

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on January 2, 2023
<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.

President Matt Morris KC8LGS Vice President: David Sexton AB8D, Treasurer; Jay Belt K8CTI,
Secretary: George "Hooger" Fisher III W4OF, Webmaster: David Lester N8VFR

The meeting was opened at 0700pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS. Matt asked for a moment of silence for Dallas Peyton W8DP SK. He welcomed the other 15 in attendance and Matt Morris recognized Jason Anderson KE8VVZ who is planning on joining the Club. There were five participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight. One was Chris Rose AE7XQ from Tacoma, Washington. He's moving into our area within the year. David Lester made a motion to purchase WI-FI coverage for the meeting room. Discussion. Keith Jennings AD8L seconded. A vote was taken. The motion passed. (Dave was using his personal hotspot for ZOOM tonight and did not have enough bandwidth for video also.)

Hooger Fisher read the November 7, 2022 minutes and they were approved. He gave a brief report on the Christmas dinner/meeting that had 29 members and guests in attendance. There was no business conducted at that gathering.

Jay Belt gave the Treasurer's report: no expenditures, 2 membership renewals were received he received several more renewals tonight. An Amazon Prime donation of \$43.93 was received. Balance is \$5041.48. There was an unknown deposit of \$60.00 on our statement. Jay and Keith Jennings AD8L (VE team) are looking into this.

Repeaters: Jay and Nelson Linkous WZ8E both agreed that they knew of no problems. Nelson reported that he and Chris Hatcher KC8AFH and the Appalachian Repeater Association (ARA) had upgraded and tweaked the following repeaters: 145.23 Lick Knob, Morris Knob 147.105+ PL 100, Point Lookout (near Independence, Va.) 146.895 – PL 100 and on Butt Mountain, 145.29 PL100. The WV Forestry Dept. has allowed the ARA to use/have a site on Keeny Knob. The ARA has replaced ½ of the roof on the existing structure already. It is located off of I-64 near Alderson, WV. On another note, bear hunters in the region have been noted to be using 144.1 to 144.9 simplex, not knowing that they're using some repeater inputs. Nelson asks that we monitor and try to get any information from their conversations as it may help in locating them and then notifying the FCC.

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. Matt has been running the net with backup net control from David Sexton AB8D and others. Matt had contacted Phil Hysell at the Blacksburg National Weather Service and had requested to be the Skywarn contact person for the Club. Phil has invited the membership to the NWS for a tour. Berlon made a motion, seconded by Nelson to make the change. Discussion. A vote was taken, the motion passed.

Volunteer Examiner: Keith Jennings AD8L. The ERARC ARRL VE team tests quarterly (Feb May Aug Nov) on the second Saturday at 9am at 704 Bland St., Room 523, Bluefield, WV. The next session will be on February 11, 2023. (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 General question pool takes effect on July 1, 2023. The new FCC \$35 federal licensing fee will be billed by the FCC, NOT THE ERARC. <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn>) Nelson Linkous WZ8E has had several people asking about a BLAST class for the General license as well as another Technician BLAST class. Discussion. He hopes to hold another BLAST class at the end of February. There was discussion. He also said that the ARA paid for the meal on Saturday at the last BLAST class and asked that the ERARC buy lunch for this February's class. Discussion. David Sexton made a motion, seconded by Harold Hodges N8NCP to authorize the ERARC to purchase said meal. A vote was taken, the motion passed. Mike Clemons KM4UCR has said that he will purchase a new handheld Amateur radio for each BLAST participant, from age 12 to 18, that passes the Technician licensing test.

ELMER CLASS is on hold unless a special request is made. It was held on the first Saturday monthly at 1pm.

Old Business: Hooger had talked to Randall Hash WB4BBF concerning his participation in Jamboree on The Air, held at Boy Scout Camp Roland on October 15. He said that there weren't as many Scouts as he's seen before and that the adults were more interested in his information than the Scouts were. Hooger was told by Dan Trent, BSA Committee member, that there were around 40 Scouts and Leaders at that event.

New/old Business: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR had been asking to see an updated membership list on our website. Jay Belt gave him a list of members that have paid their dues up. Hooger gave him his ERARC email list as well as two other lists. Berlon took the floor after handing out a new blank ERARC membership application and a copy of a ERARC By-Laws draft. He would like us to consider having all members fill out the application so that there is a solid database to work with for a new membership list as there is just not information on hand to do so. There was a lot of discussion, questions asked, questions answered. Nelson Linkous made a motion, seconded by David Sexton to allow any Amateur to join the Club for free for the next year, January 1 to December 1 when a new application is filled out and received by the Club. A vote was taken, the motion passed.

Berlon also asked that we review the ERARC By-Laws as presented and talk about any changes and possibly vote for acceptance/rejection at the February meeting. Changes include wording and changes in collecting dues and maintaining one's membership in the Club.

On another item, Berlon mentioned that it would be beneficial to have a functioning multi-function copier at the Club's meeting location. Discussion. David Lester and others suggested that we use a laser printer vs. one that uses ink cartridges. David said that he's upgrading his copier at his business and would like to donate the old one to the Club. It still works fine he said. Discussion. We will be happy to accept his copier. Thanks to David and Swiftnet Integration Inc.

David Lester also thanked the Club for his use of our radio inventory as he has been getting on HF recently and making contacts. He's been joining the Parks On The Air program Parks on the Air | <https://parksontheair.com/> | Parks program for amateur radio. Gary Kadar N8GK said that it would be fun to activate local parks such as Pinnacle Rock and a local Wilderness area that he's aware of.

The meeting was over at 0814pm