locally on Saturday, October 19 at BSA Camp Roland at 9am. Discussion. We will meet at the 911 Center on Friday, October 18 at 1:30 to 2:00pm to get needed equipment and take it to the Camp. Around 3pm, we hope to string up a 40M dipole for Randall Hash WB4BBF to demo a CW station, get the tri-bander beam antenna ready, etc. etc.

<http://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>

The 'to do' list:

- (1) Possible auction/sale on excessive equipment at the 911 Center
- (2) 2020 is the Club's 60th year of being incorporated. Celebration?
- (3) HF antenna for 80M repair/replacement at the 911 Center
- (4) APRS back on the air
- (5) Echolink back on the air

The meeting was over at 0757pm.

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:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/296680905352/>