

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on April 3, 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 0658pm by David Sexton AB8D, Vice President. He welcomed the other 15 in attendance. New member Christopher Rose KE7XQ and his son Jeremiah ex: KF7ZPI were present. They just moved into the area from Tacoma, WA. There were 2 participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight: Charles Hampton K8CEH and Mark Meadows KC8RGY. David asked that we keep George Leedy KJ4BXS in our thoughts as he is in Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital in Princeton.

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

David went over comments from Matt Morris KC8LGS, ERARC President, concerning his recently attended AUXCOMM (Auxiliary Communication) class this past weekend as well as Field Day, June 24-25, 2023. Matt really hopes that the Club can get together and hold Field Day activities somewhere in the community. Gary Tincer KE8VUV had mentioned that the Princeton City Park could be a viable FD location and tonight, the Mercer Co. Airport was suggested too. www.arrrl.org/fieldday Gary Kadar N8GK suggested that we come up with a definite FD location by the next meeting as it is already April.

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

Jay Belt gave the Treasurer's report: Deposits include \$160.00 in dues. He paid the USPS \$78.00 for our mailbox rent. . Our NEW PAYPAL account balance with \$4.68 in fees. The account received dues payments and a \$1.00 startup fee that was paid by Berlon Roberts W8ZBR.

Repeaters: Jay Belt K8CTI mentioned a problem with 147.06 and he believes that it is 'stuck' in the digital format and will require a visit to Windmill Gap to remedy the situation.

(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 . The ERARC VE team tests on the second Saturday on a quarterly basis in February, May, August and November. The next session will be on May 13, 2023. at 9am at 704 Bland St. Bluefield, WV, room 523. The VE team must have a copy of your current license if applicable, a photo ID is a must as well as 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>)

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

Berlon Roberts W8ZBR read a proclamation thanking Mike Clemons KM4UCR and Mike Walters W8ZY for their dedication to the Club and Amateur Radio. It stated that these two gentlemen have been made

life members to the Club. Each have received nice frameable certificates and permanent membership cards. They have truly contributed to the East River Amateur Radio Club.

New Business:

Old Business:

(We now officially have 68 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 or email to W8ZBR.Berlon@gmail.com)

Jenna Dunn KQ4GOW mentioned that the Bland Co. Va. Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet on April 4 at 2 pm at the Bland library.

The meeting was over at 0803pm