

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on July 7, 2025  
<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 (meeting delayed d/t bad weather)

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 meeting was opened at 700pm by David Sexton, ERARC Vice President. He welcomed the other 8 in attendance. Dave tried to get the ZOOM presentation to connect but it was not possible. David Lester is gone on vacation. The Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. (Henry Shinn KC3KGY donated the flag, pole and stand.)

David read the **minutes** of the June 4 meeting and they were accepted.

**Treasurer's report:** Jay Belt: No deposits noted. Pay outs included \$200 to the ARRL for insurance and \$468.64 to Dx Engineering for a Comet CHA250B vertical antenna for the roof as the dipole there is not working too well. The Paypal had no deposits. We are accepting dues for the upcoming year. \$15/amateur, add \$5 for family members. The PayPal link is on our [www.HamclubOnline.com](http://www.HamclubOnline.com) link. Gary Kadar N8GK asked if we own Nelson Linkous WZ8E reimbursement for connectors, etc. that had purchased for the Club. Discussion. We'll check with Nelson for an invoice.

**Repeater report:** Jay Belt: The 145.20 Fusion repeater is now on East River Mt. Bluefield, WV. 147.06 PL 100 is now at Windmill Gap and is linked to the ARA and the 145.25 PL 103.5 is in Princeton on Radio Hill.

**Volunteer Examiner: The next session will be Saturday, August 9, 2025,** at 9am at 704 Bland St. Bluefield, WV, room 523. Two individuals have signed up for testing as of today. There will be at least 3 examiners at the testing and Berlon can work the administrative part from home if need be per Gary Kadar. (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.) Contact Berlon Roberts 304-910-6333.

**SKYWARN** Matt Morris KC8LGS: Net is on 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. He had 27 check-ins last month but would really like to hear from more. He has 8 hams that have registered with ARES but would need at least 10 to man hospitals, fire departments, etc. if there were an actual local emergency. Please contact Matt for further. [Jmattmorris@me.com](mailto:Jmattmorris@me.com)

The HF dipole antenna is broken at the 911 Center. Discussion. If we can come up with \$400 for a new antenna, the Mercer Co. Commission will add \$800 around October for another Yaesu Fusion radio. Discussion. It may be easier to get another Comet CHA250B for the 911 Center as it sets up

in 10 minutes and doesn't need radials or a tuner. Matt made a motion, seconded by John Riddle N8RIG to get Jay Belt to purchase "an HF antenna for the 911 Center, his choice". A vote was taken, the motion passed.

**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.)

**Old Business:** Nothing unless discussed above.

**New Business:** David Lester via email: Thanks to all that participated in Field Day at the airport. It was a huge success, the public response and interest was outstanding and 'a good time was had by all'. David and Jay made 29 aeronautical mobile contacts on 20M. David Sexton admitted that the 115V plug-in on the solar generator pushed into the chassis and would be an easy fix. Brief contact counts: George Dietrich KF4YGL 111 F8, N8GK 51 15m, Jim Langridge W8JLB 26 SSB, N8VFR 14 SSB, Jacob Mills KE8RAS 14 SSB, N8RIG 1 SSB.

The WV State Fair is allowing the Amateur Radio community to setup on Saturday, August 9 to show off what Amateur Radio is and what it can do. This is the same day as our VE testing and both events can/will be covered. Call will be W8F.

Streets of Coal Special Event Station, June 21: Matt said that it was fun, under attended, hot and HF was noisy and he made no contacts. Jeff White KE8RAW made several Fusion contacts.

The meeting was over around 0805pm.

Submitted by George "Hooger" Fisher III ERARC Sec.