

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on November 4, 2013; Ryan's Steakhouse Bluefield, VA. <http://www.erarc.com>

The meeting was opened at 700pm by Bill Sowers K8WBS, ERARC Vice President. There were 17 members and guests in attendance. All were welcomed. He especially welcomed Rick Counts KG8OR, Don Walker KD8MKY and Dottie Walker KD8NEV. Hooger Fisher W4OF read the October minutes. Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. He paid a phone bill of \$20.84. 70 members have renewed as of today and there were around 90+ members last year. Stephen Rector W8QHC had recently made phone calls to those that had not renewed and had several to go ahead and renew.

Repeater report: Don Anderson WD8OOR: "They are all working." The Echolink on the 145.49 is still not on the air but John Riddle N8RIG said that the 442.45 Echolink is working.

Old business: nothing brought up.

New business: Gary Kadar N8GK said that the quarterly ARRL VE test session is this Saturday, November 9, at the Mercer County 911 Center at 9am. Bill talked about trying to get more people to attend the meetings and asked for ideas about how to do that. He suggested that we, as individuals, split up the roster and make phone calls, reminding members of the meetings. Hooger always tries to send an email reminder on the Wednesday before the meeting. Discussion. Hooger will continue to do this and will send it out again on Sunday/Monday before the meeting to remind again. Rick Counts KG8OR suggested calling old members and asking them to re-join and/or come to the meetings. Gary said that if you search "Bluefield, WV" and "Princeton, WV" on QRZ.com that you will find at least 350 hams listed. Bill would like to see programs on computer/Echolink/technology, cell phone technology, etc. given to entice attendance. We were reminded of the presentation of the fellow from the Greenbank Observatory years ago and the great attendance at that meeting. Discussion. Dottie Walker KD8NEV suggested that the Club visit the Observatory. She said that there is talk of moving the whole radio observatory program to New Mexico, which time may be of the essence. Discussion. Don Anderson suggested that we send out an email and see who may be interested in taking in the trip for a tour of the facility. The Observatory is in the National Radio Quiet Zone as a reminder.

Hooger made sure that we are on the Ryan's calendar for December 2 for our annual Christmas dinner/meeting. Bill asked that we all bring a small gift (\$5 limit) for exchange at the dinner as we have done in the past.

Hooger mentioned that our President, Stephen Rector is stepping down due to health reasons. The question is: "who are the officers for the upcoming year?" Bill said that he is still the VP and that Roger and Hooger are keeping their respective offices. We need to find a President. Discussion. Bill said that we would have to find someone to fill the seat by the next meeting.

Doug Ritchey WG8D announced that his church is providing a free Veteran's dinner this Saturday, November 9, at the Peaceful Valley Church, off of exit 14 on I-77, Cornbread Ridge Road, from 2 to 5pm. <https://www.facebook.com/events/543809829045140/>

The meeting was over by 737pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.