

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on

January 2, 2012; Ryan's Steakhouse Bluefield, VA.

<http://www.erarc.com>

The January ERARC meeting was opened at 700pm by Doug Ritchey WG8D, ERARC President. There were 9 members and guests in attendance. Doug had a handout for those in attendance which included: "MISSION STATEMENT: 'To promote fellowship between amateur radio operators, radio enthusiasts and the general public. To bring new people into the hobby by informing, teaching, and examining for license. To promote cooperation with outside clubs and associations to our mutual benefit and the overall good of amateur radio. To have fun with all things radio.'" Doug welcomed all.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the November and December meetings. There were no additions, corrections or deletions noted. Bill Sowers K8WBS gave an update on Carl Fletcher N8OLG to whom Club members and others had donated monies due to his medical condition. Carl's daughter said that the funds couldn't have come at a better time and that the family was able to purchase supplies to build a wheelchair ramp at their home for him.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR gave the treasurer's report. He paid two phone bills for \$20.28 and \$19.66, and had taken in some renewals.

Don Anderson WD8OOR gave a repeater report. He says that the 145.49 as well as the 442.45 repeaters have feed line issues and "we" (read as 'tower-climbing' Jay Belt K8CTI) are in the process of replacing the hard lines. The 147.06 is working well and is connected full time to the '49 via a 440 link. Any DTMF tones passed through the '06 will be picked up and processed by the '49 so, as an example, the autopatch will work if going through the '06. John Riddle N8RIG said that the audio is "hot" on the '49 and Don agreed that something is up with it. Members can DTMF a four digit number to connect and/or disconnect the remote base between '06 and the 440 link. Don hopes to be able to acquire a "new-to-us" MS 5000 Motorola repeater to replace the 444.45 machine and put it at the Windmill Gap site along with '06. The software is DOS format and only Two-Way Radio in Bluefield has the means to use it. He'll hook up with them to program the machine if he gets it. <As a side note, all Commercial wide-band radios (now have 25kc bandwidth) will have to be narrow-band (12.5kc) by January of next year and there are going to be bunches and bunches of these machines on the market in the near future.> He hopes to have an update by the next meeting.

Gary Kadar N8GK mentioned the upcoming ARRL VE test session on Saturday, February 11 at 9am at the Mercer County 911 Center. At the November test session, there were two new Technicians and one successful upgrade. Hooger said that he had a call today from Jeremiah Burdette KD8QKL from White Sulphur Springs, WV. He is

contacting any amateur radio clubs in the area to see about testing opportunities. He has 10 to 12 people that are going to need to test. Gary mentioned that he needs help in trying to triangulate modulated signals on the input frequencies of the '49 and '06 machines. He and Roger Stefancic had recently gone to East River Mountain with handhelds and beam antennas and found signals coming from about 6 degrees to the east of north. This was in a line from the mountain to the Ballard, WV area, before, and/or beyond.

Harold Hodges gave his presentation on the National Traffic System. Check out: <http://www.arrl.org/nts> for more information on NTS and radiograms at <http://www.arrl.org/arrradiogram-form>

The meeting was over at 800pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

- 1) **TO DO LIST:** Antenna for the Bluefield, Va. Rescue Squad (ongoing per Lonnie)