

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on February 7, 2022 <http://www.erarc.com> 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 655pm by David Sexton AB8D Vice President. He welcomed the 11 other members present and recognized David Lester N8VFR, ERARC Webmaster. There were three members via ZOOM. (Please keep Don Anderson WD8OOR in your prayers as he recovers from an accident. Please keep John Riddle N8RIG in your prayers also.)

**Secretary:** Hooger Fisher read the minutes from the January 3, 2021 meeting and they were approved.

**Treasurer:** Jay Belt K8CTI ERARC reported three dues deposits and no expenditures.

**Repeater report:** Jay said that he had heard no complaints about any repeater problems. He is currently working on getting the W8MOP Echolink up and running. He is using a mini PC that was donated by Greg Dominguez AF8GD and is waiting on some cabling that he had ordered. The equipment is now at Jay's Bland Street building. Keith Jennings AB8D said that he had contacted Jack Burchett KD4DAR via text message to let him know that the '49 has been repaired and that he could probably hit the machine from Pikeville, Kentucky again. Jack is now wintering in Florida and looks forward to trying to connect to Bluefield. The APRS is still offline. Jason Perdue N4JHP can hit the '49 from the Blacksburg/McCoy areas.

**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.) Keith said that there are checkins from several different states. He said that the local equipment is working OK but Brandmeister occasionally will drop a connection. (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. Jaiden Borich K4NFP would like to see more checkins and more advertisement for the net. He advertises on Facebook. Matt Morris has volunteered to help run the net.

**ARES:** The area is still looking for an Emergency Coordinator. Ed Messenger N8OYY is the WV ARES EC.

**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 12, 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. The new Technician question pool takes effect on July 1, 2022. The new FCC \$35 licensing fee will probably take effect this late spring / summer. <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. There were 4 people at the last session and they mainly went over DMR. 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:**At the last meeting, Mike Clemons had 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.
- Tonight, it was mentioned that Matt Morris KC8LGS had offered to be the Chairperson for this Committee. Discussion. We will table this until Mike and Matt are present. David said that we may want to hold this in August when the Club will be 62 years old.

At the last meeting, Matt said that he 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:** David said that Gary Kadar N8GK wants to try the Club's radios on 15M as mentioned last month. We still need to come up with a plan on as to how to allow a member to do this. Keith Jennings helped install the antenna systems on the roof of 704 Bland Street and has noticed that one end of the dipole may need to be tightened/reconnected to its anchor system as well as check on the other antennas there.

David also said that he/we need to repair/change the dipole at the 911 Center in case it would be needed. He has some parts that he would like to donate to the cause. Hooger suggested changing out the ropes on the pulley system there also.

David read the flyer for the March 2022 Charleston Hamfest.

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/charleston-area-hamfest-arri-west-virginia-section>

Hooger again recognized and thanked David Lester, our ERARC Webmaster, and we gave a round of applause.

The meeting was over at 0740pm.

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](#)