

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on July 6, 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 703pm by Harold Hodges N8NCP, ERARC President. There were 13 members and guests in attendance. Harold started out talking about Field Day on June 27-28. We only had 4 operators and 3 transmitters in operation this year. Gary Kadar N8GK and Don Anderson WD8OOR couldn't make it this year and that was at least two more transmitters. Randall Hash WB4BBF worked 40M CW and made 112 contacts. The 6pm dinner was attended by 15 people and the food was just wonderful. He also spoke about the publicity by the Bluefield Daily Telegraph as well as by W V V A television. There was a write-up in the paper and the TV station did a piece on amateur radio and the Club last Thursday. It was aired on Friday. See: <http://www.wvva.com/story/29471267/ham-radio-still-relevant-during-emergencies> AND, the Mercer Co. 911 communications trailer was used and Don Anderson saw that the rear bumper was repaired from last year. He also rebuilt the carburetor on the Club's 'big' generator. The 'small' generator was exercised at Field Day also. We were very fortunate to be able to use the 911 Center's generator also.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the June meeting. There were no changes made and they were approved. He passed out copies of the Field Day press release, the BDT piece from the June 24 edition and a Thank-You card from the Civil Air Patrol unit for the talk that our members did for them concerning Amateur Radio. Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. He paid a phone bill in the amount of \$23.17 as well as \$300 for the Club Liability Insurance policy. Bill Sowers K8WBS asked if we had talked any further about getting 'Magic Jack' Internet phone service. There was discussion and testimonials about this service. Even Jay Belt K8CTI said that he was impressed. He said that for \$59.95 we could get the hardware and soft ware and wirelessly connect to the existing internet connection on East River Mountain. The next year would cost \$39.95, saving the Club about \$240 per year. George Leedy KJ4BXS made the motion, seconded by Keith Jennings N8OP to purchase the system. A vote was taken, the motion passed. Hooger was contacted by Matt Morris last week, inquiring if the Club could help Princeton Rescue Squad study for and take the Technician licensing exam. Don Anderson supplied a WORD-formatted question pool, along with the CORRECT answers only to Hooger and he emailed them to Dave Johnston of PRS. There are 43 pages of this document which includes 3 pages of schematics. Through emails, Hooger said that the Club would hold question/answer sessions as needed before we test out the PRS personnel for the Technician license. Hooger asked about re-coordination of the repeaters that have recently been moved. Discussion. Don Anderson will contact John Riddle N8RIG, the caretaker of the W8MOP licenses, and have him look into the re-coordination. David Brewster KC4GIT said that the 145.17 Bolt Mountain repeater is back on the air and sounds good. Bill Sowers asked about the new DMR systems and how they are doing. Discussion. Keith Jennings said that he finally got the software to allow his CS-750 to be able to be programmed by direct input on that unit. <http://www.va3xpr.net/dmr-repeater-map/> (Hooger found several DMR links:

http://www.trbo.org/docs/Amateur_Radio_Guide_to_DMR.pdf found at

<http://www.trbo.org>. Other sites: <http://www.caldmr.org>
<http://www.w4c11.com> <http://www.dmr-marc.net> ." The meeting was over
by 737pm. Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary. ERARCP.O. Box
1362Bluefield, WV 24701