



East River Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.erarc.com>

Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2011

Location: Ryan's Steakhouse Bluefield, VA.

The August ERARC meeting was opened at 700pm by Doug Ritchey WG8D, ERARC President. There were 14 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 in attendance.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the June and July meetings. There were no additions, corrections or deletions noted. He passed around a copy of the actual Field Day report that was sent to the ARRL. We are claiming 1250 QSO points and 1150 bonus points for a total of 2400. Hooger gave a report on the ERARC Field Day participation.

THE CLUB WOULD LIKE TO THANK BOB HOGE N8RIR AND THE MERCER CO. 911 CENTER FOR USE OF THEIR COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER AND GENERATOR. This was the first dry run for both units and we were really impressed with their function and the comfort that the trailer provided. Bob et. al. had hardwired the trailer with at least four coaxial hook-ups which made setting up antenna feed lines so easy. Don Anderson WD8OOR said that the trailer and generator are available to us 24/7 if needed.

Harold Hodges N8NCP thanked Ginny Fisher KF4YBU for the big box of chicken for supper on Saturday and for breakfast on Sunday. Don Anderson was thanked for breakfast also.

A Shelby Hamfest flyer was also passed around. One can purchase pre-registration tickets for \$6 each and be registered to win an ICOM ID-880H Dstar/Analog dual band mobile radio by doing so. See <http://www.shelbyhamfest.com> for more information.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR gave the treasurer's report. He had no monies coming in or going out to report. He paid the State of West Virginia for our business certificate/license (this was changed to a permanent certificate/license this time) and changed the physical address for the Club to John Riddle's N8RIG home QTH since he's listed as trustee for the Club's radio licenses at the same address.

ERARC dues are now being accepted for the 2011-2012 year. They are still \$15.00 per Amateur with an additional \$1.00 for each Ham at the same mailing address. P.O. Box 1362, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Don Anderson reported that the repeaters were doing OK and that the '06 needs to be tweaked and he hopes to do this before the next meeting. Harold Hodges said that the WV Fone net needs check-ins at noon and at 6pm on 3.811 at night and at 3.865 and/or 7.325 in the daytime. He said that participation has dropped off dramatically.

Gary Kadar N8GK announced the August 13 ARRL test session at the Mercer County 911 Center at 9am. He's already had one person contact him about this test session. He has received the new General question pool and has destroyed the old ones. The grading stencils are new also. He mentioned that he/we are not responsible for test content; we just give the ARRL'S test for the ARRL.

David Garrett KA4TXY talked briefly about the D-star system in Florida. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D-STAR> There are now around 55 of these digital repeaters in the state with more and more coming on line. Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) has reportedly sold over 1100 new D-star radios just this year in that state alone. He said that he can key up the system with a one second PTT keydown and within that time, his call sign, name and location are known all over the world. This digital radio system can easily be interfaced with the internet and usually is. The radios are still a bit pricey as are the repeater systems. A new D-star HT can run from \$450 -500 on the lower end. (IF I heard him correctly:) One can connect an analog radio to a computer interface and get onto the D-star network.

Doug handed out a flyer announcing the ERARC September 5, 2011 "Mobile Station Contest" to be held in Ryan's parking lot after the ERARC business meeting. Judging will be on "our" personal vehicle's mobile radio capability. The judges will be looking for clean appearance, number of bands the vehicle is capable of and ease of use to the driver. This will be a great time to share ideas, knowledge and to learn something Ham-related. The grand prize will be a \$25.00 dinner gift certificate.

Doug reminded us to be sure to check out the ERARC Facebook pages. Browse; add comments, etc. while you're there.

Doug reminded us about the Tuesday night 8pm ARES net and the Saturday morning breakfast net at 745am. Bill Sowers K8WBS said that the breakfast can't be beat AND beverages are free for Amateur radio operators during the breakfast.

Doug: new business..... Need to get a nomination committee together for the upcoming election of officers for the 2011-2012 year. We need people to fill in the Club positions. Don Anderson and Gary Kadar talked about a fellow from Statesville, NC that wants to come to the Bluefield, WV Overlook, setup and work HF for those who need West Virginia contacts for fulfillment with Logbook of The World (<http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>) awards like Worked All States (WAS) and the like. He would like to use the shelter that is adjacent to the parking lot at the Overlook. He originally emailed Dave Sexton AB8D who contacted Don Anderson who contacted several of the ERARC members. Hooger and Ginny Fisher went to the site to check out

the AC availabilities for him and took pictures for him. He's been looking at the site via Google Earth
<http://maps.google.com/maps?t=h&hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=37.254576,-81.184416&spn=0.002886,0.005681&z=18&layer=t> >
<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&ll=37.254141,-81.184207&spn=0.002699,0.005681&z=18> only and as you can imagine, there's not much left to the imagination for him. His name is Kevin Manzer N4UFO. Gary Kadar suggested that at the least, we could help him out in any way and even give him use of one of our generators if need be.

Doug Ritchey won the 50/50 drawing for the Club's flower fund.

The meeting was over by 7:40pm Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

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