

March 2, 2026 minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club

<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, Webmaster, David Lester N8VFR, HamClubOnline liaison and VE team leader Berlon Roberts W8ZBR

Meeting began at 7:00 pm. Fifteen people in attendance and one guest on Zoom. David Lester, N8VFR, welcomed the group. The pledge to the flag was recited by the group. He reported that the February 14 VE test session produced 4 new Technicians and 2 upgrades to General. 5 Baefong HTs were given away.

David asked if the VEs would give an unscheduled test upon need and availability of testers. David knows people who want to test but don't want to wait till May. All VEs in attendance tonight said they'd be OK with it. Dave will look into it.

POTA 'Support your parks' event April 18-19. Mike Walters W8ZY said to check out Potacat.com [Parks on the Air | POTA](#)

Field Day June 2026: Jay will check to see if airport is available. We need a Field Day chairman. [Field Day](#)

Hooger Fisher read the minutes from past meetings they were accepted.

Jay Belt, K8CTI, furnished and read a treasurer's report dated March 2, 2026. Total credits were \$130.00 in new memberships and debits included \$25.00 for WV State license registration. PayPal had 2 memberships (\$32.00) and no debits. We are accepting dues for the coming year at \$15/member with \$5 per family members. The PayPal link is listed on the website: www.HamclubOnline.com. Dues increase to \$20/member on January 2027.

Old Business

Matt Morris KC8LGS, Mercer Co. ARES EC reported on net attendance, Mercer Office of Emergency Services moving to new, more modern facilities. Director Keith Gunnoe wants space for Amateur Radio there. Our Space at the 911 Center will continue. Matt asked for Hams to sign up for ARES. We'll need a new HF radio for this new location. Matt is going to look for grants locally and abroad.

Items: Workday at the 911 Center, Meshtastic, Blast class still in the works, Tinkering Thursday will have a presentation on tuning duplexers by Jay Belt K8CTI

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO ADJOURN AT 8:00pm

Entered by george e. "Hooger" fisher iii, w4of