

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on May 4, 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 7pm by Harold Hodges N8NCP, ERARC President. There were 21 members and guests in attendance. Hooger Fisher W4OF read the April minutes. The minutes were approved. We have one more Sam's Club membership available thru the Club at \$45 if interested.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. He paid a phone bill in the amount of \$23.17, paid \$1820.00 for the new DMR repeater, \$28.00 for insurance on the DMR repeater and made one deposit of \$65.00.

Harold mentioned that the 2015 ARRL Field Day will be on June 27-28 and the ERARC will hold our event at Boy Scout Camp Roland in Bastian, Va. There will be a pot luck dinner at probably 6pm on the 27th. <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

There was discussion about the new DMR system. Jay Belt K8CTI said that he will move the DMR repeater from Onieda Peak in Springville, Va. to the 145.49/442.45/53.10 site on East River Mountain, just above Ryan's. The coverage with a handheld is spotty at Onieda and will be much better in Bluefield. Jay says that it's about 12 air miles from this site to Princeton vs. about 24 miles from Oneida. He mentioned that there is about 15 to 20% better coverage with digital vs. analog. Jay introduced Mike Garrett of <http://wvva.net> as a potential new amateur and member. Don Anderson WD8OOR said that the new 145.49 repeater has a few hiccups and still needs some tweaking. Hooger tried three times to record announcements on this unit but it did not work.

Gary Kadar N8GK: THERE WILL BE AN ARRL VE TEST SESSION THIS SATURDAY AT 9am AT THE MERCER COUNTY 911 CENTER IN GREEN VALLEY BETWEEN BLUEFIELD AND PRINCETON, WV.

Don Walker KD8MKY, also a member of the Civil Air Patrol in Bluefield, WV said that he knows of about 3 or 4 Cadets, young people, that are interested in obtaining their Technician licenses. He asked if the Club could help in their study and licensing. There are three Technician study guides in the local libraries for use and Don Anderson asked Don for his email address and he would forward information on this subject as well as the whole 500+ question pool and answers.

Dottie Walker KD8NEV asked if some ERARC members would be able to attend a CAP meeting on a Tuesday evening and talk about amateur radio. Stephen Rector W8QHC volunteered to purchase an additional Technician study guide book and go to the May 12th meeting. Jay Belt said that he would attend also. Don Anderson said that the study material and instruction is taken care of and that there are \$50 handheld radios on the market which makes Ham Radio much more affordable than we've been used to.

More questions were fielded by members concerning DMR in general. Stephen asked if there was an instructional video or the like to explain the terminology, etc. about DMR. Hooger found several 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.w4c1l.com> <http://www.dmr-marc.net> .

Keith Jennings NO8P mentioned his CS-750 DMR handheld; Jay Belt said that the CS-700 can be upgraded to 750 status for \$45 by Connect Systems with important upgrades, the main one being direct manual entry/programming via the keyboard on the front of this unit vs. computer programming. Roger said that the CS-800 DMR mobile is around \$280. Keith said to order now if you want one of the first ones as the delivery date is this July. <http://www.connectsystems.com/>

Hooger read a flyer from the Breezeshooters Hamfest and Computer Show on June 7, 2015 in Butler, PA. They sent two admission tickets for our use. There were no takers. If you would like these 2 tickets, email me at w4of@hotmail.com <http://www.breezeshooters.org> .

The meeting was over by 740pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

ERARC

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