

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on July 7, 2014; Ryan's Steakhouse @ Bluefield, VA.

<http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5

The meeting was opened at 703pm by Gary Kadar N8GK, ERARC nice guy. There were 15 members in attendance. All were welcomed especially visitors Dave Herter, Princeton, WV, Charles WV8CH and Jane WV8JH Hardy from Fayetteville, WV. Charles is the WV ARRL Section Manager.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the June minutes. The minutes were approved. He read two letters from the WV State Amateur Radio Council. One is asking for nominations for "2014 WV Outstanding Amateur of the Year" and the other is asking for donations for the WV State ARRL Convention booklet. For one dollar, your name and call will appear in this booklet as a "WVSARC Booster". There were 6 'takers' on this request. Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. He paid a phone bill in the amount of \$21.99 and sent \$30.00 to the Bluefield Union Mission in memory of Sharon Leedy. THERE ARE TWO SAM'S CLUB MEMBERSHIPS LEFT IF ANY ERARC MEMBER WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE. The cost is \$45.00 now.

Gary Kadar N8GK gave a Field Day report. We operated as "5A VA" which stands for 5 transmitters in use and our Club's FD operation was located in Virginia. A FD station in Maryland/DC was heard and had a "28A MD/DC" designator. Randall Hash WB4BBF worked 40M CW, Harold Hodges worked 40M SSB, Roger Stefancic worked 20M SSB, Gary Kadar worked 15M SSB and Don Anderson WD8OOR worked 75M SSB. Roger used the Club tri-bander and tower, Gary used his tower and homemade fishing pole beam, Randall used a sloper dipole at 50 feet, Harold used an inverted VEE dipole at around 45 feet and Don Anderson used his new 42 foot vertical antenna. Totals: 15M: 51

contacts, 20M: 41 contacts, 40M SSB: 83 contacts, 75M SSB: 7 contacts, 40M CW: unknown at this time. The mayor of Bluefield, Va., Don Harris KA4YDN visited the FD site which adds to our total points. There were 17 total visitors/members at the event and around 15 attended the 6pm covered dish/chicken dinner. Betty Viers KG4CTL made enough food to feed an army. It was all great. Randall Hash tried several times to copy the W1AW Field Day bulletin but had no luck hearing it on the advertised frequencies.

Gary also mentioned that he took his tower/trailer and VHF beam to the East River Mountain overlook on June 14 and worked the ARRL June VHF contest. He was there for 4 to 5 hours and only worked one station, AA4ZZ. He did not submit a log.

ERARC VE: The next test session will be on August 9 at 9am at the Mercer County 911 Center. Gary said that he has received the new Technician question pool and has discarded the old ones.

George Leedy KJ4BXS thanked the Club for the donation to the Union Mission in memory of his wife. He also said that his friend, Michael Akers (past principal at Mount View High School and a Ham) was going to come to the meeting tonight but it didn't work out. George said that we may want to look into solar panels to charge batteries for emergency use.

Charles Hardy WV8CH introduced himself and his wife and told us of the duties of the WV Section Manager and how the ARRL, the WV ARRL section and others in the state can and will help any amateur with any Ham- related problem that they may have. He is a liaison between WV Ham Clubs and the state and national ARRL units. He mentioned that there are around 25 "OOs" (Official Observers) in the state that monitor the usage of our Ham bands and their use. He asked if the ERARC was an

ARRL affiliated Club and that if we once were but are not, that we are still 'affiliated' but may be listed as "inactive". He mentioned that WV has a 'technical advisor', Mr. Dirk Burnside WV8PAD that can and will help with any technical assistance needs.

Gary asked Dave Herter if the Club could help him in any way, since he found our website or Facebook page and was interested in Amateur Radio and SKYWARN®. He is a weather spotter for the National Weather Service. Gary and others told him how to get his license and suggested getting one of the new "ARRL Technician study guide" books from one of the local libraries. Jane Hardy mentioned taking practice tests at <http://www.eham.net>. Keith Jennings NO8P asked if the Club had thought about moving our meeting location to another site. Gary said that we had discussed it before and gave some pros and cons about moving. Keith said that La Fiesta Mexican restaurant has a meeting room on the second floor and even has an elevator. Not only do they have great Mexican food, they have hamburgers, sandwiches and one of the best steaks that you'll find around Bluefield, There was some discussion. This will be tabled until more information can be obtained.

Trancy Belcher KA8CFR asked when membership dues were to be paid. Roger said that by the end of August is the usual time period.

The meeting was over by 747pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.