

[Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on July4, 2022](http://www.erarc.com)

<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. We will have business meetings in January, April, July and October. The other months will consist of presentations, educational meetings, etc. (Nelson has had several requests for a repeat demonstration on <https://nanovna.com/>)

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 7 other members present. There was no one online 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 March 7, 2022 business meeting and they were approved.

**Treasurer:** Jay Belt K8CTI, in the last three months, had had 7 renewals, a \$5.00 donation, a \$250.00 donation from David Lester N8VFR, and a \$12.51 deposit from the Amazon Smile program. Debits include \$70.00 for SERA membership <http://www.sera.org> . \$25.00 for WV State business license renewal and \$300.00 to the ARRL for equipment insurance.

**Repeater report:** Jay Belt had nothing to report. Nelson Linkous WZ8E gave a repeater report that included the 443.775 getting a new power amplifier. 145.25 has a new controller and includes a remote base for 2M, 440 and 10M. It will have a 440 linking radio connecting Bluefield, Norton, Peck Knob, Roanoke, Bolt Mt., Gilbert, etc. Chris Hatcher KC8AFH, Beckley area, is working on getting the ARA linked repeater system back online. Mike and others are still working on getting the new ERARC Yaesu Fusion Digital repeater on the air. It will be on Windmill Gap and replace the 444.45 DMR repeater now there. This repeater will be programmed to be a digital and/or analog unit. (Digital in/digital out. Analog in/analog out). Jaiden Borich K4NFP is in the process of installing a 442.050 PL 100 repeater on Ashland Ridge on the water tank. Elevation is around 3400' or so. This location is east of the Windmill Gap site.

**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 has said that Brandmeister DMR network has problems and that the local DMR will be changing to the <https://www.TGIF.network> in the future. Many other groups are moving also. Nelson and others have purchased the Yaesu FT-70D handheld for around \$175 which is dual band Fusion digital as well as analog. <https://www.gigaparts.com/yaesu-ft-70dr.html> Nelson mentioned <https://www.connectsystems.com/amateur.html> as well. 'The best customer service available'.

**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 May 2022 session had one person test and pass his Technician exam (Tim Cruise) and one passed his Tech and General (Berlon Roberts KE8UXW). The next session will be on August 13, 2022. Keith knows of 4 people coming to test for their Technician.

(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** is on hold unless a special request is made. No one showed up at the last attempt although it has had good participation at times.

**Old Business: FIELD DAY** was a bust for the Club. Only three people showed up to setup so they canceled the event. A SPECIAL THANKS TO TIM HONAKER KE4MFM and the Tazewell County Sheriffs Department for bringing their Communications trailer! At least six local hams went to the N8ARA Field Day site at the Beckley airport. Nelson said that a good time was had by all and that all were welcomed warmly. There were then four Amateur Clubs participating in that FD event. We truly thank Chris Hatcher and others for the invitation and camaraderie. Randall Hash WB4BBF went to the New River Valley Radio Club's FD event.

**OPEN HOUSE:** Matt Morris KC8LGS has stepped down from the chairmanship for this committee. After discussion, we have decided to cancel the open house event due to lack of participation by Club members.

**New business:** Mike had contact with the ARRL re: their new grant program: "[ARRL](https://www.arrl.org) has long recognized that it is in the best interests of amateur radio to encourage and support amateur radio clubs. Clubs historically have recruited, licensed, and trained new radio amateurs and have provided the community setting for radio amateurs to continue their education and training. The new Club Grants program will help clubs more easily provide and expand their important services." Discussion. Please think of how the Club and community can prosper from a grant from the ARRL. In the past, we've been able to get HF radios and a generator via local grants per Gary Kadar N8GK.

There was quite a bit of discussion on how to recruit new Hams and retain others. Nelson suggested that we have a Ham class during the colder months at Bland St. and test them hopefully on the scheduled February ARRL VE testing date. He knows of two people who will not take the test until they have a class of some sort.

Hooger read a list of Ham equipment that is to be donated from a local Amateur. Discussion. Jay Belt will meet with the contact person and inquire about the specifics.

Gary Kadar mentioned the Sept UHF/VHF contest. We have had a lot of enjoyment participating in this event in the past. <https://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

The meeting was over at 0826pm.

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](#)

In other news, Mike Clemons has decided to resign from the ERARC President's position due to his work schedule and limited availability. Thank you Mike. We all appreciate you.