

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on February 2, 2016 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 Bill Sowers K8WBS, ERARC Vice President. There were 13 members/guests in attendance.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the January meeting. There were no changes made and they were approved.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. ERARC \$6,416.66. He deposited \$15.00 in renewals.

Roger announced that he will be starting a Skywarn Practice net next Monday at 0730pm and it will be held weekly except on the Monday that the Club meets. He has been in touch with the Blacksburg, Va. NWS concerning Skywarn and we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with them to allow their use of the 145.49 and 146.07 machines to inquire about local weather during inclement periods. The contact person at the NWS has said that they plan on holding Skywarn classes, probably at WVVA Television station in the near future. If one would like to become a Skywarn weather spotter, this class will fill the bill and/or one can register for their online class offered at:

<http://www.weather.gov/rnk/skywarn> .

Roger also said that the Sam's Club memberships through the Club can be renewed at the Sam's customer service desk. There are maybe two more memberships available if someone is interested. The current memberships expire in May.

Gary said that the next ARRL VE test session will be on February 13, 2016 at 9am at the Mercer County 911 Center.

Keith Jennings NO8P said that he had been thinking about how to possibly get more public interest in Amateur Radio and he penned a

letter to the major radio manufacturers and the ARRL asking for any paraphernalia that could be handed out at any event that we may attend. Within one week, he received about 500 flyers from Kenwood. There was more discussion as to how, when and where that we could setup in the community and show that we are a public service entity. Discussion. It was stated that a good beginning for this public information, etc. could be finding someone to fill the position of ARRL EC for Mercer County.

Jay Belt K8CTI is still working on the Magic Jack telephone device installation on the 145.49.

Bill Cooley, BSA Mt. Dominion District Chairman for the Buckskin Council was introduced. He is at the meeting tonight to inquire about our possible placement of a crank-up tower at Boy Scout Camp Roland in Bastian, VA. This would also double as an alternate flagpole. He also said that he doubted that the Jamboree on the Air event could coincide with the Fall Camporee in October but that we could have a free-standing JOTA event. Ed Evans WV8ED has procured the K2BSA/8 callsign for this event. Bill mentioned that he has something to do with the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce and those we may want to consider setting up a booth at the Mercer County fair in August.

Roger worked the "ARRL Winter Field Day" event this past weekend and worked 37 stations from his "1H" category station in Princeton, WV.

The meeting was over by 735pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

ERARC

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