

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on May 3, 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 at 7pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS, ERARC President. He welcomed the 12 members and one guest present and the 4 online. (Please keep John Riddle N8RIG in your thoughts and prayers due to his health issues and loss of his son.) Matt introduced Keith Gunnoe who is the new Mercer County, WV Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Keith introduced himself to the group and explained his job for the County and his hopes for communication options. Matt said that years ago, the County would sponsor mock disasters that included Ham Radio. Discussion. Robert Cook KA8MDZ asked Keith if he had heard of FEMA AUXCOMM training. This is a classroom presentation and allows various communication organizations to give support to emergency management. Discussion. Keith will look into that.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the April 5th meeting and they were approved.

Mike Clemons KM4UCR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid APCO \$10.44, paid \$64.00 for our post office box rent and \$219.48 for the Club's equipment insurance policy. He made a \$16.00 deposit from dues.

Repeater report: Jay Belt K8CTI mentioned that the DMR was down for 3-4 days but has had an antenna issue fixed.

DMR: David Sexton AB8D: Net is every Tuesday at 0730pm on the WZ8E 443.625 DMR repeater on the 1354 WV statewide talk group. Dave said, "get on, talk to me."

Skywarn: Jaiden Borich N4NFP has been running the weekly Monday net at 0730pm on 145.49. There were 11-12 check-ins on the last net with Hinton and Pulaski participating stations. He is thinking that he might have found a new location for his 440 repeater.

ARES: Matt has volunteered to sign up as the Mercer Co. WV ARES Emergency Coordinator and says that he has 3 of 4 required FEMA classes done. Charles Priest KN4OOH has given him a thumb drive with loads of ARES information to use. We will surely miss Charles as he has moved to Tennessee. The ARES net is on the third Thursday of each month at 0730pm on the 147.06 repeater.

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. All new applicants MUST have a FRN from the FCC before they can test. The **ELMER**

CLASS meets on the first Saturday of each month at 1PM at 704 Bland Street Room 523 Bluefield WV. Keith and Brenen McGraw K8BDM were the only two to show up last Saturday.

New/Old business: Don Anderson has volunteered to be the 2021 Field Day Chairman. He took the floor and said that we need at least 8 people to participate in FD. Hooger had taken an email poll asking that any potential participants vote on the FD location. He had 6 respondents. 4 of 6 said to have FD at Boy Scout Camp Roland. Mike Clemons and others will make up the rest of the setup and take-down team. Randall Hash WB4BBF plans to attend and will use his own equipment but will need to use a dipole from the Club. Gary Kadar N8GK hopes to attend and will use his own equipment. We will use a Club radio and antenna for a third station. More equipment and operators are welcome. We have more antennas and radios to use. There will be a potluck dinner at 6pm on June 26, 2021. Setup usually occurs on that Saturday morning after breakfast in Green Valley. Tear-down usually starts on Sunday around 11am or so. Matt and Hooger will go by the Camp to see what the availability of antenna trees are. Several have been cut down due to safety concerns.

Greg Dominguez AF8GD thanked the Club members for their condolence card. His father-in-law passed away recently.

The meeting was over at 0758pm.

<<<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](mailto:ERARC@bluefieldhamradio.org)