

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club held on June 01, 2020. <http://www.erarc.com>

Local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Skywarn / ARES local simplex freq: 146.53. We meet at [704 Bland St. Bluefield, WV](#), Suite 523 at 7pm, on the first Monday of each month. 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 by Keith Jennings AD8L, ERARC VP at 702pm. He welcomed all 8 members as well as Dave Sexton AB8D who was in conference call mode. We used social distancing in the room; Keith called this our 'Covid edition of the ERARC'. Keith mentioned that Mike Clemons KM4UCR, owner of the building, had made up some good-looking membership cards for those interested. He is also working on wireless entry to the front door via RFID cards. Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the May 4 meeting via conference call. They were approved.

Mike Clemons KM4UCR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid APCO \$13.06 and deposited \$15 in dues.

Repeater report: Jay Belt K8CTI said that as far as he knew, that the repeaters were working OK. He asked if there were any abnormalities that he wasn't aware of. Dave Sexton mentioned that this is the time of year that we can hear a lot of signals skipping off the atmosphere from other transmitters. Jay also mentioned that Don Anderson WD8OOR is still taking care of his wife Connie who is still very ill. Keith said that we need to keep Connie, Don and John Riddle N8RIG in our prayers.

Skywarn: No report via Keith as Roger Stefancic KC8LGR was absent tonight.

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

ARES report: Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer County, WV EC, had 7 check-ins on the April net and the next net will be on June 18th at 0730pm on the 147.06 repeater. The net usually lasts around 15-20".

Volunteer Examiner report: Keith Jennings noted that the next VE test session will be on August 8 at the [704 Bland Street, Bluefield, WV](#) location. He still is not planning on any remote testing. We have plenty of space for social distancing during testing and he had 6 people interested in testing in May.

Old business: Field Day: There was much discussion on FD. Discussion included taking the three trailers vs. just taking/using dipoles, Covid-19, participation, etc. Hooger will send an email out later in the month to see who will be able to help load, setup, tear-down and unload needed equipment. It was mentioned that

Randall Hash WB4BBF hopes to attend and work 40M CW. Gary Kadar N8GK would like to work 15M voice but can't make a firm decision to attend until closer to the June 27-28 weekend. Brenen McGraw K8BDM has committed to helping the whole weekend. There ARE a few new FD rules for this year only due to the pandemic. <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Keith asks that we all think about running for the President and VP positions for the upcoming year. Matt Morris KC8LGS ERARC President, is going to step down due to family issues. Mike Clemons and Hooger Fisher both denied giving up the Treasurer and Secretary offices as of now.

New business: Brenen McGraw K8BDM has some radios that can be converted to be used as repeaters. He asked Jay Belt if one could be converted to a 440 ham frequency, but Jay said that such a conversion would not work due to the present frequency of the radio.

Gary Kadar asked about our placing antennas on top of the 704 Bland St. building. He has a donated 2M fiberglass 1/2 wave antenna that can be used. There was more discussion on feedline placement, antenna placement as well as HF vs UHF/VHF antennas.

<<<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 0758pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary. ERARC [P.O. Box 1362 Bluefield, WV 24701](mailto:ERARC@w8mop.com)

*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/>