

April 6, 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

The meeting began at 7:00 pm. Ten people were in attendance and one was on Zoom. President David Lester, N8VFR, welcomed the group. The pledge to the flag was recited. He reported that the March 16 VE test session produced 1 new Technician, 1 new General and 1 upgrade to Extra. The minutes were read by Hooger Fisher III W4OF.

Jay Belt, K8CTI, read his Treasurer's report dated April 6, 2026. No credits in our account but he did pay \$88 to renew the post office box. PayPal had 3 memberships (includes 1 new membership) and \$24 in donations with \$4.16 in fees. We are accepting dues for the 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.

After discussion, we decided TO HAVE A WORK DAY THIS FRIDAY APRIL 10, MEETING AT 9 am at Tudors Biscuit World on Cumberland Road, Bluefield, WV. We will decide on traveling to the 911 Center storage area and/or the Windmill Gap repeater site for cleanup and maintenance. Repeater report: 'They're working fine' was the official report but Bill Devlin KR4JKH said that 433.475 is now noisy and mostly unusable into Bland Co. Va. Hooger suggested that David add a link on the Club's website to "Renew your license for free" (minus the \$35 FCC fee). David mentioned that the W8MOP license expires in September and that he's the trustee of that call sign for the Club.

The BLAST CLASS is still in the planning stage as Nelson Linkous's WZ8E father is having health issues.

TINKERING THURSDAY April 16, 630pm will either have Jay Belt demonstrate duplexer tuning, updating our Ham Radio Deluxe software or repairing a DC connection on our Solar Generator. We now have a 3D printer that could be a Tinkering demonstration.

A POTA 'Support your parks' event is on April 18-19. David will be out of town but if any Club member would like to head up an activation group with the Club, it would be great.

<https://pota.app/#/>

FIELD DAY June 27-28 at the Mercer Co. airport. We still would like to have a FD Chairperson. There was discussion about HF band-pass filters and interference amongst FD participants.

<https://www.arrl.org/news/start-planning-for-arrl-field-day-2026>

David is hoping that we will be able to use a site in Bluewell for APRS packet and Meshtastic. The site has electricity and internet. Gary Kadar has a 2M antenna that he'll donate. David has a computer and Mesh transceiver that he can donate. The Club has everything else. Discussion. He'll go and seek permission for the Club. <https://www.aprs.org/> <https://meshtastic.org/>

There was discussion about CW practice locally over the air.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO ADJOURN AT 745pm.

Entered by george e. "Hooger" Fisher III, W4OF

Check out a radio-active site at: <http://www.erarc.com> , The East River Amateur Radio Club. We'll be glad that you did! <https://www.facebook.com/w8mop>. and/or:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/296680905352/>