

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on June 3, 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. 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.) We held a moment of silence on the passing of Mike Clemons KM4UCR's father, Jackie Clemons. Matt recognized John Thomas KK4JB who lives in Princeton in Quail Valley and welcomed the other 10 in attendance. John has trouble getting into our repeaters. Gary Kadar N8GK told him that we're trying to move the 147.06 analog repeater into Princeton from Windmill Gap. Jeff White KE8RAW attended via the ZOOM presentation tonight.

Treasurer's report: Deposits included \$14.00 from a 50/50 drawing and a \$20.00 donation and renewal from Kenny Perry. Jay paid \$121.80 for ARRL equipment insurance and \$64.43 to Bridgecom for a cable and software for a BCR 220 repeater. No action on PayPal. The PayPal link is on our www.HamclubOnline.com link.

Keith Jennings AB8L donated two repeater books to the Club for members' use.

Jay Belt said that we now own a copy of Ham Radio Deluxe and it can be used for Field Day if so desired. The 220 repeater is off the air and upon inspection, looks like it may have received a lightning strike that took out the Tx and Rx modules. A new Tx module is \$400 or so and he'll look on eBay, etc. for a used unit. The model is BCM-220.

Jeff took the floor and discussed the 10am to 4pm Streets of Coal Special Event at the Princeton Railroad Museum, 99 Mercet Street on June 15. Setup will be between 9 and 10am and there will be voice and digital communications going on outside under cover. Randall Hash will be inside the Museum and communicate by CW. The W8MOP call sign will be used and there is a very nice QSL card for exchange via SASE. Help is needed to operate, setup and tear down around 4pm. Jeff and Matt have put a lot of time into this endeavor and we need everyone to help advertise this event for the Club and the Museum. Please come by. Please participate.

Berlon and David Lester changed the subject to the June 22-23 Field Day exercise at the Mercer Co airport. There was a lot of discussion on who is bringing rigs, antennas, shelters, etc. We will meet at the Green Valley Restaurant at 8am to make final arrangements for setup and participation. There will be a GOTA (get on the air) station for new Hams or those that haven't been on the air in a while. Voice and digital communications will be used and the event starts locally at 2pm on Saturday. Participation is encouraged as usual and we would appreciate you passing this information around. www.arrl.org/field-day

Berlon Roberts won the 50/50 draw and donated \$5 to the Club.
The meeting was over at 735pm.

{{{Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC VEC. The VE team tests on the second Saturday on a quarterly basis in February, May, August and November. **The next session will be on August 10, 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>

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.)