

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on January 6, 2020 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.

President Matt Morris KC8LGS, V.P. Keith Jennings AD8L, Treasurer Mike Clemons KM4UCR, Secretary George "Hooger" Fisher III W4OF, Webmaster David Lester N8VFR

The meeting was opened at 701pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS, President. There were 17 members and guests in attendance. He welcomed all, especially Henry Shinn KC3KGY from the Rock, WV area.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the November 4, 2019 meeting and they were approved. In reference to the "to do" items, Matt asked about the 80M capability at the 911 Center. It was mentioned that the replacement parts are on hand and that we just need to make the trip to the Center and fix the problem. Greg Dominguez AF8GD said that the APRS needs a new computer, etc. before it can be back on the air. Don Anderson WD8OOR said that he needs to get the Echolink computer, etc. back online.

Mike Clemons KM4UCR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid two power bills for the '49 site totaling \$26.97. He made deposits totaling \$132.47 in dues and donations including \$8.97 from Amazon Smile. The \$35.00/year payment to SERA is due and he will pay that bill. <http://www.sera.org>. We are currently accepting dues for the upcoming year. \$15 per Ham and \$1 additional for each Ham at the same address.

Repeater report: Matt said that Jay Belt K8CTI, Nelson Linkous WZ8E and Mike Clemons changed out connectors and feedlines to the 145.49 machine and it is doing very well now.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR gave his Skywarn Practice Net report. The net has not been on the air for several weeks and will start back on January 13 at 0730pm on the '06 machine.

Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer Co. WV ARRL Emergency Coordinator, said that the local ARES group had one exercise in 2019 with 52 total man hours expended between it and another public event. He also mentioned that an unnamed Service has offered to teach an Auxiliary Communications Class for the local ARES group. Prerequisites include the ICS 100, 200 700 and 800 Modules. See <https://www.fema.gov/nims-training>. The monthly ARES net is on the third Thursday (January 16) at 0730pm on the 147.06 repeater. Charles mentioned that the local Police/Sheriff departments are using Fox Hunt technology to find people that are wearing special bracelets in case they get lost. He would like the Club to look into this and offer help to our communities. <http://www.arrl.org/direction->

finding ((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 VE Team information: The quarterly ARRL VE test sessions will be on Feb. 8, May 9, Aug. 8 and Nov. 14 in 2020. Note that the new question pool for the Extra test will be in use on July 1 of this year. Please remind those testing that we must have a copy of any current Amateur license, a valid photo identification and \$15 via cash or check.... no plastic. At the November 9 test session, two upgraded to General and one new Technician tested. One person took but failed the General exam. There was discussion about giving new Technicians a free one year membership to the Club as well as other suggestions. The 'to do' list:

- (1) Possible auction/sale on excess equipment at the 911 Center
- (2) The year 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 0738pm.

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.)