

Local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. 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 Mike Clemons KM4UCR, VP. David Sexton AB8D, Treasurer Jay Belt K8CTI, Secretary George "Hooger" Fisher III W4OF, Webmaster David Lester N8VFR

The meeting was opened at 703pm by Mike Clemons KM4UCR President. He welcomed the 9 other members present. (Jeff White KE8RAW, Peterstown, WV was present). There were three members via ZOOM. (Please keep Don Anderson WD8OOR in your prayers as he recovers from an accident and rehabilitation. Please keep John Riddle N8RIG in your prayers also.) Hooger Fisher read the minutes from the December 6, 2021 meeting and they were approved.

Jay Belt K8CTI ERARC Secretary reported no deposits or expenditures. Balance is same as last month.

**Repeater report:** Jay said that the 145.49 antenna has been replaced at the Double Gates/East River Mt. site and although it is getting some intermittent noise into it, is working well. He announced that Nelson Linkous WZ8E has moved the former Mt. Lake repeater to a new site on what Mike calls Butt Mountain which is to the west(?) of the Mt. Lake site and it higher in elevation than Dismal Peak in Giles Co., Va. Frequency is 145.29 PL 100. He also replaced a DMR repeater in Grayson Co., Va. on Point Lookout. It is on 443.7125 (prev. 443.725), overlooks North Carolina and services a lot of area within Virginia. Frequency change was to eliminate interference with a repeater 100 miles away. It is on the C-Bridge WV DMR network.

**DMR** net by David Sexton AB8D: (Net is every Tuesday at 0730pm on the W8MOP 444.45 DMR repeater on the 3154 WV statewide talk group.) Dave said that if one doesn't have a DMR radio and just wants to listen to the net, to go to <https://hose.brandmeister.network/#/> type in 3154 on top right under "player".

Skywarn: The weekly Monday net is at 0730pm on 145.49. David Sexton and Jaiden Borich N4NFP have been running the net recently. Participation has been historically low. Please check in. Matt Morris KC8LGS said that he would like to help run the net and would like to alternate with David and/or others. It was suggested that we contact Jack Burchett KD4DAR in Pikeville, Ky as he used to check into the net when the antenna system was working better. Matt contacted Phil Hysell at the Blacksburg NWS and told him that the '49 antenna system was replaced/repared and that we could be back on their contact list for local weather reports.

**ARES:** The area is still looking for an Emergency Coordinator. Gary Kadar N8GK mentioned that if there were an emergency that very few of us would be able to respond due to physical limitations, medication requirements, etc. etc. David Sexton said that there is a lot of training to be done before an EC can be appointed. Charles

Priest KN4OOH really put a lot of time into his educational requirements when he was appointed. The WV State ARES net follows the WV State Fone net on the third Thursday of each month on HF. Matt asked as to our new policy of communications between 704 Bland Street and the 911 Center in case of an emergency. Discussion. Tabled for now.

**Volunteer Examiner:** Keith Jennings AD8L. The ERARC ARRL VE team tests quarterly on the second Saturday at 9am at 704 Bland St., Room 523, Bluefield, WV. The next session is on February 5, 2022. (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> )

**ELMER CLASS** meets on the first Saturday of each month at 1PM at 704 Bland Street Room 523 Bluefield WV. The January 1 class was canceled due to the holiday. This class is for anyone that may have questions, comments, etc. it's not just for newly licenses Amateurs. Questions? Call Keith at 304 887 5767.

Old Business: **Mike mentioned that we need to have an open house for the community this coming spring or summer. There were many comments and the most urgent suggestions included:**

- 1) Get a committee together to gather information and make suggestions as to how to proceed.**
- 2) Make a list of all media contacts for the event.**
- 3) Spruce up the meeting area, etc. to make it more presentable.**
- 4) Get the radio room ready to be displayed and shown off.**
- 5) Hang up the dry-erase board, etc. on the walls.**
- 6) Gary Kadar suggested that we obtain a very large world map and have it displayed on a wall.**
- 7) This is going to take a lot of time and effort and we need to get started now.**

Matt would like us to get a list of local dignitaries/elected people/etc. that can be invited to a Club meeting and given the 15" tour and have our potentials explained to them in order to educate them about the Amateur Radio Service.

**New business:** Gary asked about Don Anderson and John Riddle. Don came to a breakfast and although he was on a walker, was doing much better. John came to a Club function and looked like he was doing OK although no one really knew about his condition. Matt asked that we all keep his mother and two twin sisters in our prayers as they all have dementia and are getting worse every day. Please keep Keith Jennings wife Sheila and family in your thoughts and prayers as her mother passed away on Christmas Eve.

Gary would like to work 15M at the Club location and asked as to how we would handle such requests. Discussion included new magnetic cards to get into the building, a new lock on the 523 door, cameras, sign-in sheets, sheets confirming that a Ham knows how to use our equipment properly, etc. etc. We will work on this request.

The meeting was over at 0755pm.

We are currently accepting dues for the upcoming year. It's \$15 per Ham with an additional \$1 for each Ham at the same mailing address. There is a downloadable membership application at our website if needed.

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

**Gary Kadar mentioned that the ARRL VHF contest is coming up in January 2022. <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>**