

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on July 1, 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 706pm by David Sexton, Vice President. He welcomed the other 12 in attendance. There was 1 participant via the ZOOM presentation tonight: David Lester N8VFR. The Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. (Henry Shinn KC3KGY donated the new flag, pole and stand.) We observed a moment of silence on the passing of Scott Hodge's KC8ECA wife Tammy. Scott is Harold Hodges N8NCP son and was once the Club president. David recognized Dwayne Roberts, visitor, as well as Ken Duncan KQ4MMY and Brett Duncan KE8ZML. These two fellows will be testing for their General license on August 10.

Hooger read the minutes of the May 6 and June 3, 2024 meetings and they were accepted with one change. (May: we had purchased a triband antenna, not a dual band antenna.)

Treasurer's report: Deposits included \$20.00 from a renewal/donation and \$12.00 from the 50/50 drawing. No debits. Our PayPal had a \$36.00 deposit for renewal/donation and a debit of \$1.75 for a fee. The PayPal link is on our www.HamclubOnline.com link.

Repeater report: Jay Belt says that he's still trying to find a transmit module for the 220 Bridgecom repeater. Nelson Linkous WZ8E said that he and the SERA (<http://www.sera.org>) are trying to find an acceptable digital 2M frequency to replace the 147.06 at Windmill Gap. They are going to get the '06 coordinated for a move to Princeton. He and Jay then hope to link the '06 with the Bluefield 145.49 repeater. Mark /Williams KQ4Q is selling his 220 repeater on Dismal Peak in Giles County. The sale included antenna, controller, two Micor radios, etc. KQ4Q at KQ4Q dot COM.

Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC VEC. The next session will be Saturday, Aug 10, 2024 at 9am at 704 Bland St. Bluefield, WV, room 523. The new extra question pool was released for use today. Be aware! (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 quarterly on the second Saturday in February, May, August and November.)

Berlon gave a report on our Field Day event at the Mercer Co. Airport. There were 4 computers linked wirelessly using N3JFP logging software and it went very well. Three people spent the night and things wrapped up around noon on Sunday. W8MOP 6A WV designation. 31 participants listed. Total score 2,248. GOTA call used: W8ZBR. Ricky Patton KO4FCL made 22 contacts via the GOTA station. Matt Morris and others used the Club's Solar Generator. Ricky Patton's mother provided pizza for the crew.

There were at least 8 people that participated at the Streets of Coal Special Event Station in Princeton on June 11. Randall Hash WB4BBF worked CW and there were stations working voice and digital. Many thanks to Jeff White KE8RAW and Matt Morris for doing the footwork for this event. We already have two SASE received requesting QSLs.

Berlon reports that we have 70 members in the Club and that dues are being taken and that the fiscal year begins on January 1, 2025. He reminded us that Winter Field Day is coming up on January 25-26, 2025. <http://www.winterfieldday.org>

Nelson asked if the Club is still interested in sponsoring a Technician Blast Class this fall, probably in early November. We will provide the classroom and lunch.

David Sexton mentioned that the 13 Colonies Special event July 1-7 is going on www.13colonies.us

“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.

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.)