

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on June 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 0700pm by Matt Morris, President. He welcomed the other 14 in attendance and recognized Jim Langridge KE8YIW. There was 1 participant via ZOOM presentation tonight: Jeff White KE8RAW.

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

Mike Walters W8ZY was in town recently and donated an ARRL flag as well as an ARRL Special Service Club banner to the Club. He also donated several issues of QST magazine, "HAM" oval stickers and mini band plans. Bill Sowers K8WBS has given us a Yaesu ATAS-100 Screwdriver mobile antenna. Discussion.

Matt asked that we forego 'regular' meeting protocol and focus on Field Day which will be held at the Princeton City Park on June 24-25.

Treasurer's report: Deposits include \$15 from dues and \$12.63 and \$44.22 from the Amazon Smile program. Jay paid \$200.00 for our liability insurance policy. Paypal: Received were two \$16.00 memberships and paid \$2.10 in fees.

((Repeaters: David Sexton AB8D said that he and David Bailey N8DMB talked on the 147.06 without problem both on analog and DMR.

(Skywarn: (The weekly Monday net is at 0730pm on 145.49. Matt Morris and others manning the net.)

(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: see below))

Old Business: Matt did visit Camp Roland and talked to the caretaker. He said that the crank-up tower is ours and we could come and get it.))

New Business: FIELD DAY <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> Saturday June 24 – Sunday 25

Matt has written a grant request for funding for a 400W Solar Generator with power inverter for our emergency power needs. During a real emergency, it may be very difficult to obtain gasoline for emergency generators due to potential power outages.

There was a lot of conversation concerning, equipment, participants, setup / tear-down personnel, etc.

This Friday, June 9 at 2pm, Matt and others will meet at the 911 Center to retrieve HF radios and other needed gear as well as perform a visual inventory of what is there.

Matt, Berlon, Gary Kadar N8GK, David Sexton, David Lester have said that they will participate in the event. An invitation to the Appalachian Repeater Association members will be extended. <http://www.ararepeaters.com>

At this time, Berlon, Gary and David have said that they will man radios. Gary has his tower trailer radio and antenna. Berlon has his own radio and antenna and David will probably use a Club dipole antenna and radio. With these three transmitters, the Club will use the W8MOP callsign and be designated as 3A WV. Three is the number of transmitters that will be on the air at any one time, 'A' is the designation for a Club and of course WV

is the ARRL Section that we're located in. The event starts at 1800 UTC or 2pm local time.

On Saturday, June 24, the group will meet for an 8am breakfast at Green Valley Restaurant and make final plans on setup, etc.

The traditional 6pm potluck dinner was mentioned. With questionable participant numbers, it was decided to travel to Princeton proper for meals to go.

(We now officially have 70 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 0800