

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on September 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 700pm by Dave Sexton, Vice President. He welcomed the other 10 in attendance. Matt is recovering from a knee injury. There were no participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight. The Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. (Henry Shinn KC3KGY donated the flag, pole and stand.) It was mentioned that we will be taking nominations for Club Officers at the next meeting, voting in November.

Hooger is recovering from hand surgery. Gary Kadar N8GK read the minutes of the August 5 meeting and they were accepted.

Treasurer's report: Deposits included \$79.00 from a renewals and 50/50. (2 new members: Joe Comer N8KMC and Ryan Pruitt KF8BZI) No pay outs. Jay renewed our tax exempt status with the State. Our PayPal had a \$16.00 deposit for renewal and a debit of \$1.05 for a fee. The PayPal link is on our [www.HamclubOnline.com](http://www.HamclubOnline.com) link.

Berlon says that we need more members and discussed how the <http://www.ararepeaters.org> has gone from just a handful of members to now around 60. They plan on having websites for the public and one for members, which will include link codes. Discussion. He made a motion, seconded by John Riddle to buy a used or new 220 repeater. A vote was taken, the motion passed.

Repeater report: Nothing to bring up but the antenna systems on the roof need to be moved this coming Saturday so that the roof can be replaced next week. (it was actually done on Friday).

Jamboree on the Air is on October 19 and the local Scout groups want to know if we can help with the event. Discussion. We will bring it up at the October meeting and decide considering the roof job vs. going to the airport.

Gary asked if anyone was interested in the UHF/VHF contest on the second full weekend in September

(September 14-16, 2024 <https://contests.arrl.org/sepvhf/>)

Emergency Coordinator/ARES: The Skywarn net is every Monday (except the first Monday of the month) at 7pm on 145.49.

Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC VEC. The next session will be Saturday, Nov 9, 2024, at 9am at 704 Bland St. Bluefield, WV, room 523. On Aug 10, there were 4 tested, 3 passed.(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.)

“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
- 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 749pm

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.)