

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on November 4, 2019 at Bellacino's in Princeton, WV <http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Skywarn / ARES local simplex freq: 146.53. Our backup meeting location is at the Princeton, WV. Burger King.

The meeting was opened at 700pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS, President. There were 17 members and guests in attendance. He welcomed all.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the October 7, 2019 meeting and they were approved with one correction.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. Bruce paid a \$13.12 power bill for the '49 site. He deposited \$132.00 in dues and donations. Matt still has an invoice for the ERARC banner from Venture Printing in his possession. We are currently accepting dues for the upcoming year. \$15 per Ham and \$1 additional for each Ham at the same address.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR gave his Skywarn Practice Net report. The Blacksburg NWS activated last week during an inclement weather event and attempted to contact local Amateurs. The 145.49 was practically useless. The 146.955 was barely useable for them. The 147.06 was full quieting into the NWS office. They were taking weather reports and observations. We now know that the '06 machine will work into Blacksburg. The Skywarn net is being held on Mondays (except the first Monday of the month) on the 147.06 at 0730pm. Anyone can check into the net.

Charles Priest KN4OOH, Mercer Co. WV ARRL Emergency Coordinator, said that he now has 12 ARES members signed up with him and is looking for more. He said that he is through with the mandatory ARRL training for the EC position. The monthly ARES net is on the third Thursday (November 21) at 0730pm on the 147.06 repeater. (*Charles is asking that those interested in helping with the local ARES group send him your name, call sign, email address and phone number.* [charlestpriest@gmail.com](mailto:charlestpriest@gmail.com) ) Charles would really like to get the old ARES announcement off of the 442.45 repeater. Jay Belt K8CTI said that would require a trip to Windmill Gap. Charles also would like for the membership to see the repeater sites and know how to make them function in case of failure, etc.

Jay Belt K8CTI and Mike Clemons KM4UCR were asked to give a repeater report. They agree that the 145.49 can probably be moved to a new test site within several weeks. Jay will pull the repeater from East River Mt. and get it ready to be moved. Jay also said that the 444.45 DMR repeater will stay at the current location (Bluefield, Va. /East River Mt.) for the time being.

Keith Jennings AD8L will meet tonight for his "Hams Helping Hams" informational class hoping to avoid the Monday nets during the same time. The informal gathering is going well and is being well received. The next ERARC ARRL VE test session will be on August 9, 2019 at 9am at the Mercer Co. 911 Center. **NOTE: The new General test questions took effect on July 1, 2019.** One must bring a COPY of their license, a photo ID and \$15 to test; either via cash or check.

The Tazewell Sheriff's Department is giving the Club a 68' Rohn tower that is currently on Morris Knob west of Tazewell. Mike Clemons and others dropped it to the ground just today. It still needs to be taken apart and moved off of the mountain.

Hooger mentioned that the next ERARC meeting will be our Christmas dinner meeting. Discussion. Hooger will check with La Fiesta in Bluefield, Va. and see if we can get on their list for using their facility.

Hooger said that years ago, the Club would send \$30-40 in flowers to show our condolences to an ERARC member or immediate family member who passed away. Years later, we decided to send \$20 to the family's requested charity or to the Bluefield Union Mission. In recent years, we've not been doing any of this. Discussion. Hooger made a motion, seconded by Gary Kadar N8GK to send a sympathy card to the ERARC member's family. A vote was taken. The motion passed. Matt suggested that we also try our best to visit the wake and/or funeral too.

The 'to do' list:

- (1) Possible auction/sale on excess equipment at the 911 Center
- (2) The year 2020 is the Club's 60th year of being incorporated. Celebration?
- (3) HF antenna for 80M repair/replacement at the 911 Center
- (4) APRS back on the air
- (5) Echolink back on the air

The meeting was over at 0753pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary. ERARC P.O. Box 1362  
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*Repeated information here: "Charles Priest KN4OOH was asked about the REMIND DOT COM program. He said that as a music professor, he uses <http://www.remind.com> for notifying his students of changes in meeting times, locations, etc. He said that we can use this free service for Club members to be notified of just about anything. (To partake in this service, text "**@w8mop**" to **81010**. The system will text you back and asks your name. You can use your name or callsign or both. The system will then text you back and the rest is easy to follow. Your phone number WILL NOT be displayed anywhere. )*