

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club held on August 03, 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](#) on the first Monday of each month. Our backup meeting location is at the Princeton, WV. Burger King. President Matt Morris KC8LGS, VP. Keith Jennings AD8L, Treasurer Mike Clemons KM4UCR, Secretary George "Hooger" Fisher III W4OF, Webmaster David Lester N8VFR

The meeting was opened by Matt Morris KC8LGS, ERARC President at 707pm. He welcomed all 10 members present as well as those 5 online via Facebook Live. He offered condolences to Brenen McGraw K8BDM on the passing of his mother on July 25. David Sexton AB8D said that Karl Thompson K8KT, Charleston, WV had recently passed away. He was a staple on HF and on UHF/VHF. Matt asked for a moment of silence.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the July 6 meeting. They were approved.

Mike Clemons KM4UCR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid APCO \$12.86 and deposited \$30 in dues.

Repeater report: Mike Clemons KM4URC said that he's pretty sure that the repeaters are working OK. The Alpha Delta DX-DD 40-80M HF antenna has been received and will be installed in the near future by Mike, Jay Belt K8CTI and others. Keith mentioned that Don Anderson WD8OOR is still taking care of his wife Connie KB8NMB who is still very ill. He 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. Keith reported that the last net included a 146.53 simplex test from Roger to the participants on the new to check propagation.

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

ARES report: Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer County, WV EC, had fewer than normal check-ins on the July net and the next net will be on August 20th at 0730pm on the 147.06 repeater.

Jaiden Borich K4NFP said that his 442.65 repeater in Nemours is off the air and he's looking to move to a higher location as well as get a few other things done to it. He also has a projector that was given to him that he'll donate if needed. It needs a \$60 bulb.

Volunteer Examiner report: Keith Jennings noted that the next VE test session will be on August 8 at the [704 Bland Street, Bluefield, WV, room 523](#), location. We have plenty of space for social distancing during testing and he has 9 people interested in testing. There is a Tech Plus, first licensed in 1986, that will fill out paperwork to upgrade to General coming on Saturday. One MUST bring a COPY of one's license, if applicable, photo identification is a MUST and CORRECT CHANGE for \$15 is appreciated. We typically run out of change as most people seem to bring \$20 bills.

Old business: Matt mentioned that we should look into ZOOM meeting vs. Facebook Live for upcoming meeting broadcast. Discussion. Gary Kadar said that it's best to use earphones and mic when on ZOOM meeting. ( sign up now for future use at: <https://zoom.us> ) He also said that those 'cheap' earphones and mic that fit cell phones work just fine. The problem is that feedback from mics seems to be the biggest problem. Keith showed off a new ARRL 3' X 6' sign on a stand and said that he got it for the Club as we need such signage when we're out in public. He paid \$150 for it and will accept a reimbursement if the Club sees fit.

David Sexton AB8D mentioned that the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo is this weekend. There are two days of speakers, exhibitors and special conference rooms on this virtual reality platform. <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>  
The National Hurricane Net ceased when the latest storm came onto the US shore. Charles Priest KN4OOH said that the net, when active, is found on 14.325, 7.268, 21.30 and 3.862. See: <https://www.hwn.org/about-us/who-we-are.html>  
<http://w4ehw.fiu.edu/>

<<<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 0755pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary. ERARC [P.O. Box 1362](mailto:ERARC@w4ehw.fiu.edu)  
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*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. )***