

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on October 5, 2015 at Ryan's Steakhouse in Bluefield, VA. <http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Backup meeting location at Burger King, Bluefield, Va.

The meeting was opened at 700pm by Harold Hodges N8NCP, ERARC President. Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the September meeting. There were no changes made and they were approved.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. He deposited \$247.00 in renewals for membership.

Harold passed around some old ERARC membership cards and had a discussion on the idea that ERARC members would like to have something from the Club even if it is a membership card. He asked Don Anderson WD8OOR if he and others could come up with some type of membership card, possibly without a date on them so that we could enter the date ourselves before presentation. Discussion. Harold said, "Some people expect something when they become members."

Harold talked briefly about the September VHF contest that he and Roger and Gary Kadar N8GK participated in at their home QTHs. Band conditions were poor and each made only 3 contacts each.

Bill Sowers K8WBS asked as to whom in the Club was in contact with the Boy Scouts; in particular Camp Roland. Hooger said that he was. We have talked about this before but Bill has a 32 foot crank-up tower that will got up to 50 feet that he would like to donate to the Camp and make a temporary flagpole out of it as well as allowing us to install an antenna on it and use it when needed. He said that all that the Club would need to provide is to help with the labor, concrete and installation. Hooger said that when we talked about this before, that the tower would be installed between the pool/picnic shelter and the bathhouse on the Camp Roland property. During inclement weather, this structure could be used as an alternate flagpole while the majority of those present were protected from the elements by the pool shelter. Hooger will contact Jeff Purdy of the Charleston, WV BSA Buckskin Council #617 via mail and ask for permission for installation.

Don Anderson WD8OOR offered his repeater report. The 147.06 power supply is OK now and there are two more power supplies if needed at the 911 Center. The 145.49 repeater radio is in great shape but the RC-210 controller is experiencing major problems. Don did a hard reset on it and it still is having major problems that he is working on. The weather radio's wall wart power supply was found to be burnt up and will be replaced. Jay Belt K8CTI said that he hopes to get the 6M N8RIG machine back on the air soon as replacement antenna and parts have been obtained. Hooger said that he had been in contact with Keith and Misty Meadows via email concerning study material for the Technician test. He has sent them the study material (Tech question pool and answers), the November 14 ERARC ARRL VE test date as well as information on Technician study manuals in the local libraries. He also said that he's been sending information about the same to a 12 year old local, Jaiden Borich. With deepest condolences, Hooger mentioned the untimely passing of Susan Rector N8QFR last week. She is survived by her husband Stephen Rector W8QHC of Bluefield, WV.

There was about a 10 minute discussion about Digital Mobile Radio (DMR). There is still a lot of misunderstanding and confusion with all of the specifics of this new mode. Hooger had sent out an email recently with an

ARRL article on DMR and it really didn't help us much with a suggested easier-to-understand explanation.

Digital Mobile Radio information:

<http://www.va3xpr.net/dmr-repeater-map/>

http://www.trbo.org/docs/Amateur_Radio_Guide_to_DMR.pdf found at

<http://www.trbo.org>. <http://www.caldmr.org> <http://www.w4c11.com>

<http://www.dmr-marc.net> ."

The meeting was over by 740pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

ERARC

P.O. Box 1362

Bluefield, WV 24701