

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on March, 2015 at Ryan's steakhouse in Bluefield, VA. <http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Backup meeting location at Burger King, Bluefield, Va.

The meeting was opened at 658pm by Harold Hodges N8NCP, ERARC President. There were 13 members and guests in attendance. All were welcomed.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the February minutes. The minutes were approved. Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. He paid a phone bill in the amount of \$23.13 and made one deposit of \$45.00.

Gary Kadar N8GK mentioned that at the February 14, 2015 VE test session that one new Technician tested and passed. This fellow is from Chilhowie, Va. The ARRL used to provide express mail postage for our reporting to them but now pay regular mail rates. This, along with President's day on that Monday and the horrible weather the northeast experienced caused the ARRL to receive our mailing after about 12 days. We have been used to receiving new licenses and upgrades within 3 to 4 days from the FCC. Not now. Also, Gary said that as of this last test session, the FCC will not be mailing paper licenses to recipients unless requested otherwise.

George Leedy KJ4BXS noticed that our paid membership was now 63 compared to 72 this time last year and was thinking about ways to make the Club more visible to the public as well as gaining new amateurs and members. There was a lot of discussion on this subject. He wondered if the Club would be interested in setting up an information booth at local events such as the Bluefield, VA. Fall Jamboree. More discussion ensued. Gary Kadar said that Ham Radio Operators are known as "the last resort" in emergency communications and that as bad as he hates to admit it, would have trouble mounting any local ham response to the need of emergency communications in our local area. He cited age, jobs, medical needs, age, etc. etc. age, etc. as brick walls in our way. There was discussion on how to get younger blood into the hobby. Harold mentioned that there is a WV state ARES net on the first Thursday of each month, after the WV Fone net. He said that all counties in WV are represented by an EC or SEC except for Mercer County. Discussion on ARES ensued. George Leedy asked that we try to get other websites to link our ERARC website to theirs, to get the word out that we do exist.

Hooger received the following email from Chris Hatcher KC8AFH after the last meeting: "(I was) wondering if your club or a group of guys would be interested in installing a DMR repeater? This is a new digital mode that is taking off very fast across the country and even around the world. I have one on the air in Beckley, another going on Bolt mtn. as soon we can get on the hill. I hope to get a lot of other clubs around the state involved in DMR this could help ARES and other groups across the state. You can find more info at www.ncprn.net You can find a power point at: <http://goo.gl/RuSm4e> Thanks Chris More information at: <http://dmr-marc.net>

There was a good discussion. It was decided to ask Chris Hatcher to come to one of the next ERARC meetings and enlighten us on this DMR system. Jay Belt knows a bit about this digital mode and said that he just purchased a hand-held this week for \$180. We will look further into this new mode. Roger Stefancic mentioned that we still need to repair the "blue" feed-line on the 911 Communications Trailer as well as straightening out the rear bumper. Don Anderson WD800R said that we would wait for warmer weather to take care of these two items. He has found that Tabor Machinery will help with the bumper repair for us. The meeting was over by 0743pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.
ERARC
P.O. Box 1362
Bluefield, WV 24701

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>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/296680905352/>