

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on March 4, 2024 <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. Mailing address: P.O. Box 1362, 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 0703pm by Dave Sexton, Vice President. 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.)

David welcomed the other 16 in attendance. There were 3 participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight: Jeff White KE8RAW, Robert Cook KA8MDZ and David Lester N8VFR.

David asked Nelson Linkous about the Technician Blast class held in Beckley last weekend. There were 9 out of 14 that passed the testing. The ARA paid the testing fees and fed those in attendance. One lucky person won a new handheld radio by raffle. The next Blast class will be in Bluefield in October.

Hooger read the minutes of the February 5, 2024 meeting and they were accepted.

Treasurer's report: Deposits included \$15.00 from a 50/50 drawing, \$65.00 from membership renewals and there were no expenditures. PayPal balance had no deposits or expenditures noted. The PayPal link is on our [www.HamclubOnline.com](http://www.HamclubOnline.com) link.

Repeaters: Jay Belt mentioned that he's heard no new complaints so 'they must be working.' Nelson Linkous WZ8E talked briefly about noise getting into the 145.49 repeater and possible fixes. He and Jay have been to the repeater site several times to investigate the problems.

Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC VEC. The February test session produced one upgrade to Extra Class. The VE team tests on the second Saturday on a quarterly basis in February, May, August and November. **The next session will be on May11, 2024** 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 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>

Gary Kadar N8GK gave a very informative presentation on "An Introduction to FT8 Digital Communications." John Riddle N8RIG, Joe Roske KD8CAP and Berlon Roberts W8BRZ added to it with their comments and Berlon demonstrated the software that he uses. Gary was connected to his home computer via laptop via "Team Viewer" to his home computer running "Ham Radio Deluxe" using "WSTJ" software for the FT8. He made a couple of contacts while presenting.

Charleston, WV Hamfest March 9, 2024 at the Shriner's temple.  
<http://www.qsl.net/w8gk> )))

Joe Roske KD8CAP won the 50/50 drawing and gave his winnings back to the Club.

The meeting was over after 0820pm

((Skywarn: Net is every Monday (except the first Monday of the month) at 7pm on 145.49.

Emergency Coordinator/ARES: Net is the third Thursday of each month at 7pm on the 145.49 repeater.

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.)

***“To Do list”: 1) Echolink 2) additional 2M, 440, 6M, etc. radios into our Radio Room 3) Special Event Station at Princeton Railway Depot in the spring 4) firmware for 145.49 5) APRS 6) Winlink and 7) getting the Club’s radios, etc. from the 911 Center and move to 704 Bland St.***