

Christmas dinner: Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club's dinner was held on December 4, 2023 <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.)

President Matt Morris KC8LGS Vice President: David Sexton AB8D, Treasurer; Jay Belt K8CTI, Secretary: George "Hooger" Fisher III W4OF, Webmaster: David Lester N8VFR, HamClubOnline liaison and VE team leader Berlon Roberts W8ZBR

The ERARC 2023 Christmas dinner was a success. There were 27 members and guests in attendance and it seemed that a good time was had by all. We would like to thank Culture Cantina and Guatemalan Restaurant for the use of their facilities and for the great service and food. A big thanks to the following for donating door prizes:

David Lester N8VFR / Swiftnet Integration [swiftnet.us](http://swiftnet.us) a digital download of the software from [hamradiodeluxe.com](http://hamradiodeluxe.com)

Henry Shinn KC3KGY / Hidden Hollow ATV Ranch [hiddenhollowatv.com](http://hiddenhollowatv.com) a gift certificate to Ol No. 3 Restaurant, Pocahontas, Va [www.oleno3.com](http://www.oleno3.com)

Matt Morris KC8LGS donated a gift certificate from [DXengineering.com](http://DXengineering.com)

Ginny Fisher KF4YBU donated the table center pieces as well as two Pro Power Save-Energy Saving Devices.

Henry Miller W3BWN donated the whole 2023 set of QST to a member.

We took up donations for the Bluefield Union Mission as well as a signed Christmas card to them. Hooger delivered all of this to them on Tuesday.

There was no business brought up and we will continue on our monthly meeting schedule on Monday, January 1, 2024.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year to you and yours.

\*FYI below: \*\*\*

(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. Matt Morris and others man the net.

ARES net: The third Thursday at 0730pm on the 145.49 repeater.

EC: Mercer County ARES Emergency Coordinator is Matt Morris. Matt has asked that we, the membership, contact him and volunteer to be ARES members.

Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC ARRL VEC . The ERARC VE team tests on the second Saturday on a quarterly basis in February, May, August and November. **The next session will be on February, 10, 2024.** at 9am at 704 Bland St. Bluefield, WV, room 523. The VE team must have a copy

of your current license if applicable, a photo ID is a must as well as a copy of a CSCE if applicable. (Those testing must have a FCC Registration Number and valid email address before testing. The cost is \$15 and we will accept cash and check but NO PLASTIC. The new General question pool took effect on July 1, 2023. The new FCC \$35 federal licensing fee must be paid to the FCC, NOT THE ERARC.  
<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources> )

Nelson Lindous WZ8E has said that there will be another Technician Blast class in February at the Raleigh County 911 Center. There are more people from that area wanting to take the class than from the Bluefield area.

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