

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on November 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, HamClubOnline liaison and VE team leader Berlon Roberts W8ZBR,

The meeting was opened at 0702pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS, President. He welcomed the other 19 in attendance. There were 3 participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight: Jason Anderson KE8VVZ, Brian Leedy KI4URO and Greg Tincher KE8VUV. He welcomed Terry Surface to the meeting. Terry is going to test this coming Saturday.

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 his family would appreciate our prayers as his 92-year-old mother and his two sisters need them. His mom has multiple health issues and his sisters both have Alzheimer's.

Matt and Jay spent three days trying to obtain a government ID number for the \$5100 the Club received from the Mercer County Commission for the purchase of the Solar Generator that we have. The government wants to keep tabs on monies spent on such purchases.

Hooger Fisher read the minutes from the past 3 months, and they were approved.

Jay Belt gave the Treasurer's report: Recent deposits include \$55 in dues. No debits. Our PAYPAL account included \$2.12 in fees and a deposit of \$17.04 in dues. The PayPal link is on our hamclubonline.org listing.

Repeaters: Jay Belt K8CTI and Nelson Linkous WZ8E both said that 'they are working.' Nelson said that there's a new repeater on Morris Knob in Tazewell County that is shaded to the northwest but is blazing to the South. Don Anderson donated the antenna for this project. Berlon encouraged ERARC members to join the Appalachian Repeater Association as the ERARC uses part of their system to function. Nelson said that it would be appreciated. When the ARA linking system is fully on the air, he hopes to give a tutorial on using the system.

(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. Matt is appreciative of those checking in.

ARES net: The third Thursday at 0730pm on the 145.49 repeater. Matt said that there were a good number of check-ins at the inaugural net two weeks ago.

EC: Mercer County ARES Emergency Coordinator is Matt Morris. Matt asked that we, the membership, contact him and volunteer to be ARES members. There is no obligation, and he would like to have a roster of members on hand.

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 November 11, 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-registrationnumber-frn> )

Nelson said that there will be another Technician Blast class in February, this time at the Raleigh County 911 Center. There are more people from that area wanting to take the class than from the Bluefield area. He hopes that the ERARC will support the class as it had done before.

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

**Old Business:** Matt opened up the discussion for election of officers. At the October meeting, we decided to leave the Treasurer, Vice President and Secretary with the same volunteers and there was a nomination for David Lester N8VFR to run for President with Matt Morris. Everyone was given a piece of paper and the voting ensued. Matt Morris received the most votes, and he thanked the membership for the vote of confidence.

Matt announced that the 2023 Christmas dinner-meeting will be at Culture Guatemalan Restaurant in Bluefield, Va. It used to be La Fiesta and is beside the McDonald's near Lowe's. We will meet at 7pm for the event.

Jeff White KE8RAW suggested that we go to [www.shotdead.org](http://www.shotdead.org) and get information on seeing the movie by the same name. He has grandchildren that were harmed by the covid injections.

Matt said that he and Jeff had been talking about having a Special Event Station at the May/June open house at the Princeton Railway Depot. Discussion. The Bramwell Depot was mentioned also. Matt said that it would be great to get Randall Hash WB4BBF to dress up in period attire as a Morse Code Operator and work the event. Gary Kadar N8GK suggested having 'one of those rigs that deciphers Code' to be displayed for the public to see.

Berlon suggested that we get UHF and VHF radios in the radio room to provide a fuller range of communications for new and old hams.

The meeting was over at 0807pm.

Check out a radio-active site at: <http://www.erarc.com> , The East River Amateur Radio Club.

We'll be glad that you did! <https://www.facebook.com/w8mop>. and/or:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/296680905352/>