

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on March 4, 2013; Ryan's Steakhouse Bluefield, VA. <http://www.erarc.com>

The meeting was opened at 700pm by Bill Sowers K8WBS, ERARC Vice President. There were 21 members and guests in attendance. He welcomed all to the meeting including Betty KG4CTL and Ed KD4WOO Viers, Bob Frazier WB8NRK and Keith Jennings WT3L.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the February minutes. No changes were noted by the membership.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR ERARC Treasurer gave his report. He paid a phone bill in the amount of \$20.94, paid the post office box rent in the amount of \$54.00 and deposited \$15.00. ***If you have a Sam's Club membership through the ERARC, the renewal date is May 1 and the cost is still \$35.00. If you do not plan on renewing, please let us know as there are other members who would like to have a Sam's membership.***

Gary Kadar N8GK mentioned that the February 9th ARRL VE test session produced two new technicians. He also mentioned that there was a problem with the FCC with one of these new licenses and when he contacted the ARRL, they said that they don't investigate such problems that they just process the information that is sent to them that they pass along to the FCC.

Bill read an email from Don Anderson WD8OOR concerning the 147.06 repeater. In essence, we need a new antenna and a Station-Master commercial antenna

(like the 145.49 has had for over 25 years) would be the proper choice due to its durability and function. We also have to consider that we may have to pay a commercial company to professionally install it on the Mercer County 911 tower at Windmill Gap. It was mentioned that we have to coordinate with the 911 Center regardless of what is done for the amateur radio repeaters. Jay Belt K8CTI said that we could possibly work something out with one of these contractors and get this job done free or at a reduced rate. He also said that he would like to get a "new-to-us" 444.45 antenna on site, ready to be placed at the same time when the 147.06 antenna is replaced. He quoted some antenna prices for us. A VHF antenna lists for \$1000 but his cost would be \$756. This does not include shipping by truck since the antenna is over 20 feet long. Discussion. John Riddle N8RIG made a motion, seconded by Harold Hodges N8NCP to give Don Anderson and Jay Belt permission to acquire a new antenna for the 147.06 for the Club. A show of hands allowed the motion to pass.

Steve O'Dell N8SNR asked about the packet radio and antenna. John Riddle said that these are at the 911 center and that 'we' are trying to get them and keep them on the air. Steve said that there are a lot of packet nodes down within the state.

Hooger Fisher handed out flyers for the March 30, 2013 Raleigh, NC hamfest. See <http://www.rars.org/hamfest> for more information.

When asked about Echolink, John Riddle said that he has the 440 equipment at his home and that Jay Belt has the 2M equipment at his business. They try their best to be sure that these machines are online.

Harold Hodges mentioned that during a particularly windy day at his home, he measured voltage spikes of 127 volts on his mains and he contacted APCO. They came to check his electrical system and found a loose ground.

Doug Ritchey WG8D reminded us that Field Day is coming in June.

The meeting was over by 7:37pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC
Secretary.