

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on February 3, 2014; Ryan's Steakhouse @ Bluefield, VA. <http://www.erarc.com>

The meeting was opened at 7pm by Harold Hodges N8NCP, ERARC President. There were 15 members in attendance. All were welcomed.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the January minutes. No corrections or additions noted.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. He made a \$15.00 deposit for membership and paid a phone bill in the amount of \$21.98. He re-filed with the IRS for our 501©3 non-profit status as well as renewed our business license with the State of West Virginia. (no charge due to a glitch by the company doing the internet-renewal application). Roger said that we now have 72 members which consists of 20 Extra, 2 Advanced, 11 General, 1 Technician Plus, 1 Novice, 31 Technicians and 6 family members listed on his books.

Don Anderson WD8OOR repeater report: The 145.49 and 147.06 are OK. Echolink does not work on the 145.49 nor the 442.45 machines. The 442.45 is not working at present. John Riddle N8RIG thinks that he has a computer that he will try to use to get Echolink back on the air, either 2M or 440, he will see which works out. Don and John said that they hope to get Echolink back on the air within a couple of weeks.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that THE NEXT ERARC ARRL VE TEST SESSION WILL BE THIS COMING SATURDAY AT 9AM AT THE MERCER COUNTY 911 CENTER. He has two people that are supposed to show up to test. The ERARC VE team has a balance of \$385.71.

Hooger re-read the following from the January meeting minutes:

"Bill had asked Hooger to send out an email questioning members about how to get more participation at meetings and how to get more people interested in membership. There was one reply as of last evening with three suggestions:

1) Update the [www.erarc.com](http://www.erarc.com) website as this is the public face of the ERARC. There are portions that are not current. For instance, the membership page has not been updated since January 4, 2010.

2) The Facebook page has not had a post since October 2013. These are small things yet they do not portray an energetic and active club.

3) Back in 2006, there was discussion to get the W8MOP APRS machine back on the air. It still is off the air. There are still hams in transit on I-77, etc. who use APRS and there are several weather stations in the area using APRS. This is another way to get the club 'out there'. It is also a great way to transmit accurate information during emergencies, thus keeping the voice channels open. Using APRS this way also keeps "scanner listeners" from hearing possible sensitive information over the airwaves. "There was discussion.

Hooger will email our webmaster David Lester N8VFR with items

that need to be updated. David recently supplied Hooger with the web address for the ERARC Facebook page and he is now using that link with his 'signature' on all electronic mailings. There was a lot of discussion about getting the packet and APRS back on the air. Don Anderson made a motion, seconded by Bill Sowers K8WBS to purchase new TNC units for these projects. It was decided that John Riddle will do the research and provide this information for this purchase. The 2M packet and APRS radios are on hand as are new ERARC Wintenna™ antennas in storage at the 911 Center.

Bill Sowers asks that when the East River Mountain radio sites are visited, that pictures are taken to show those not on the mountain what the equipment looks like. He says that it would be nice to know what is being talked about at meetings, etc. He also wanted to know if the Emergency services in Mercer County know what our capabilities are. The answer was "Yes". Bob Hoge N8RIR is the 911 director and knows as does the LEPC (local emergency planning committee) for Mercer County.

Table until next meeting: a 'local' HF frequency for our use in case of an emergency.

The meeting was over by 740pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.