

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 0703pm by David Sexton AB8D, VP. He welcomed the other 16 in attendance. There were 2 participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight. One was Chris Rose AE7XQ from Tacoma, Washington. He's moving into our area within the year.

Hooger Fisher read the January 2, 2023 minutes and they were approved.

Matt Morris, KC8LGS, President had emailed David some items that he would like us to hear / discuss. Matt was talking about the Chinese balloon that flew across the USA and the possibility of an Electro-Magnetic Pulse and how it could affect Amateur Radio. There was a lot of discussion. Faraday cages. Tube radios vs. solid state. Grounding. Antenna disconnects. Etc. Matt said that he appreciated the 21 check-ins for the Skywarn nets and reminded us that the NWS in Blacksburg, Va. has invited us for a tour. Keith Jennings AD8L mentioned that the NWS has an open house every spring and has tours during that weekend. He and Hooger have attended one of these open houses. Matt asked that members consider re-vamping the Mercer Co. ARES group. This is one of the items at the top of his 'to-do' list. There is an AUXCOMM (see <https://www.onallbands.com/emcomm-what-is-auxcomm-and-why-is-it-important/>. for information and prerequisites for this class) class in Raleigh and other WV counties coming up. Matt is going to attend in Raleigh Co. and hopes that other Amateurs in the area will take the prerequisite classes and join him. Contact Matt: kc8lgs@gmail.com . Henry Shinn KC3KGY, Gary Kadar N8GK and others added comments.

Jay Belt gave the Treasurer's report: no expenditures, 8 renewals have been received, a \$30 donation came from George KJ4BXS and Brian Leedy KI4URO, \$152.00 deposited. There were unknown deposits on our bank statement and Jay found out that it was a bank problem. The bank was crediting the VE team's deposits to the Club. It has been fixed.

Repeaters: Jay Belt K8CTI said that they're working. Jaiden Borich N4NFP said that there was some kerchunking on the 145.49 and Jay had to go to his office and cut off the ECHOLINK. He needs to repair something on the system. David McNeil N8SOE reported hearing digital sounds on the 147.06. David Sexton said it is C4FM (fusion) and that you should be able to use a PL tone to squelch it out. This is normal because the repeater handles both C4FM and analog.

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 Morris and others manning the net.

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.** The VE team must have a copy of your current license if applicable and a copy of a CSCE if applicable. (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 paid to the FCC, NOT THE ERARC. <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn>)

David reminded us that to renew one's license via the FCC site, it's not as easy as it could be and gave some pointers. He said it's easiest to fill out a FCC Form 605 and turn it in to the VE team and have them send it to the ARRL for FCC processing. He also reminded us that there's a 90 day window to renew before the license expires and after expiration, there is a two-year grace period to renew. Gary Kadar said that after the two year limit, one can take the Technician test and be re-licensed. The \$35 FCC fee must be paid within 10 days after the FCC awards a billable license.

Nelson Linkous WZ8E, Chris Hatcher KC8AFH, David Sexton, and others will be holding a Technician BLAST study class on Feb 24-25; Friday and Saturday. Testing will be on Saturday at 5pm. The cost to test is \$15 for the VE Team and the FCC handles the \$35 licensing fee. There will only be Technician testing given at this special event per the organizing team.

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

New Business: Henry Shinn asked if the Club would accept a new 8 X 5' American flag that can displayed in the Club meeting area. He suggested that we recite the Pledge of Allegiance before each meeting. His suggestion was overwhelmingly accepted.

Old Business: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR has upgraded the ERARC Application and By-Laws and he gave copies out at the last meeting and tonight. He made a motion, seconded by Keith Jennings, to accept the new application and By-Laws, as written. Discussion. A vote was taken, the motion passed.

(We now officially have 38 members in the Club. Membership is free until December 31 WITH A NEW APPLICATION. Any dues paid will be credited on January 1, 2024. Please fill out a new application and send it in.

www.erarc.com POB 1362, Bluefield, WV 24701.)

The meeting was over at 0758pm