

Notes from the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club Christmas dinner held on December 2, 2024 at the Bluefield, Va. Culture Guatemalan Grill and Cantina. <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 David Lester N8VFR, 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 dinner was opened at 700pm by David Lester, President. He welcomed the other 19 in attendance. He had Jeff White KE8RAW to give a blessing over dinner, the Club and its members.

We all enjoyed our meals and visiting with one another. After eating, David again welcomed all in attendance and began to draw tickets for door prizes. There were three handhelds, an oil change, hats, Android 2M conversion device and several more items. Joe Roske KD8CAP had printed out multiple copies of David's 'letter to the community' as well as a W8MOP brochure for handing out, leaving on local bulletin boards, etc. David asked that we all take a copy or two of the letter and get them into the hands of local businesses, concerned citizens, etc.

Some members voluntarily donated monies to the Union Mission and Toys for Tots. Hooger will get these donations to the respective organizations.

The event was over by 0820pm.

"To Do list":

- 1)APRS is now on the air at David Lester's home QTH.
- 2) Firmware for 145.49 on hold until we see if a new controller will be needed
- 3) Echolink
- 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.

Emergency Coordinator/ARES: The Skywarn net is every Monday (except the first Monday of the month) at 7pm on 145.49. The ARES net is on the third Thursday of each month at 730pm on 145.49.

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.)