

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on August 8, 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. This Wednesday meeting replaced the August 6 meeting that was cancelled due to severe thunderstorm watches on Monday

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 12 in attendance. There were 2 participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight: Jeff White KE8RAW and his puppy W8DOG.

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 asked that we have a moment of silence in memory of the passing of Racine Stefancic, Roger Stefancic's (KC8LGR) wife.

Treasurer's report: No deposits or expenditures. Our PAYPAL account included \$3.29 in fees and a deposit of \$66.00 in dues and donations. The PayPal link is on our www.HamclubOnline.com link. Matt presented a check for \$5,100 from the Mercer County Commission for the purchase of an Echo-Flow 3600-watt solar generator / transverter. It has 4 solar panels. Matt has one and is impressed with its function.

Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC 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 on October 6-7, 2023.

Matt then took the floor and we discussed the tower and antenna at Camp Roland in Bastian, Va. Don Anderson WD8OOR was the high bidder and will be at the Camp on Monday around noon to take it down and transport it to his house. This was after Berlon Roberts W8ZBR made a motion, seconded by Nelson Linkous WZ8E to accept the bids that we had received. The motion passed. The antenna and rotor will remain the property of the Club. Gary Kadar N8GK reminded us that we really need to go to the 911 Center and retrieve our equipment and store it on Bland St.

Mark Williams KQ4Q is the current FCC trustee for the W8MOP callsign as well as the contact person with the Southeast Repeater Association www.sera.org . After discussion, David Lester N8VFR agreed to take over Mark's duties as trustee and SERA representative for the Club. Berlon Roberts made a motion, seconded by Nelson Linkous to get David into these positions for the Club. The motion passed.

Matt spent the remainder of the time talking about how the Club can get newly licensed Hams to continue with their Amateur Radio experience and possibly become members of the Club and Ham community. There were many topics and suggestions given. Berlon suggested that we volunteer to be Elmers for individuals and keep in touch with them. It was suggested that we have educational programs, etc. two meetings per quarter and then one business meeting per quarter. ARES was a possible draw for participation as people in the community may want to help with emergency communications. It was suggested that we really get our radio room up to snuff with additional VHF/UHF FM transceivers in order to show how they work, etc. We support 2M, 6M, 220, 440, and HF repeaters and communication modes and hope to be able to demonstrate their functions and uses. David Lester: have the Club show up at local events and demonstrate Ham Radio. Keith Jennings AD8L recently setup at the fly-in at the airport and demoed Ham Radio.
Addendum by Matt:

Please amend the minutes to reflect our in depth discussion on the future of the club, with many, many ideas coming from the membership relative to future activities, as well methods to promote the club. Thanks. Matt

**** NELSON LINKOUS WILL GIVE A PROGRAM ON 'RF TRIANGULATION AND FOX HUNTING' AT THE NEXT MEETING. [What is Direction Finding? - everything RF Transmitter hunting - Wikipedia](#) *******

Matt won the 50/50 drawing and gave his winnings back to the Club.

The meeting was over at 0835pm