

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on March 6, 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 0703pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS, President. He welcomed the other 18 in attendance especially Kathleen Tabor KD8RSD, Brian Leedy KI4URO and son and Greg 'Traveling Man' Dominguez AF8GD. Kathleen lives in Bluefield and had been out of Ham Radio since 2020 or so. There was 1 participant via the ZOOM presentation tonight: Jason Anderson.

The Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Henry Shinn KC3KGY donated a new flag, pole and stand. Many thanks to Henry for his donation.

Hooger Fisher read the February 6, 2023 minutes and they were approved.

***Jay Belt gave the Treasurer's report: Deposits include \$100 from Darrell McGlothlin KM4HDM and family \$20 from Jenna KQ4GOW and Johathan Dunn KQ4GOX and \$45.43 from the Amazon Smile program. He paid \$25 to the State of WV for Business Registration Renewal and \$140.87 to Subway for lunch for the BLAST Technician class. He mentioned that the Amazon Smile program has been discontinued by Amazon.***

**Repeaters:** Jay Belt K8CTI does not know of any abnormalities. Several members mentioned trouble getting into the 147.06 and hearing digital noise. It was mentioned that the repeater repeats analog when receiving analog, repeats digital when receiving digital data and is also connected to the 444.45 DMR side too. It may be that the digital is being used while someone is trying to use analog signals.

**(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 VEC said that the February 11 regular test session produced three upgrades. The Feb 25 test session for the BLAST Technician class had 8 out of 10 new licensees. (*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 May 13, 2023.** The VE team must have a copy of your current license if applicable, a photo ID 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-fm> )*

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

Berlon Roberts W8ZBR spoke about Mike Clemon's KM4UCR continual commitment to the Club and to the hobby as well. He has provided us with an absolutely great place to meet, train, learn and

operate. He has provided us with WIFI, hardware, feedlines, etc. He even purchased Yaesu handhelds for each participant in the Blast class. Berlon made a motion, seconded by George Leedy KJ4BXS to make Mike a lifetime member of the ERARC. A vote was taken, the motion passed. Jay Belt K8CTI made a motion, seconded by David Sexton AB8D to make Mike Walters W8ZY an honorary ERARC member due to his ARRL position and his commitment to help the Club in any way possible as well as his service to the Club as President, etc. in years past. A vote was taken, the motion passed. Berlon and others have been talking about our dues platform. He's checked with clubs within a 4 state area and we by far have the cheapest dues schedule of any. He made a motion, seconded by LA Farmer KB8OOK to change the 'family at the same address' fee from \$1 to \$5. A vote was taken. The motion passed. Berlon has taken the liberty of signing the Club up with [www.hamclubonline.com](http://www.hamclubonline.com). He encourages any Amateur to sign up for this free Ham Radio service. There a number of services that we can use including Paypal dues payments, contact information, listings of meeting minutes, etc. etc. He made a motion, seconded by Brian Leedy to proceed with the Club's interaction with this service. Hooger thanked Berlon for his dedication to the Club and for the hours of his time that he's put in to help us move forward. He mentioned that David Lester N8VFR was his co-administrator to the program.

Matt Morris stays in contact with Keith Gunnoe, the Mercer Co., WV emergency services chief. Keith is updating the County's emergency plan and has given us copies of the "Communications" portion of it. Matt asks that we review the material and think of how Amateur radio can help the County. Matt is going to take 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 County with his goal to hopefully be accepted as the Mercer Co. ARES Emergency Coordinator. Discussion. Gary Kadar K8GK made a suggestion that the Club make a resolution to the ARRL ARES to support Matt with this endeavor. David Sexton asked that we support this resolution and by a show of hands, accepted it.

David Sexton made comments about the DMR community specifically the Brandmeister vs. the TGIF users. Chris Hatcher KC8AFH from the ARA is changing to the TGIF network. Discussion. "We" will continue with Brandmeister, net on 3154 WV Statewide vs. TGIF #304 WV Statewide.

[Brandmeister Network | DMR For Dummies](#)

[TGIF Network](#)

Gary had one comment about education for the Club. He really enjoyed the VNA presentation by Nelson Linkous WZ8E months back but he would like to see the VNA application to real-world problems with troubleshooting antennas and the like.

#### **New Business:**

#### **Old Business:**

(We now officially have 45 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](http://www.erarc.com) POB 1362, Bluefield, WV 24701 or email to [W8ZBR.Berlon@gmail.com](mailto:W8ZBR.Berlon@gmail.com))

The meeting was over at 0823pm

Check out a radio-active site at: <http://www.erarc.com>, [The East River Amateur Radio Club](#). We'll be glad that you did!> <https://www.facebook.com/w8mop>. and/or: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/296680905352/>