

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on March 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 0700pm by Mike Clemons KM4UCR President. He welcomed the 5 other members present. There were 4online 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 February7, 2022 meeting and they were approved.

**Treasurer:** Jay Belt K8CTI reported one dues deposit, \$32.12 from the Amazon Smile program and paid \$70 for the PO Box rent.

**Repeater report:** Jay said that he has heard no complaints about any repeater problems. The Echolink system is up and running and David Sexton demonstrated using his phone application for Echolink and connected to W8MOP's 145.49. Jay and Nelson Linkous WZ8E are in the process of getting a 10 Meter repeater up and running. It will be on East River Mountain on 29.62/29.52. If needed, there will be a 100Hz tone added. Mike said that if there were interest, Yaesu has their Fusion Digital repeater on sale at 1/2 price (~\$700) for a limited time. Jay and Nelson said that it could be mounted on the 704 Bland St. building and that they could come up with duplexers and antenna system.

**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.) Nelson Linkous said that there is a group of DMR enthusiasts / repeater owners that are currently in the process of starting a new talk group using the local C-Bridge gateway. This will bypass current problems with the Brandmeister network.

**Skywarn:** The weekly Monday net is at 0730pm on 145.49. Jaiden Borich K4NFP and Dave Sexton have been running this net.

**ARES:** The area is still looking for an Emergency Coordinator for Mercer Co. WV.

**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 February 12, 2022 session had one person test but did not pass his Technician exam.

**THERE WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL ARRL VE TESTING SESSION ON APRIL 2.**

Nelson Linkous WZ8E is currently teaching an Engineer's Telecommunications Class at Bluefield State College and it does include a Technician Licensing portion. He needs a testing session before the mid April grade reporting period. ANYONE can come and test at this session. He has 6 that may test and Keith knows of one more that may come.

(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. No one showed up this past Saturday. Charles Hampton K8CEH, via ZOOM, apologized for not showing up. 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:**

**OPEN HOUSE this year.** It was suggested that the event take place from 10 to 3 later this summer on a Saturday. David Lester N8VFR donated a large band plan poster that can be hung on the wall. It was suggested that we include old pictures of Ham activity, members, officers and the like. **Matt Morris KC8LGS has volunteered to chair an Open House Committee and would like any member to meet with him next week at the Princeton Belacino's at 7pm next Thursday, March 17, 2022. Hooger will send out email reminders to the membership.**

**New business:** Mike asked us to think about having an ERARC business meeting quarterly inter spaced with educational programs, project nights, speakers, etc. He would like to see more participation, retention and adding to the Ham ranks. Nelson said that he could give a program on the Nano Vector Network Antenna analyzer along with using a projector with his presentation. Gary Kadar N8GK, via ZOOM, said that he has a projector that we can use. Nelson is very impressed with his Nano and has found problems with antenna systems almost immediately. It uses a Smith chart and visually tells the user where to find a problem. <https://nanovna.com/> Hooger mentioned that the triband antenna the Camp Roland needs some diagnostic help. Nelson also mentioned that the Appalachian Repeater Association used to have a monthly foxhunt event. People would come for miles to participate. It was a lot of fun. He will check with his friend who has the 2M transmitter that they used. There was a lot of discussion that followed.

The meeting was over at 0815pm.

We are still accepting dues. 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@bluefieldham.org)