

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club conference call held on March 21, 2020. <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 conference call started at 800pm. All ERARC officers were online as well as several others including Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, Don Anderson WD8OOR, Greg Dominguez AF8GD and Charles Priest KN4OOH.

When asked about his wife Connie's illness, Don said that she is not doing well.

Field Day was the biggest topic of the evening. With discussions at the last meeting and afterwards, we will go back to Camp Roland in Bastian, Va. for the June 27 event. We do appreciate all suggestions for this year's FD site. It was suggested that we try to rotate locations in the future. The next topic was ERARC member participation; loading needed equipment, setting up and taking down at FD, and returning said equipment to the 911 Center. Keith suggested that we really need 8 members to commit to this endeavor in order to spread the work out. It was mentioned that Randall Hash WB4BBF was self-contained and all he needed was a tree to hang his dipole. Gary Kadar is self-contained also. Hooger said that all of the trees in the field have been taken down but there are plenty toward the creek bank. The need for shelter was mentioned. There was discussion about the tower trailer, generator trailer and mobile command trailer from the 911 Center. Hooger suggested that we just concentrate with the basics then think about about the trailer, trailer generator, etc. He said that we can use the dipoles to start with and if we have the manpower to use the other items to do so. It takes an hour or so just to put the tri-band antenna together and get it on the tower trailer. Matt will bring his generator so we *can* do without the 911 generator.

Charles spoke about ARES briefly. He is looking for simplex frequencies that can be used in addition to the 146.53 frequency that we officially use by the ERARC. Discussion. Hooger suggested contacting the Southeaster Repeater Association <http://www.sera.org> for options.

Keith said that the '49 is back to its old tricks of working, not working, partially working. Mike said that they've not been back to the site since the last time when feed line issues were corrected. He is purchasing a new site on East River Mountain and will place the new 145.49 antenna, new feed lines, etc. in the near

future. Hopefully this will cut down on all of the problems that we've experienced.

The conference call was over around 0855.

Please watch your emails from the Club for more information. There will NOT be an April ERARC meeting. We may very well have a conference call in lieu of. Who knows? Thanks go out to Don Anderson for hooking us up to the conference call information.

<<<We are currently accepting dues for the upcoming year. \$15 per Ham and \$1 additional for each Ham at the same address. >>>

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 0815pm.

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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