

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on February 1, 2021 (face to face and via ZOOM meeting) <http://www.erarc.com>

Local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Skywarn / ARES local simplex freq: 146.53. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7pm at 704 Bland Street, Room 523, Bluefield, WV 24701. 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 (via ZOOM) at 700pm. He welcomed the 8 members present and to the 5 online.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the January 4th meeting and they were approved.

Mike Clemons KM4UCR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid APCO \$10.64 and made no deposits.

(Don Anderson WD8OOR is still taking care of his wife Connie KB8NMB who is still very ill. Don is having his own health issues now according to Jim Perdue KC8NG. Please keep Connie, Don, and John Riddle N8RIG in your thoughts and prayers.)

Repeater report: Jay Belt K8CTI said that he's not sure of repeater functions or malfunctions and asked if the 6M repeater was still on the air. No one knew. Jaiden Borich N4NFP is still looking for a new site for his 440 repeater.

Skywarn: Jaiden Borich has been running the weekly Monday net at 0730pm. He said that he has had a decent number of check ins.

DMR: David Sexton AB8D: Net is every Tuesday at 0730pm on the WZ8E 443.625 DMR repeater on the 1354 WV statewide talk group. He usually has a dozen or so check ins and would like to advertise the net on Facebook.

ARES report from Keith Jennings AD8L and Greg Dominguez AF8GD: Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer County, WV EC is actively moving back to Tennessee and will be done teaching by the end of this semester. Please keep Charles' mother in your prayers as she is ill. Greg had 5 check ins on the 21st and said that the next monthly net will be on February 18. The net is on the third Thursday at 0730pm on 147.06. Keith and Matt expressed the need for a new ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Mercer County. It was mentioned that the EC is required to take FEMA classes before the EC can take the job.

Volunteer Examiner report: Keith Jennings. The ERARC ARRL VE team tests quarterly on the second Saturday at 9am at 704 Bland St., Room 523, Bluefield, WV. The next testing session will be on February 13, 2021. He has had 18 persons expressing interest in taking the tests and he will need all available VEs to help with this large group.

ELMER CLASS THIS COMING SATURDAY (and every first Saturday of the month) AT 1PM AT THE 704 BLAND STREET ROOM 523 BLUEFIELD WV LOCATION. Rick Patton KO4FCL asked if the Elmer Class could be shown on ZOOM as well. Discussion. Mike and Keith will try to make that happen.

New business: Keith mentioned that on December 7, 2020, there were two men on the 147.06 that were very very vulgar in their speech. Several amateurs heard it, but Keith did not. Comments were left on Facebook. Keith asked the membership to think about allowing some members to know the 'knock down' codes to the repeaters if situations like this were to happen again. Greg asked that we consider using the W8MOP call sign when challenging someone like this on the air. He suggests that an offender could find out the physical address by way of an internet search of one's call sign and that may not turn out to good. Gary Kadar N8GK suggested that sometimes the best response to offenders is no response at all. If they see that they're not getting a response, hopefully they will go away. He also mentioned that one can listen to the input frequency to see how close the offender may be to the Ham's receiver. Gary also reminded us that if you mistakenly sit on an open mic that the 'offender' is not going to hear you report it to you since your mic is open.

Keith gave a short summation of the FCC's warning of using radios in crimes. See: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/fcc-issues-enforcement-advisory-radio-users-reminded-not-to-use-radios-in-crimes>

The meeting was over at 0744pm.

<<<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 75M 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@erarc.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.)***

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