

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on August 5, 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 700pm by Matt Morris, President. He welcomed the other 7 in attendance. There were 2 participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight: David Bailey N8DMB and Charlie Hampton K8CEH. The Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. (Henry Shinn KC3KGY donated the new flag, pole and stand.) Matt mentioned that he will not be seeking an ERARC office in the upcoming year.

Hooger read the minutes of the July 1 meeting and they were accepted.

**Treasurer's report:** Deposits included \$15.00 from a renewal. Paid out \$200 to the ARRL for liability insurance. Our PayPal had a \$16.00 deposit for renewal/donation and a debit of \$1.05 for a fee. The PayPal link is on our [www.HamclubOnline.com](http://www.HamclubOnline.com) link.

Repeater report: Jay Belt had nothing. Gary Kadar N8GK mentioned that 145.49 still has issues with noise, etc. Jay said that he and others are still working to get a new digital frequency for the Windmill Gap location and a new location for the '06 analog repeater into Princeton.

Matt Morris, Emergency Coordinator/ARES: The Skywarn net is every Monday (except the first Monday of the month) at 7pm on 145.49. Matt attended a NWS meeting in Charleston, WV and reports that other SKYWARN related entities are having trouble maintaining SKYWARN participants. He wishes that we had more check-ins on the nets. Discussion. He suggested that we combine the ARES and SKYWARN net and have it one night monthly. Discussion. We decided to keep the same SKYWARN net schedule and add ARES to them. We will monitor progress through the end of the year and reevaluate. ARES net participation is down also.

David Sexton mentioned that this fall's BLAST Technician Class will hopefully be held in November and may very well be held in Galax, Va.

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. He has 5 people signed up to test as of today. Berlon has been at the Club room since 3pm today getting the laptops charged up and getting all of the new tests updated. He was congratulated for his work and dedication with the testing process. **(The new extra question pool was released for use July 1. 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.)

Gary asked about the grant monies that we have received and the reporting requirements for them, i.e. Matt reports to the federal government quarterly for the Solar Generator that we purchased with federal funding. There is no reporting to the Bluefield Area Foundation for the two Kenwood 2000 radios. Gary also mentioned that the Saturday morning breakfast meeting is dropping in attendance.

Berlon asked when we can install the new triband Yaesu radio, coax and antenna. Discussion. We will talk about it at the next Saturday breakfast meeting.

"To Do list":

- 1) Echolink is now located at Jay Belt's Bland Street shop. The Echolink 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.
- 5) Install the new Yaesu radio, antenna, coax.
- 6) Need to install / use the Ham Radio Deluxe software that we purchased.

The meeting was over at 747pm

John Riddle N8RIG won the 50/50 pot.

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.)