

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on April 1, 2024
<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. Mailing address: P.O. Box 1362, 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 0705 by Matt Morris, President. 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.)

David welcomed the other 8 in attendance. There were 2 participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight: Jeff White KE8RAW and Charlie Hampton N8CEH.

Hooger read the minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting and they were accepted.

Treasurer's report: Deposits included \$36.00 from a 50/50 drawing and a \$84.00 payment for our PO Box rental.. Our PayPal had a \$16.00 deposit and a \$1.05 fee payment. The PayPal link is on our www.HamclubOnline.com link.

Skywarn: Matt said that there's been around 30 checkins on the net the last month. Chris Hatcher WV8CH would like to get the Southern WV/Charleston ARES net going again. It was asked if we could join this net with the equipment that we have. Nelson Linkous WZ8E said that we'd need to replace the controller on 145.49 as it is incompatible and/or add a remote base. Discussion. Nelson said that the Club can use the 147.06 repeater on Windmill Gap as a System Fusion digital repeater and move the analog 147.06 repeater to Melody Mountain in Princeton (WAEY / Star 95 site). We would need a set of duplexers for the digital site. It has been Okd by the SERA (www.sera.org) coordination organization. Jay Belt and Nelson will get together and see what needs to be done and report back to the membership. Gary Kadar N8GK asked if the separation of receive and transmit antennas for the 145.49 can be tried in order to get the noise out of the repeater. It can be done but we would need an extra antenna. Discussion. Nelson and Jay will look into this also. Nelson mentioned that the ARA is totally revamping the 146.955 repeater in Springville, Va with new everything. It will be 'booming' again and cover Bristol to Roanoke and cover Tazewell, Va and other under-served areas.

ARES: Matt has had 7-9 checkins on the monthly net and would like to see more. He's on the Mercer County, WV Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and has been in contact with Keith Gunnoe, the Mercer Emergency Coordinator. Keith would like us to go thru the multiple scenarios

on the Emergency Plan and comment as to how ARES could help. Matt mentioned that one of the Kenwood 2000 needs to be returned to the 911 Center as per original agreements.

We began to go over the “To Do” list. “To Do list”:

1) Echolink is now located at Jay Belt’s Bland Street shop. The Kenwood 2M radio needs a component before it can be back on the air,

2) Additional 2M, 440, radios into our Radio Room. There was lots of discussion on this subject. We have three HF rigs at the 911 Center in storage. There is a free-standing 440 radio at the 911 Center. Nelson suggested that we get two Yaesu FT300B (<https://www.gigaparts.com/yaesu-ftm-300dr-c4fm-dual-band-transceiver.html>) that are dual band, have a full warranty and supports System Fusion digital voice. Discussion. John Riddle N8RIG made a motion, seconded by David Lester to purchase said radios, dual band antennas and feedlines, approximately a \$1000 purchase, for use in our radio room. A vote was taken, the motion passed. After this purchase, we can have stand-alone 2M, 440, HF voice and HF digital communications when in a true emergency.

3) Special Event Station at Princeton Railroad Museum (<https://www.princetonrailroadmuseum.com/>) on June 15. Matt and Jeff White KB8RAW have been in contact with them and hope that the Club can give a demonstration on Morse Code and hold a Special Event Station on air at the event. Jeff suggested that we try to use a special callsign NW8VGN (Norfolk Western VirGiNian Railway). Nelson said that he has a contact that can make great QSL cards and Jeff has the perfect picture for the card. Gary Kadar suggested that (we) contact Mike Walters W8ZY and seek advice and help with the particulars. Randall Hash WB4BBF is excited to be the CW performer at the event. He hopes to dress the part of an old time telegrapher.

4) Firmware for 145.49 on hold until we see if a new controller will be needed

5) APRS, no mention

6) Winlink. David Lester has been trying out Winlink at home. We need to get the newest software for our computers in the radio room.

7) Getting the Club’s radios, etc. from the 911 Center and move to 704 Bland St. Lots of discussion here also. Nelson said that we need to have a workday and clean up the storage room on the 4th floor and use the dumpster that is outside the 3rd floor. After cleanup, we can then move our equipment into the room. Nelson suggested that we try to do this after a Saturday breakfast.

FIELD DAY JUNE 22-23. Matt discussed our participation in FD. Discussion. Dave Lester has volunteered to help with FD co-chairmanship and we hope that Burlon Roberts W8ZBR will also pitch in in this endeavor.

The meeting was over at 815pm. Some of us toured the storage area on the 4th floor.

{{Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC VEC. The VE team tests on the second Saturday on a quarterly basis in February, May, August and November. The next session will be on May11, 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 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-registration-number-frn>

Skywarn: Net is every Monday (except the first Monday of the month) at 7pm on 145.49.

Emergency Coordinator/ARES: Net is the third Thursday of each month at 7pm on the 145.49 repeater.

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.)