

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on May 1, 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

Matt gave an update on his mother's fall, hospitalization, surgery, recovery and rehab progress to the group. He hopes that she will be able to come home next week.

The meeting was opened at 0703pm by Matt Morris, President. He welcomed the other 11 in attendance especially David Bailey N8DMB from Bluewell/Princeton. There were 2 participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight: Mark Meadows and Jeff White. Hooger asked if anyone knew anything about Paul Osburn W8NST. Matt said that he had passed away over a year ago and his son-in-law had contacted him about his radio stuff. Hooger had noticed his vehicles missing and a FOR SALE sign in his yard. Our condolences to his daughter and family. Paul was a long-time engineer for WHIS/WVVA and cared for their transmitters on East River Mountain.

The Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Henry Shinn KC3KGY donated the new flagpole and stand.

Hooger Fisher read the March 6, 2023 minutes and they were approved. Berlon said that Christopher Rose's new callsign is KY4XF.

Jay Belt gave the Treasurer's report: Deposits include \$10 from dues received and \$33.00 from the donation jar. He paid \$139.09 to the ARRL for our equipment insurance policy. Jay trimmed the 'coverage' list down to the repeaters and the two Kenwood TS-2000 rigs in our possession. Paypal balance is the same.

Repeaters: Jay Belt K8CTI is still trying to find time to visit the 147.06 repeater to check on its status. It seems that the repeater may be 'stuck' in the digital mode according to David Sexton AB8D. Jay says that he's been able to operate it in analog and digital modes recently. Jay Belt reported that he and others moved the 6M repeater to the mountain above Lowes but there is strong interference at this location. They are going to try to find another site for its home.

(Skywarn: (The weekly Monday net is at 0730pm on 145.49. Matt Morris and others manning the net.) Matt reported 39 check-ins last month.

(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.)

Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR, the new VEC for the Club, mentioned that the next testing session will be on May 13, 2023. 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 VE team must have a copy of your current license if applicable, a photo ID is a must and a copy of any 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>) Matt thanked Keith Jennings AB8D for his being our VEC for the past several years.

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

EC, Emergency Coordinator report: Matt is fresh out of the Beckley AUXCOM class and has been trying to contact Ed Messenger N8OYY, WV SEC about applying for the Mercer County EC position.

Old Business: Field Day June 24-25, 2023. (<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>) Matt gave a report on his trip with others to inspect the potential FD site at the Princeton City Park. There are shelters, picnic tables, restroom and antenna trees. Discussion. A vote was taken to use this site for FD. The majority of those in attendance voted for the site.

New Business: With the reported demise of Camp Roland, Hooger suggested that we contact whomever and make plans to disassemble the crank-up Amateur antenna tower there and bring it back to the Bluefield area. Matt will drive to the camp and talk to the caretaker soon.

(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. (<http://www.erarc.com> POB 1362, Bluefield, WV 24701 or email to W8ZBR.Berlon@gmail.com)

The meeting was over at 0735pm.