

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on August 2, 2021

<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 14 members and guest present. There was no ZOOM online conference call available tonight.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the July 5th meeting, and they were approved with one correction from David Sexton AB8D. He corrected the DMR WV statewide group as 3154, not 1354.

Keith gave Mike Clemons KM4UCR Treasurer's report. Mike paid APCO \$10.55 and made a \$55.00 deposit from dues. He reimbursed himself \$369.90 for supplies for the radio room / feedline / etc. at the Bland Street location. Jay Belt K8CTI said that the electric utility needs to be disconnected at the old '49 site. Hooger mentioned that Mike has been receiving the bill from APCO and has the information to cancel the service. Hooger collected dues from those paying tonight. Thanks!

Repeater report: Don Anderson said that as far as he knows, they are all working OK except for the '49 which is weak on receive. The 145.49 and 444.45 DMR were moved <1000' to the east from the old GTE / American Tower building to Mike Clemon's wvva.net / gigabeam.net building. These two antennas are now less than 22' off the ground and are below the tree line. The plan is to move the new '49 antenna and new feed line to the tower there sometime soon. Keith suggested that we keep the 'old' '49 antenna and feed line in place and use as an emergency backup antenna system. Right now, the receive on the '49 is spotty but Jack Burchett KD4DAR from Pikeville, KY checked into the Monday net via his remote base system. Jack works for US Bank and travels through Bluefield on a regular basis. He would like to join the Club and he mentioned that we have a really nice website. Thanks to **David Lester N8VFR** for his fine work!

DMR: David Sexton AB8D: Net is every Tuesday at 0730pm on the **W8MOP 444.45** repeater on the 3154 WV statewide talk group. The repeater now uses the Brandmeister Network. He asked that anyone that has a DMR radio to check into the net. He noted that there are quite a few checking in and they mostly do come from North America.

Skywarn: The weekly Monday net is at 0730pm on 145.49. Matt has been net control at times and has had 1-8 check-ins. Jaiden Borich N4NFP has been running it also and there were 6-8 check-ins on the last couple of his nets. He says that advertising the nets on Facebook increases participation.

ARES: The local ARES net is on the third Thursday of each month at 0730pm on the 147.06 repeater. Matt reports few check-ins.

EC report: Matt says that we've lost three key ARES members within the past several months and doesn't think that we can provide ARES services to the community as very few amateurs have signed up to help the local ARES organization. (Charles Priest KN4OOK and Greg Dominguez AF8GD have moved and Roger Stefancic KC8LGR is very busy with work). He is suggesting that the local ARES organization fold. Henry Shinn KC3KGY said that he would contact the Montcalm and Bluewell Fire Departments and see if they could help in any way with ARES, etc. as he has contacts there.

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 session will be on August 14, 2021, at 9am. Those testing must have a FCC Registration Number and valid email address before testing. The cost to test is \$15 and we will accept cash and check but NO PLASTIC.

<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn>

The **ELMER CLASS** meets on the first Saturday of each month at 1PM at 704 Bland Street Room 523 Bluefield WV. Charlie Hampton K8CEH wants to know how to measure RF exposure in order to comply with FCC rules. Keith hopes to answer his questions on Saturday. Questions? Call Keith at 304 887 5767 .

New business: Hooger had been contacted by Mike Walters W8ZY, former Bluefield resident, who now lives in Connecticut and works for the ARRL. He is the new Field Services representative and talked about our Club's 60<sup>TH</sup> year of affiliation with the ARRL among other items. He hopes to check in via ZOOM on the next ERARC meeting.

Hooger was contacted by Charles "Fuzzy" Chandler and Kenneth Testerman, both from Beckley, WV. Both want to get their Technician licenses and hope to test here on August 14, 2021. They both have been provided with the information needed to take their tests. Charles hopes to be in Bluefield on August 7 for Keith's Elmer class.

The local BSA Mountain Dominion District is hosting a Council-wide Camporee on August 20-22, 2021, at Camp Roland and Matt has volunteered to give three 35" informational presentations to the Scouts and Scouters on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Matt announced that he will not accept any nominations for ERARC office for the upcoming year due to family difficulties. We are to make nominations in September, vote in October and install in November.

The meeting was over at 0740pm.

**<<<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 if needed. >>>**

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary. ERARC [P.O. Box 1362 Bluefield, WV 24701](mailto:ERARC@bluefieldwv.com)