

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on November 7, 2022
<http://www.erarc.com> Local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7pm at 704 Bland Street, Room 523, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Vice President: David Sexton AB8D, Treasurer; Jay Belt K8CTI, Secretary: George "Hooger" Fisher III W4OF, Webmaster: David Lester N8VFR (Mike Clemons KM4UCR has resigned from the President's position due to his work schedule and limited availability.) Davis asked for a moment of silence for Dale McCarty KD4IFD SK and Steve O'Dell N8SNR SK.

The meeting was opened at 0700pm by David Sexton AB8D, VP. He welcomed the other 12 in attendance and Matt Morris recognized Brian Blankenship KE8VVA who is a new Technician from the BLAST Technician class held on October 8. There were two participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight.

Hooger Fisher read the October 7, 2022 minutes and they were approved.

Jay Belt gave the Treasurer's report: no expenditures, 3 membership renewals were received he received two more renewals tonight. An Amazon Prime donation of \$37.52 was received.

Repeaters: Jay said that the 147.06 PL 103.5 is now a YAESU DR-2X SYSTEM FUSION digital and analog repeater (primarily 147.06) and a 442.45 repeater secondly. (The ERARC digital group room number on the 147.06 is 65084. One can enter this number from another location and connect directly to this repeater.) Mike Clemons KM4UCR did add the 'America Link' digital group also. Thanks to Don Anderson WD8OOR for his donation of an audio recording chip for the repeater. We'll be able to add announcements as needed. Nelson Linkous WZ8E made several comments about the repeater and how Amateurs from relatively far away are using the repeater. He also mentioned that the 146.895- PL 100 near Independence, Va. at 4520' is seeing a lot of activity and has a very large footprint. Give it a try he says.

DMR net by David Sexton AB8D: (Net is every Tuesday at 0730pm on the W8MOP 444.45 DMR repeater on the 3154 WV statewide talk group.)

Skywarn: The weekly Monday net is at 0730pm on 145.49. Jaiden Borich K4NFP and Dave Sexton have been running this net.

Volunteer Examiner: Keith Jennings AD8L. The ERARC ARRL VE team tests quarterly (Feb May Aug Nov) on the second Saturday at 9am at 704 Bland St., Room 523, Bluefield, WV. The next session will be this week on November 12, 2022. (Those testing must have a FCC Registration Number and valid email address before testing. The cost to test is \$15 and we will accept cash and check but NO PLASTIC. The new Technician question pool took effect on July 1, 2022. The new FCC \$35 licensing fee will be billed by the FCC, NOT THE ERARC. <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn>) Keith knows 4-5 Amateurs planning on testing. The next session will be on February 11, 2023.

Nelson Linkous WZ8E has had several people asking about a BLAST class for the General license as well as another Technician BLAST class. Discussion. He hopes to hold another Technician class in February.

ELMER CLASS is on hold unless a special request is made. It was held on the first Saturday monthly at 1pm.

Elections: David said that he, Jay and Hooger have all volunteered to keep their respective offices for the next year. George Dietrich KF4YGL, Matt Morris KC8LGS and Berlon Roberts W8ZBR had been nominated for President. David handed out paper and we voted on our choice for the office. Matt Morris received the majority of the votes. Matt thank the group for their confidence in him and made other comments as to ways to promote the Club and Amateur Radio. He asked that we all call and invite other Amateurs that are/are not/were members and invite them to a meeting.

Matt had contacted the "Sauced and Loaded" restaurant at the Mall concerning having our Christmas meeting and dinner there on December 5, 2022 at 7pm. Discussion. Matt will confirm the date. Members, spouses, family members, friends, etc. are welcome. Menu found on 'net: Online Menu of Sauced N Loaded Restaurant, Bluefield, West Virginia, 24701 - Zmenu

Berlon would like to see an updated membership list on our website. Jay will give him a list and Berlon will put it in PDF form for publication. Jay says that according to the by-laws, our renewal month for the ERARC membership year is September 1.

George Leedy KJ4BXS mentioned that Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR SK has passed away recently. Hooger had previously sent out emails to members about this.

Charles Hampton K8CEH, via ZOOM, asked the membership to consider helping the Salvation Army with their bell-ringing campaign this December on a Saturday from 10 to 8. We could do this in shifts. He said that it would put a positive light on our organization. Matt volunteered immediately. Discussion. We will discuss this further at the Christmas meeting/dinner.

David Lester N8VFR thanked all involved with the BLAST class. He has two employees who are now licensed. He hopes to upgrade to General this coming Saturday.

The meeting was over at 0751pm.