

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on June 4, 2012; Ryan's Steakhouse Bluefield, VA.

<http://www.erarc.com>

The June ERARC meeting was opened at 703pm by Doug Ritchey WG8D, ERARC President. There were 15 members and guests in attendance. He welcomed Jim Stinson KD8SGO (formerly with H&S Sporting Goods and Princeton Rescue Squad) and Jennifer Riggs KD8SNO. Doug and Jim used to be members of PRS years ago and just re-met tonight!.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR ERARC Treasurer has received the three ARRL **Technician Class Exam Review** books. He also made "Donated by the East River Amateur Radio Club Bluefield, WV [www.erarc.com](http://www.erarc.com) June 2012" labels to be placed into each book. Each book includes a self-study CD and we discussed this and think that when we donate the books to the three local libraries, will ask each librarian as to how to handle the CD. It may be that the library will check out the CD when the book is checked out. We will see. Roger went ahead and gave his financial report. He has as paid Sam's Club memberships (for those members that paid in advance) for \$315.00, paid \$190.00 for equipment insurance, a bill for \$300.00 for our liability policy as well as \$102.35 for the ARRL Technician books.

Doug and others told of KI4EED Lonnie Underwood's recent hospitalization as well as KG4CTK Kathy Underwood's recent hospital stay. He asks that we all keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the May meeting.

Don Anderson WD8OOR said that the 145.49 is doing much better since the weather has changed. The 147.06 is working well and he tweaked the audio and it does sound a bit better. He also sprayed the weeds at the site. He obtained serial numbers on the equipment on site for the insurance company. It was mentioned that Dave Garrett KA4TXY had said that the 442.45 Echolink was not working for him. Don will check it out.

Bill Sowers K8WBS, Gary Kadar N8GK, Roger Stefancic and Andy have been talking about the 'deal of the day'; a \$59.00 Baofeng UV-5R dual bander HT from Hong Kong. Dave Garrett has purchased one and he's happy with it. See: [http://www.ebay.com/itm/Blue-UV-5R-BAOFENG-Dual-Band-UHF-VHF-Radio-USB-Program-cable-software-CD-/110875334636?pt=LH\\_DefaultDomain\\_0&hash=item19d0af57ec](http://www.ebay.com/itm/Blue-UV-5R-BAOFENG-Dual-Band-UHF-VHF-Radio-USB-Program-cable-software-CD-/110875334636?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item19d0af57ec) for an example of this radio. Search "UV-5R" on eBay for other options. Don said that he and Bill Sowers each ordered one and that Don ordered the programming cable and Software package. (Don also mentioned that there is free-ware called "Commander" that will program these radios "easier than" the software that comes with this HT.)

Gary Kadar N8GK said that there were 5 people who tested at the May 12 ARRL VE test session. He mailed the results in on that Saturday and the new licenses/upgrades were posted by Wednesday afternoon.

The subject of Field Day was brought up and discussion ensued. We will hold the ERARC Field Day activities at Boy Scout Camp Roland in Bastian, VA on June 23-24, 2012. We will meet for breakfast on

Saturday morning; discuss the event and figure out who is going to the 911 Center to load equipment, who is hauling what, etc. etc. We usually meet at the Camp around 11am or so and proceed to setup before the 2pm start time for Field Day. Bob Hoge N8RIR has graciously agreed to again let us use the 911 Communications trailer as well as the diesel generator. **There will be a pot-luck dinner at 6pm on Saturday. Don will bring a big box of chicken and Doug will bring one of those really big submarine sandwiches from Wally World. Others attendees please bring a covered dish with something in it. Everyone is welcome.**

Harold Hodges reminded all of the Mercer County ARES net on each Tuesday evening at 8pm as well as the WV Statewide ARES net on the first Thursday of each month after the 6pm WV phone net on 3.811.

Gary Kadar said that he'd been looking into an "Accurite" wireless home-weather station and that Lowe's and Walmart both have one for around \$99 but Walmart sells the same one online for \$59.00 with 'delivery to the store.' He also said that Health South and PCH are hoping to have a mock communications disaster sometime in June or July and that he would like to see the Club participate. It would probably be a weekday from 9 to 3 ? or 10-2?

The meeting was over by 0804pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.