

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

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 at 700pm. He welcomed the 13 members and guests present and the approximate 10 online. Matt welcomed Don Anderson WD8OOR back to our meeting and verbalized condolences to him and the family on the recent passing of his wife Connie KB8OMB. He asked for a moment of silence from those present.

He welcomed Myra Yates KO4NAX, Josh Siers KE8RAZ and Chris Hincer KO4NBA.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the February 1st meeting and they were approved. Matt asked Greg Dominguez AF8GD about getting the APRS back online. He said that there's a computer problem / bad board that needs to be fixed. On Echolink, he repeated the past conversation that we've had about this. We need to wait until 'the repeaters' are moved before working on this problem mainly due to internet connection.

Keith gave the Mike Clemons KM4UCR Treasurer's report. He paid APCO \$10.44 and made a \$30 deposit from dues.

(Please keep John Riddle N8RIG in your thoughts and prayers due to his health issues.)

Repeater report: Jay Belt K8CTI mentioned that the 442.45 and 147.06 repeaters were off the air last week due to a tripped breaker. He nor Don Anderson had anything else to add.

DMR: David Sexton AB8D: Net is every Tuesday at 0730pm on the WZ8E 443.625 DMR repeater on the 1354 WV statewide talk group.

Skywarn: Jaiden Borich has been running the weekly Monday net at 0730pm. He said that he has had a decent number of check ins on the 145.49.

Henry Shinn KC3KGY said that he checked into the 145.17 ARES net and invited them to the Mercer Co. ARES net. They were so impressed with the Mercer preamble that they adopted it too.

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 with his Bluefield College teaching job by the end of this semester. Please keep Charles' mother in your prayers as she is ill.) The next monthly net will be on March 18. The net is on the third Thursday at 0730pm on 147.06. Matt expressed the need for a new ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Mercer County. It was mentioned that the EC is required to be licensed, be an ARRL member and take FEMA classes for 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. On February 13, 2021 he has had 25 people expressing interest in taking the test. Probably due to icy conditions, only 15 showed up and 12 became new Technicians.

ELMER CLASS THIS COMING SATURDAY (and every first Saturday of the month) AT 1PM AT THE 704 BLAND STREET ROOM 523 BLUEFIELD WV LOCATION.

New business: Matt mentioned that we need to think about the June 26-27, 2021 ARRL Field Day event. <http://www.arrl.org/field-day> It's been suggested that we rotate locations and we've, in the past, been invited or received permission to setup at BSA Camp Roland in Bastian, Va., the airport, Glenwood Park, etc. Please keep a 2021 location in mind as we move toward June. It's very nice to have bathroom facilities and water available. Keith and Gary Kadar N8GK explained Field Day, etc. to our newly licensed Amateurs present. Keith

commented on Randall Hash's WB4BBF CW proficiency that he's witnessed during Field Day. Jaiden Borich agreed that his skill is amazing.

The meeting was over at 0747pm.

<<<We are currently accepting dues for the upcoming year. \$15 per Ham and \$1 additional for each Ham at the same address. Download an application from our website. >>>

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](#)

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