

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on February 3, 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 700pm by Keith Jennings AD8L, Vice President. There were 12 members and gsts in attendance. He welcomed all. He asked that we keep Connie Anderson N8OMB in our prayers as she has been having some serious health problems. Don Anderson WD8OOR has had her moved to the Beckley area from Morgantown so as to be closer to her as she recovers.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting and they were approved.

Mike Clemons KM4UCR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid a power bill for the '49 site in the amount of \$13.77. He made deposits totaling \$106.00 in dues. He paid \$26 to the State of WV for our annual not-for-profit filing fee, \$60 to reimburse Keith Jennings for purchase of the new ERARC QSL cards, and \$70.00 went to SERA for a two year membership payment. <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: Mike Clemons said, "They're working" and that there no issues that he's aware of. Gary Kadar N8GK said that the 6M machine may be down. Jay Belt K8CTI agreed that it very well may be down. Gary cannot bring it up from his house. Keith said that Jason Perdue KN4QMN made a point to use the Blacksburg, Va. NWS 2M radio and talk into Bluefield in the '49. Jason said that it was full quieting into the NWS from Bluefield. Keith dittoed his comments for the Bluefield end of the conversation.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR gave his Skywarn Practice Net report. The net is going well and it meets on Mondays (except the first Monday) on the 145.49 machine at 0730pm.

Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer Co. WV ARRL Emergency Coordinator, couldn't make the meeting due to his job. Keith said that he is hoping to hold a Fox Hunt sometime in March. The ARES net meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 730pm ON THE 147.06 repeater. *((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, 2020 at 9am at the Mercer County, WV 911 Center. Please remind those testing that we must have a copy of any current

Amateur license, a valid photo identification, another form of ID and \$15 via cash or check.... no plastic. The “Hams helping Hams” class/session is going well and is being well received. This group meets after each ERARC meeting.

Mike Clemons has a General Study guide that he’s willing to loan to any member in need. He has taken ownership of the old APCO building uptown on Bland Street and will allow the Club to meet, store, etc. if needed.

Keith asks that we all think about how to celebrate the ERARC’s 60th anniversary this year. It was mentioned that it could coincide with Field Day. We could not get on the Glenwood Park’s calendar for June 27, 2020 for our FD activities. Please help us find a suitable location for FD 2020. Keith said that we have partial permission to use the grounds outside the Mercer Co. Airport fenced areas. The Civil Air Patrol property was mentioned also.

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 0748pm.

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.)***

SHOP AT AMAZON? HELP THE ERARC @:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/55-0632875> 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/>