

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on April 4, 2022 <http://www.erarc.com> Local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5.

Our business meeting is on the first Monday of January, April, July and October at 7pm at 704 Bland Street, Room 523, Bluefield, WV 24701. The other month's 7pm meetings will include educational topics but will also include business items as deemed necessary and called or emergency meetings can be requested. The **May** meeting will include a presentation by Nelson Linkous WZ8E on the Nano Vector Network Antenna (VNA) Analyzer (<https://www.nanovna.com>). (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 10 other members present. Gary Kadar N8GK was online via ZOOM. Mike asked that we remember Russell Taylor KC8GBE, SK and family. He passed away several days ago.

(Please keep Don Anderson WD8OOR in your prayers as he continues to recover from an accident. Please keep John Riddle N8RIG in your prayers also. Steve O'dell N8SNR has moved to NC with his sister as he has had some medical issues.)

Secretary: Hooger Fisher read the minutes from the March 7, 2022 meeting and they were approved. He also read the minutes of the March 17, 2022 called meeting for the ERARC Open House planning. Those minutes will be included at the end of these minutes.

Treasurer: Jay Belt K8CTI reported one dues deposit from David Bailey N8DMB. He paid \$162.48 for equipment insurance after tweaking the items on the list. We paid \$219.48 last year. Jay wants to have emails sent out to members reminding of renewing dues.

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.

Repeater report: Jay said that he has heard no complaints about any repeater problems. The Echolink system is up and running. Nelson announced that there is a new 443.775 repeater in the area. A temporary transmitter is on the air now with low wattage, a good antenna at about 120' and will eventually use an ICOM radio with a RC96 controller. It will have remote base capabilities. There is no tone on it but he may use PL 100 if needed.

Mike had mentioned that Yaesu has their Fusion Analog/Digital repeater on sale at 1/2 price (~\$700) for a limited time and that he and David Lester N8VFR have purchased one. 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 and of course it will need to be coordinated with SERA on 70cm. <http://www.sera.org> There are Fusion repeaters in Wytheville and in Clarksburg, WV. Some Charleston, WV DMR users are changing to Fusion. Fusion allows analog and digital communications with the same repeater/controller.

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.)

Skywarn: The weekly Monday net is at 0730pm on 145.49. Jaiden Borich K4NFP, Dave Sexton and Matt Morris KC8LGS 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 special April 2, 2022 session had six persons test but only three passed the Technician exam. Our newest member Mike Hardman (ex-KE4ORL) was one that passed. **The next test session is on May 14, 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 takes effect on April 19, 2022 and is paid to the FCC, not our VE team. <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. This past Saturday's class was canceled due to the special VE testing session. **THE NEXT SESSION ON MAY 7 WILL HOST a NELSON LINKOUS WZ8E LECTURE on the Nano Vector Network Antenna analyzer.** Bring your laptop computer and download the VNA program, it's free and much easier to see on a computer screen. Nelson says that it's the best \$100 he's ever spent on Ham radio test equipment and suggests the model with the larger screen and N-type connectors if you're interested in purchasing one. questions? Call Keith at 304 887 5767.

Old Business:

Open House meeting minutes: Mike asked that we add, "how to get licensed and how can the Club help to get someone licensed". 'Use Facebook to advertise the Open House'. 'Add a Club Museum?' 'Hooger to contact Mike Walters W8ZY ARRL Club Coordinator for audio/visual presentation suggestions'. Mike asked about food/drink. Little discussion was produced.

NEW QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS. Discussion. Off months include educational programs, etc. and called or emergency meetings are not out of the question. Keith Jennings AB8D made a motion, seconded by David Sexton to change to the above. The motion passed.

New business:

Field Day is on the third weekend of June 2022. Discussion. Nelson Linkous made a motion, seconded by Charlie Hampton K8CEH to hold our 2022 FD at the Mercer Co. WV airport. The motion passed. Jay Belt will contact the new airport manager and see if we can use the restrooms and property for FD. <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>

NEW TECHNICIAN BOOKS TO LOCAL LIBRARIES: Hooger said that every four years the Club purchases new Technician Study manuals for the two Bluefield and Princeton libraries. Discussion. Hooger will check with the two local libraries to see how many times the manuals were checked out and report back next month. He will ask Mike Walters about pricing of new ones.

The meeting was over at 0840pm.

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