

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on May 6, 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 0700 by Matt Morris, President. Matt welcomed the other 13 in attendance. There was 1 participant via the ZOOM presentation tonight: Charlie Hampton K8CEH. The Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. (Henry Shinn KC3KGY donated the new flag, pole and stand.)

Hooger read the minutes of the April 6, 2024 meeting and they were accepted.

**Treasurer's report:** Deposits included \$15.00 from a renewal. Payments include: \$83.24 for Ham Radio Deluxe Software, \$416.23 from Wireless Circle for a 500' reel LMR400 of Coax Cable, \$595.16 to DX Engineering for Yaesu FTM-300R, MX2000 triplexer and connectors, \$187.14 HRO Diamond V2000A dual band antenna and \$123.50 Lowes for brackets and hardware for storage room. There was only one FTM-300R purchased since the total payout was going to be around \$1400.00. Our PayPal had a \$16.00 deposit and a \$1.05 fee payment. The PayPal link is on our [www.HamclubOnline.com](http://www.HamclubOnline.com) link.

Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC VEC. **The next session will be this Saturday on May 11, 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> )The VE team tests on the second Saturday on a quarterly basis in February, May, August and November.

Matt and Jeff White KE8RAW took the floor to discuss our attending Princeton Railroad Museum (<https://www.princetonrailroadmuseum.com/>) on June 15 during their celebration of railroading. Matt and Jeff have been in contact with the museum caretakers and we plan on giving a demonstration on Morse Code and voice operations and hold a Special Event Station on air at the event. We will use the W8MOP call sign and Randall Hash WB4BBF will be there to provide CW communications. We hope to have a decoder device so that the public can see what is being sent and received in Morse Code. Several people commented that they would work digital and voice stations during the event. There was a lot of discussion on this subject and reminder lists were made for the event. It was suggested that Matt and Jeff contact Nelson

Linkous for tips and suggestions since he's been involved in many SES in the past. ANYONE who would like to help setup, operate and/or break down is welcome to help. The event starts at 10am on that Saturday.

Berlon Roberts and David Lester then took the floor to discuss Field Day on June 22-23 at the Mercer County Airport. When driving onto the property, take the first road to the left before dropping down into the parking lot. This is where we will setup. There was lots of discussion and the participants will be using 10' X 10' pop up shelters and several members will bring their radios and/or use the ones from the Clubhouse. There may be a need for tables and seating. The on-the-air portion of FD starts locally at 2pm and ends on Sunday at 2pm although we do not usually operate during the hours after midnight but that remains to be seen. Berlon wants to have a GOTA (get on the air) Station setup so that hams that haven't been on the air in a while can operate. **WE WILL BE HOLDING FIELD DAY THIS YEAR EVEN IF ONLY ONE TRANSMITTER IS ON THE AIR. NO CANCELLATIONS.** Berlon will contact WVVA and the local newspaper. He asks that we, as members, pass along any emails, Facebook postings, etc. to our acquaintances and the public in order to advertise this event. More information to follow.

It was mentioned that several members moved radios, etc. from the 911 Center to our storage room at Bland St. These members also cleaned up said room and added storage hardware to it. One Kenwood 2000 was moved back to the 911 dispatch building as per agreement with the donating entity.

"To Do list":

- 1) Echolink is now located at Jay Belt's Bland Street shop. The Kenwood 2M radio needs a component before it can be back on the air,
- 2) Firmware for 145.49 on hold until we see if a new controller will be needed
- 3) APRS, no mention
- 4) Winlink. David Lester has been trying out Winlink at home. We need to get the newest software for our computers in the radio room.

John Riddle won the 50/50 drawing.

The meeting was over at 845pm

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

Matt Morris, 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.)