

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on April 5, 2021 (face to face and via [ZOOM meeting](http://www.erarc.com))<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 at 700pm. He welcomed the 12 members and guests present and the 2 online. Matt recognized L.A. Farmer KB8OOK in attendance and his daughter Laura who passed away several months ago. He asked for a moment of silence.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the March 1st meeting and they were approved with one correction on a date.

Mike Clemons KM4UCR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid APCO \$10.44 and made a \$135 deposit of donations and dues and \$52.16 from the Amazon Smile program. He will be paying the \$255.50 ARRL equipment insurance invoice by next meeting and asked Jay Belt K8CTI to review the itemized list. (the rate of insurance is \$1.40/\$100 of equipment, FYI).

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

Repeater report: Jay Belt K8CTI said that Echolink is back up on the 145.49 repeater via a mag mount antenna inside the 704 Bland St. location. He hopes to move Echolink to the 147.06 location. He says that the 145.49 is still having receive problems but will suffice until the repeater is moved and or repaired.

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 N4NFP has been running the weekly Monday net at 0730pm. He said that he has had 6-7 check ins. Matt wants to help with running the net as do others. A copy of the preamble will be sent out. Jaiden talked about the Netlogger program that he's tried to use but is not happy with the way it works. Keith Jennings AD8L had comments about it also. Gary Kadar N8GK suggested recording the net via video/audio by one's cellphone to confirm call signs, etc. after the net is over. Steve

O'dell N8SNR said that some nets have a backup net control to help with fills on weak stations. Gary also said that we ALL should check our squelch settings frequently to assure that we can maximize our reception.

ARES: Matt has volunteered to sign up as the Mercer Co. WV ARES Emergency Coordinator as he now has time and has taken the required courses. He hopes to take up where Charles Priest KN4OOH left off with his fine involvement with the local ARES organization. Matt said that Tim Farley was the past leader for the Mercer County WV Office for Emergency Preparedness. He passed away recently. His replacement is Keith Gunnoe. Keith will meet with us at the next meeting and talk about how Amateur Radio can help in emergency situations. Matt has know Keith for 30+ years and is confident in his abilities for the County. Matt hopes to get members of the local EMS/Firefighting /Police licensed so that licensed Amateurs in those agencies can use Ham Radio to communicate when other means are not available or shut down.

Volunteer Examiner / Elmer 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 ARRL VE test session will be on May 8. Keith has been in contact with ARRL VEC rep. Maria Somma AB1FM concerning the \$15 testing fee and the upcoming \$35 licensing fee. WE will collect the \$15 and THE FCC will collect their \$35 fee. He said that the only time that the \$35 fee would not be collected would be with an address or name change. The **ELMER CLASS** meets on the first Saturday of each month at 1PM at 704 Bland Street Room 523 Bluefield WV. Keith had 7 to attend last Saturday.

New/Old business: Matt mentioned that we need to think about the June 26-27, 2021 ARRL Field Day event. <http://www.arrl.org/field-day> . There was much discussion. Possible locations include: BSA Camp Roland, 704 Bland St., the Mercer Co Airport, Glenwood Park, and other locations as available. Matt will contact Glenwood Park and see if we could use their accommodations this year. Camp Roland is always open for FD use to us. The airport has a lot of trees for antenna placement and Jay Belt said that the terminal could be left open for restroom use. The Bland St. location already has two HF antennas and radios in place. Charles Hampton K8CEH suggested that Hooger send out a questionnaire as to where members would like to hold the '21 FD.

Don Anderson WD8OOR is cleaning out his storage facility and wants to know how many computers, monitors, printers the Club may need. Discussion. Matt will help him move any needed equipment.

The meeting was over at 0808pm.

<<<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

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary. ERARC [P.O. Box 1362 Bluefield, WV 24701](#)