

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club via conference call held on May 04, 2020. <http://www.erarc.com>

Local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Skywarn / ARES local simplex freq: 146.53. We normally meet at 704 Bland St. Bluefield, WV. 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 700pm. All ERARC officers were online as well as 7 other members. 1-605-468-8007. Pass is our P.O. Box number.

Matt Morris KC8GLS welcomed all to the meeting. He asked if all other officers were online and they were. He asked for other check-ins and had another 7 members to voice their attendance.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the April 6 meeting via conference call. They were approved.

Mike Clemons KU4UMC gave the Treasurer's report. He paid APCO \$13.06, paid \$255.60 for our ARRL equipment insurance. Matt asked is the Club ever had a 'lifetime' membership option like the ARRL and other organizations promote. No one could remember any such option.

Repeater report: Jay Belt K8CTI said that as far as he knew, that the other repeaters were working OK. Nelson Linkous WZ8E has the KD8XX 145.25 PL 100 repeater back on the air. Jay also mentioned that he had talked to Don Anderson WD8OOR and that his wife Connie was still not doing very well health-wise. He mentioned that John Riddle N8RIG is having serious health problems and is going to Duke University.

Skywarn: Roger Stefancic KC8LGR said that the net is still going well and that they will be on the '49 site on Monday at 0730pm. He is asking for more net control operators to help with the net.

(DMR net every Tuesday at 0730pm on local Bluefield talk group 9.)

ARES report: Charles Priest had 7 check-ins on March net and the next net will be on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 0730pm on the 147.06 repeater. The net usually lasts around 15-20".

Volunteer Examiner report: Keith Jennings noted that the May 9 VE test session has been cancelled and the next one will presumably at the 704 Bland Street, Bluefield, WV location. The FCC has agreed to allow the VEC organizations to hold remote testing but Keith doesn't want any part of it. For example, the Club must provide a proctor at the test site of the testee. He mentioned that groups from the Northeast are trying to do away with testing all together. He'll keep up to date on this topic.

Old business: Field Day. We will go back to Camp Roland in Bastian, Va. for the June 27 event. With the Chinese Flue event, we will have a 'wait and see' position as recommended by Randall Hash WB4BBF and others. Someone mentioned the recent ARRL FD comments: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt>

New business: Greg Dominguez AF8GD said that his former employer donated two brand new Intel computers to the Club (\$1550 value). Greg has monitors to donate and Mike has cabling, etc. that he can donate to the project. Greg hopes to get APRS and

Winlink on the air locally. When asked, Greg said that Echolink could be included in this package.

Matt closed the meeting with a personal statement to the membership. His mother is going to be 89 in July and is in poor health. His twin sisters are 69 and have been taking care of their mother but both now have dementia. He is planning on stepping down from the President's office this fall and is giving us time to find a replacement.

<<<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 0735pm.

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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