

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on January 8, 2023 <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.

President Matt Morris KC8LGS, Vice President: David Sexton AB8D, Treasurer; Jay Belt K8CTI, Secretary: George "Hooger" Fisher III W4OF, Webmaster: David Lester N8VFR, HamClubOnline liaison and VE team leader Berlon Roberts W8ZBR,

The meeting was opened at 0702pm by David Sexton AB8D, Vice President. He welcomed the 10 in attendance and recognized Theda Boyd who will test on February 11. There were 4 participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight: Gary Kadar N8GK, Charlie Hampton K8CEH, Jeff White KE8RAW and David Lester N8VFR. Dave said that Matt mentioned the wind advisory that we are currently under and to watch for further developments.

The Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Henry Shinn KC3KGY donated the new flag, pole and stand. Many thanks to Henry for his donation.

(NOTE: Berlon Roberts said that we now have 73 members and that there are 13 that have not renewed and will be dropped from the roster by next month.. Please renew and help our Club grow and serve. Thanks. The PayPal link is on www.HamclubOnline.com if you want to use it.)

Hooger Fisher read the minutes from the past 2 months and they were approved.

Jay Belt gave the Treasurer's report: Recent deposits include \$95 in dues and donations. He paid www.serra.org \$70 for renewal of our membership with that frequency coordinating body.

There will be another Technician Blast class on February 23-24 at the Raleigh County 911 Center. There are more people from that area wanting to take the class than from the Bluefield area. Nelson Lindous, Dave Sexton and Chris Hatcher KC8AFH teach the class. Class starts on Friday at 6-9pm. It resumes on Saturday at 9am. Testing will be on Saturday, February 24 at 530pm. Contact Nelson for any needed information nlinkous@citlink.net .

Repeaters: John Riddle N8RIG suggested that we get new firmware for the 145.49 repeater so that changes can be made over the internet instead of going to the repeater site with a laptop and doing the same. Jaiden Borich N4NFP said that he would see if he can find the software. Jay Belt found the software online and said that it appears that it cost \$49. Discussion. Jaiden will get it for the Club and will be reimbursed if need be. Jaiden and Nelson Linkous WZ8E are in the process of placing a new link repeater at Brumley Gap in the Lebanon/Abingdon area. Jaiden is working on the controller interface. John said that the '49 is "picket-fencing", maybe to a loose connector in these windy conditions. Jay Belt K8CTI will look into it.

Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC ARRL VEC . The ERARC VE team tests on the second Saturday on a quarterly basis in February, May, August and November. **The next session will be**

on February 11, 2024. at 9am at 704 Bland St. Bluefield, WV, room 523. The VE team must have a copy of your current license if applicable, a photo ID is a must as well as a copy of a CSCE if applicable. (Those testing must have a FCC Registration Number and valid email address before testing. The cost is \$15 and we will accept cash and check but NO PLASTIC. The new General question pool took effect on July 1, 2023. The new FCC \$35 federal licensing fee must be paid to the FCC, NOT THE ERARC.

<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registrationnumber-frn>)

Berlon suggested that we make a \$75 donation to HamClubonline.org for the services that they provide for our Club. Discussion. Berlon made a motion, seconded by Jim Langridge KE8IYW to make the donation. A vote was taken, the motion passed.

Old Business: None

New Business: None that has not been brought up above.

Theda Boyd won the 50/50 drawing for our flower fund.

The meeting was over at 0803pm.

(DMR net by David Sexton AB8D: (Net is every Tuesday at 0730pm on the W8MOP 444.45 DMR repeater on the 3154 WV statewide talk group.))

Skywarn: The weekly Monday net is at 0730pm on 145.49. Matt Morris and others man the net.

ARES net: The third Thursday at 0730pm on the 145.49 repeater.

EC: Mercer County ARES Emergency Coordinator is Matt Morris. Matt asked that we, the membership, contact him and volunteer to be ARES members. There is no obligation, and he would like to have a roster of members on hand.

(ELMER CLASS is on hold unless a special request is made. It was held on the first Saturday monthly at 1pm.)

Check out a radio-active site at: <http://www.erarc.com> , The East River Amateur Radio Club. We'll be glad that you did! <https://www.facebook.com/w8mop>. and/or: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/296680905352/>