

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on June 7, 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 9 members and the 3 online. Matt said that he had attended the Mercer Co. WV Fire Association meeting last month and gave an overview of Ham Radio to those present. They were very receptive he said. He plans on going to each of the 12 Fire Departments in the future and pumping up Amateur Radio and hope that our service and be "another tool in their tool belt" that can be used. (Please keep John Riddle N8RIG in your thoughts and prayers due to his health issues and loss of his son.)

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the May 3rd meeting, and they were approved.

Mike Clemons KM4UCR gave the Treasurer's report. He paid APCO \$10.55 and made a \$15.00 deposit from dues and \$15.24 from the Amazon Smile program. Don Anderson WD8OOR asked Mike if he had been reimbursed for the supplies for the radio room / feedline / etc. at the Bland Street location. Mike said no. Discussion. Gary Kadar N8GK made a motion, seconded by Harold Hodges N8NCP to reimburse Mike for his expenses for the Club. Mike will get his invoice(s) together.

Repeater report: Don Anderson said that as far as he knows, they are all working OK. Keith Jennings AD8L said that the ERARC DMR 445.45 repeater was still off-line. Mike Clemons KM4UCR said that the DMR repeater would be repaired when it is moved. There is evidently an open in the feedline.

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 on 145.49. There were 6-8 check-ins on the last couple of nets.

ARES: Matt has volunteered to sign up as the Mercer Co. WV ARES Emergency Coordinator. He has been in touch with Ed Messenger N8OYY who is an ARES official in WV. He and Ed talked about becoming the Mercer EC, etc. and mentioned that the WV ARRL State Convention will be held in August. Ed hopes to get the FEMA AUXCOMM 16-hour class to be presented at the Convention. Robert Cook KA8MDZ had mentioned this class at the last ERARC meeting. (This is a classroom presentation and allows various communication organizations to give support to emergency management.) The local 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 team tested 6 at the May session with 3 new General upgrades and 2 new Technicians. The **ELMER CLASS** meets on the first Saturday of each month at 1PM at 704 Bland Street Room 523 Bluefield WV. Keith, Brenen McGraw K8BDM and Charlie Hampton K8CEH were the only ones to show up last Saturday.

**The ARRL never received our mailing from the VE session, Gary Kadar said. He mailed each person tested a personal letter explaining the situation and that he needs them to fill out a new Form 605 and electronically email back it to him. Once he has new 605s, he will email to the ARRL VEC. Gary has never made copies of form 605 since one's social security number was used for identification. The FRN is now being used and he has no problem making a digital copy for our use. Mike Clemons said that he has a small scanner / copier that can be used for that purpose. **

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 on June 26-27 at Boy Scout Camp Roland in Bastian, Va. There were about 10 people who said that they would help setup on Saturday and tear down on Sunday. Randall Hash WB4BBF will bring his radio and generator. Gary Kadar will bring his antenna, radio, and generator. Matt will bring his generator. Jaiden will bring his HF radio. "This makes it much easier knowing who's going to work which band and how much equipment we need", said Don Anderson. There will be a potluck dinner at 6pm on June 26, 2021. Setup usually occurs on that Saturday morning after the 8-9am breakfast in Green Valley. Tear-down usually starts on Sunday around 11am or so. ANY AMATEUR CAN GET ON THE AIR DURING FIELD DAY, NO MATTER ONE'S CURRENT LICENSE. THERE WILL BE EXTRA CLASS PARTICIPANTS PRESENT AND THIS IS A PRIME OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE HF, HF PROPAGATION, ETC. ETC.

Matt asked Hooger to advertise Field Day on our Facebook pages and get David Lester to do the same on our website.

The meeting was over at 0806pm.

<<<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@bluefield.net)