

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club held on October 5, 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 Keith Jennings AD8L, ERARC Vice President at 700pm. He welcomed all 14 members present as well as 7 online via ZOOM. Also present were: Roger Nesselrodt KI4SZA from N. Tazewell, Va. and Flux Neo W3NEO from Tazewell, Va. Flux is wanting to get his General ticket ASAP he says. He's excited about Amateur Radio and has many questions. Keith reminded the audience that he's going to continue the Elmer's class after this meeting and can come up with other dates if needed. He again thanked Mike Clemons, Jay Belt K8CTI, and Nelson Linkous WZ8E for installing the Alpha Delta DX-DD 40-80M HF antenna and the Hustler 4BTV HF 10, 15, 20, 40M antenna.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the September 5th meeting. They were approved.

Mike Clemons KM4UCR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid APCO \$13.16 and deposited \$96 in dues.

(Don Anderson WD8OOR is still taking care of his wife Connie KB8NMB who is still very ill. Please keep Connie, Don and John Riddle N8RIG in your thoughts and prayers.)

Repeater report: Jay Belt K8CTI said that the repeaters are working OK unless someone knows something that he is not aware of.

Jaiden Borich K4NFP said that his 440 repeater is still off the air and he is still looking for a new site.

Skywarn: Net every Monday (except the first) of each month on 145.49 at 0730pm.

DMR: Net every Tuesday at 0730pm on local Bluefield talk group 9 on the 444.45 repeater.

ARES report: Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer County, WV EC, said that the next ARES net will be on October 15th at 0730pm on the 147.06 repeater. He will hold a Simulated Emergency Test on October 17th for the BSA Virtual Jamboree On The Air and Camporee. Charles will actually be on the air locally and ZOOM the communications to

the BSA's Buckskin Council and it's Districts. Hooger will send out the ZOOM information when he receives it. Henry Shinn KC3KGY mentioned that Skywarn used to issue Spotter numbers but they no longer do this. (Happy Birthday to Henry)

Volunteer Examiner report: Keith Jennings. The next test session will be on November 14, 9am at the 704 Bland St. location. There will be an Elmer class after our meeting tonight.

Old business: We nominated officers for the upcoming year at the last meeting. Keith asked if there were any more nominations. No one voiced any additions. Henry Shinn made a motion, seconded by Jaiden Borich N4NFP to accept the nominations on the floor. A vote was taken. The motion passed. The current officers will all keep their respective offices.

Hooger read a note from Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR who is moving: *"Hello all, I wanted to drop a note to let you know I am relocating to N Augusta, SC. I have accepted a position there with another dealership and feel it is a good place to move my wife and son. I think it will open up a ton of opportunities for our son, and it seems to be a steadily growing economy.*

I want to thank all of you for your support over the past few years. I have learned a massive amount of information from all of you, as well as enjoying your company. I am sure I have not been able to give back what I have gained. My present job never allowed me the time to get together with you to raise or lower an antenna for someone, or go to the repeater sites and learn about them.

Many many thanks to Mike Clemons for taking over the Treasurer's position from me. It was a critical time for me as I started planning a career change; however, I never envisioned a move quite this drastic.

It will be strange uprooting our entire lives in Bluefield and moving so far away, but it is time for a change. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we get through the move and transition into the new city and job. It has been great being in the club with you. Please tell everyone in the meeting. Hope to catch you on the air when I get settled down. 73's Bruce"

New business: Keith said that we may as well not celebrate the Club's 60th Anniversary of our Incorporation this year, especially due to the Covid. We'll look at it next year.

Keith asked that we think about our December 7, 2020 Christmas Dinner / Meeting. He asked Hooger to check and see if we can get on La Fiesta's event calendar. Hooger will check. Hooger asked that the membership check with other locations too.

Nelson Linkous was asked to tell about his new Bridgecom Skybridge Hotspot. He gave a very informative talk on the unit and he's very impressed with its capabilities. It comes with several needed accessories and has a 'cross-platform' for digital

communications. One can program it to go from DMR to D-STAR, to System Fusion, P25, etc. and visa versa. See: <https://www.bridgecomsystems.com> Ham Radio 2.0 review: <https://youtu.be/eIach3uN0Fg>

The meeting was over at 0809pm.

<<<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) HF antenna for 80M repair/replacement at the 911 Center
- (3) APRS back on the air
- (4) Echolink back on the air

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.)***