

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on August 4, 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 THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY SEPT 4!

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 704pm by David Lester, ERARC President. He welcomed the other 9 in attendance. There were three in attendance via ZOOM, Jeff White KE8RAW, Henry Miller W3BWN and David Sexton AB8D. Aiden Vrenna AD8GM was in attendance with us tonight and also joined the Club. The Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. (Henry Shinn KC3KGY donated the flag, pole and stand.)

Mike Walters W8ZY is visiting from Connecticut and Hooger asked what the ARRL thought about the 29 ERARC Aeronautical Mobile 20M contacts on Field Day by Jay Belt, David Lester and Nelson Linkous. He said that his coworkers at the ARRL were excited and very impressed with the story and he would bet that we will have a story in an upcoming edition of QST magazine.

Hooger read the minutes of the July 7 meeting and they were accepted.

Treasurer's report: Jay Belt made a deposit; a donation of \$200 from Matt Morris KC8LGS. Pay outs include \$341.33 to Dx Engineering for a Buckmaster HF dipole for the 911 Center. Paypal had one deposit of \$16 from Jakob Mills KE8RAS. There was a \$1.05 fee charge.

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.

Repeater report: Nelson Linkous WZ8E: The 145.20 Fusion C4FM repeater is now on East River Mt. Bluefield, WV. 147.06 PL 100 is now at Windmill Gap and is to be linked to the ARA system and the 145.25 PL 103.5 is in Princeton on Radio Hill and will be linked to 145.49. He explained interference issues with other repeaters and how these repeaters ended up at their current locations. Jay Belt: we now have two functional HF antennas on the roof. When the roof is re-done, we'll have a day to get all of the antennas setup where they need to be.

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 4 examiners at the testing. (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 / ARES Matt Morris: 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.

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: Thanks to all that participated in Field Day at the airport. Our final score was 1928 points.

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 Special Event call will be W8F. There are four southern WV clubs / entities that are pulling this off. Two of these are donating handheld transceivers, etc. to give via raffle to registered Amateurs visiting and signing up. Discussion. We have a new Yaesu FT-4X handheld in our possession (to be used for a prize at the next BLAST class) that would work just fine as a donation from the ERARC. Discussion. Gary Kadar N8GK made a motion, seconded by Nelson Linkous to use this handheld as our donation and purchase another identical handheld to replace it.

Jeff White KE8RAW knows a fellow that would be available to give a talk to the Club on WIRES-X. Discussion. We will take them up on the offer and try to get it scheduled for this fall.

Nelson Linkous: Jim Sturgill KA8AZK, a friend, is having health issues and is wanting to donate his Ham equipment to the Club. Jim lived in Beckley but has moved to Nashville. Discussion. Nelson will get an inventory list and see what he has and see if we need/want any it.

<https://www.qrz.com/db/KA8AZK>

The meeting was over around 0757pm.

Submitted by George "Hooger" Fisher III ERARC Sec.