

<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. Join us for Friday breakfast at 9am at Tudor's on Cumberland Road. Gary Kadar and others meet on Saturdays at 8am at the Green Valley Restaurant.

The meeting began at 7:00 pm. There were 14 people in attendance and no one was on Zoom. President David Lester, N8VFR, welcomed the group. The pledge to the flag was recited.

He reported that the May 9 VE test session will be THIS SATURDAY at 9am at the ERARC Clubhouse.

The minutes were read by Hooger Fisher III W4OF.

Jay Belt, K8CTI, read his Treasurer's report dated May 4, 2026. Credits totaled \$1356.00. Included were 3 membership renewals, 1 new membership, and 15 donations. 15 donations were designated to remove a large tree branch off the 145.25 repeater tower in Princeton. The tree company charged us \$900. There were \$42.08 in PayPal 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.

Repeater report: 'They're working fine' was the official report but Jay Belt added that there's a controller in a link that's timing out. Jay said that there is a 220 repeater to go on the air in Beckley. He says that it can be linked locally. David has obtained permission to install APRS and Meshtastic repeaters in Bluewell. He found an APRS plug-and-play device online that will greatly simplify setup and use for around \$150. More to come on this.

<https://www.aprs.org/> <https://meshtastic.org/>

A Workday at the 911 center is on hold until Matt Morris KC8LGS recovers from knee surgery and can participate. Matt is the Mercer Co. ARES Emergency Coordinator.

Technician BLAST class still on hold as Nelson Linkous WZ8E is tied up with family and work.

If you join or renew ARRL membership through the Club, we get a donation back from them.

TINKERING THURSDAY on April 16 had the Ham Radio Deluxe software upgraded, headed by Gary Kadar N8GK. The next session will be on May 21 (at 630pm) and will be on tuning duplexers or 3-D printer training.

FIELD DAY June 27-28 at the Mercer Co. airport. We still would like to have a FD Chairperson. There was discussion on a lot of different subjects as well as the GOTA (get on the air) station. <https://www.arrl.org/news/start-planning-for-arrl-field-day-2026> More to come.

VHF/UHF contest June 13-15. Gary Scott WE3J wants to participate in this contest as does Hooger Fisher. The Overlook on East River Mountain is a regularly used site for this event. More to come. <https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

CW practice on HF: Mark Boyd W4BD and Gary Kadar had suggestions.

David made a proposal to make Don Anderson WD8OOR a life member of the Club. Discussion. Gary Kadar made a motion seconded by Jay Belt to do just that. A vote was taken. The proposal passed.

Gary learned from Kathleen Tabor KD8KSD tonight that the FCC gives a licensed person only 10 days to make sure that everything is correct in one's FCC database including address, phone and email address or face a \$1000/day fine, "if they feel the need to do so."

Nathan Conner was recognized and welcomed tonight. He's ready to test for Technician but can't come on Saturday to test due to his Son's birthday. Mark suggested that we have an extra test session before July 1 as the current Technician question pool expires on June 30.

The meeting was over around 745pm.

Renewals: KC4GIT, KC4GIV, KE8BRP

New: Jeff Woods AD8NQ

Tree removal: ARA, KQ4Q, W8ZBR, N8VFR / SWIFNET, W8JLB, W6JSB, KI4URO, KE8RBB, KC8LGS, WE3J, KF4YBU, W4OF, KD8EHT, KF8FWL, KE8BRP, Robert Osborne