

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on July 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 Matt Morris KC8LGS, President. He welcomed the other 14 in attendance. There was 1 participant via the 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. Many thanks to Henry for his donation.

Matt told the audience that our friend, George Leedy KJ4BXS had passed away on Saturday. Visitation will be at Dudley Funeral Home in Bluefield, Va. on Friday July 7 at 1pm. The service will follow at 2pm. George was a good man and was thankful for his being an Amateur Radio operator and enjoyed the camaraderie with the Club's membership.

Hooger Fisher read the May 8 and June 5, 2023, minutes and they were approved.

Jay Belt gave the Treasurer's report: Deposits include \$30.00 in dues. Our PAYPAL account included \$1.05 in fees and a deposit of \$16.00 in dues. David Sexton confirmed that the PayPal link is on our [www.HamclubOnline.com](http://www.HamclubOnline.com) account and asked if it could be added to the ERARC website.

Repeaters: Jay Belt K8CTI and Nelson Linkous WZ8E spoke about moving the 6M repeater. They have tried several sites and interference with the repeater or the repeater causing interference with other services is a continual problem. Discussion. Jay Belt will contact STAR 95 in Princeton and inquire about tower space. Hooger asked about APRS. No suggestions about a new location, etc. but 704 Bland St. could be an option.

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 man the net. There have been 4-5 check-ins on average.

EC: Mercer County ARES Emergency Coordinator is Matt Morris. He's still trying to get in touch with Ed Messenger N8OYY, WV State ARES EC. Matt would like to get the Mercer County ARES net going again on a monthly basis. Matt and David Sexton went to the last meeting of the Mercer County Commission and talked to them about Amateur Radio and emergency communications as well as the Mercer County Emergency agencies that we are involved with. Matt is trying to find funding for a 1600W, four panel Echoflow solar generator.

Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC ARRL 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 August 12, 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 is \$15 and we will accept cash and check but NO PLASTIC. The new General question pool took effect on July 1, 2023. The new FCC \$35 federal licensing fee must be paid to the FCC, NOT THE ERARC.

<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn> ) Nelson said that there will be another Technician Blast class in October.

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

Old Business: Matt thanked all that joined in on making 2023 Field Day a success. It was held in Club HQ and there were 11 participants and 6 visitors. He thanked David Lester and SwiftNet Integration for providing lunch for the crew. He reported that there are now 3 HF stations at the Clubhouse and Gary Kadar N8GK thanked Nelson for providing multi-plug-in strips for each workstation. David Lester gave a rundown on scoring, and we ended up with about 900 points for the event. There was a lot of discussion of what went right and what could be improved upon. It was mentioned that the Parks on The Air program is similar to FD; setting up a temporary station, antenna(s), etc. Berlon hopes to get some members to join him at a local park in the near future and get on the air. [www.parksontheair.com](http://www.parksontheair.com) Brenen McGraw N8BDM thanked those at FD for showing him about the event, etc.

New Business: John Riddle N8RIG mentioned that we need to retrieve the tower from Camp Roland. Discussion. Nelson made a motion, seconded by George Dietrich KF4YGL to put the tower up for sale via sealed bids to members first and have a \$100 minimum starting bid. Berlon will notify members via HamclubOnline.com . With this sale, we have committed to helping the winner get the tower down and loaded onto a trailer. It's reported to be 30" long. The winner is responsible for transporting it.

Matt mentioned that the Club should send flowers to the Leedy family. We usually send a card from the Club. Discussion. David Sexton made a motion, seconded by Nelson Linkous to use the monies from the Club's donation jar for a petty cash fund for flowers and etc. It was also suggested that we re-start the

50/50 drawings at the meetings to supplement this fund. Matt and Berlon had ideas about announcing SK members on our nets. We all agreed that this was a good idea. Berlon also suggested that we get a wall plaque to remember those who have passed on.

John Riddle suggested that we have quarterly business meetings and have educational, etc. meetings in between. Nelson said that Mike Clemons KM4UCR, past President, suggested this some time ago.

Matt wants us to think of ways to entice new and old hams to join the club and asked that we all come to the next meeting prepared with suggestions for this. He knows that there are newly licensed Amateurs that basically say, "OK, I've got my license, now what?" and that we can answer that question for them and help in any way to get them on the air and enjoy the hobby.

Charlie Hampton K8CEH thanked the Club members who came by his house and helped him with his radio amplifier.

The meeting was over at 0828pm