

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on October 3, 2016 at The Valley Country Restaurant, Green Valley, WV.
<http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Backup meeting location at Burger King, Bluefield, Va.

The meeting was opened at 0656pm by Keith Jennings NO8P, ERARC President. There were 17 members/ guests in attendance. Keith welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their vote of confidence in electing him as President. He hopes to build membership and find some way to add to the Club's coffers with some form of fundraiser(s). He recognized Cruz Soto KE8BRP from McDowell County and it was mentioned that Ed Evans WV8ED couldn't make the meeting due to obligations as he wanted to be there to talk about Jamboree on the Air.

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

Keith read a financial report from George Leedy KJ4BXS, ERARC Treasurer, as George was not in attendance tonight. THERE ARE TWO MORE SAM'S CLUB MEMBERSHIPS (THRU THE CLUB) AVAILABLE IF ANY MEMBER IS INTERESTED.

WE ARE ACCEPTING DUES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR! \$15 per Amateur. \$1 for additional Ham at the same address. We appreciate your supporting local Amateur communications in our community.

When asked for a repeater report, Don Anderson said, "They are working." He said that the DMR repeater is working well now and Jay Belt K8CTI said that the DMR feed line was replaced with a shielded cable (donated by Mike Clemons KM4UCR) AND as it turned out, the digital signals with the old feed line were causing noise on the 145.49 machine. Roger Stefancic KC8LGR said that he heard a 'father, mother and child' talking to one another on the 147.06 frequency last Tuesday and when he asked them to identify, they stopped transmitting.

Keith introduced the new ARRL Mercer County, WV Emergency Coordinator Matt Morris, KC8LGS. The last time he was at an ERARC meeting, he was trying to help the Club market itself to the community. He is now the "Director of Business and Strategic Initiatives" for Princeton Community Hospital. He was a 20-year employee/paramedic of the OH-9 ambulance service years ago. He is working with the Emergency Operations Center at PCH with Mark Pickett, RN for disaster preparedness and hopes to see Ham Radio involved in this preparedness and mock drills in the future. PCH has a Yaesu HF/UHF/VHF transceiver in the E.D. there and he is going to make sure that it is functional. Matt met last week with the Mercer County LEPC (local emergency planning committee) at the 911 Center. He is currently taking EC training from the ARRL. He suggested that we monitor new Ham licensees in the area and contact them, asking them to attend our meetings, saying basically, "now that you have your ticket, come and join us and we will show you the rest of Amateur radio that you don't know about." He also mentioned that there are grants for organizations/entities such as ARES/ERARC, etc. available and he is going to look into this possibility. Steve O'Dell N8SNR volunteered to be an Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) and help Matt. Gary Kadar N8GK mentioned that <http://www.qrz.com> lists new licensees on their webpage

daily. Bill Sowers K8WBS, ERARC Vice President proposed giving a free one-year membership to newly licensed Hams. Discussion ensued. Hooger looked up "ARRL Special Service Club" on his phone and reported that once a Club has this designation, the ARRL will notify of newly licensed/upgraded Hams in our area. We will look into this.

Cruz Soto KE8BRP talked about the linked system that is setup in McDowell County and his desire to give us a 220 link radio to connect to one of our machines to give a broader range into and out of McDowell County.

Keith said that the Christmas dinner will be here before we know it and that Ginny Fisher KF4YBU had contacted La Fiesta Mexican restaurant and we are on their reservation book for December 5, 2016 from 6pm to 8pm. We will meet upstairs. There is an elevator in the building.

October 14-16, Scouting event Jamboree on the Air. (<http://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>). The event will be held at Boy Scout Camp Roland and we will be using the K2BSA/8 call sign for this event. The local Scouting District is having their Fall Camporee on that weekend and JOTA will be a part of it. Ed Evans hopes that 60+ young people will attend and he hopes that we can get several HF radios on the air in order to make contacts with other Scouting groups around the country/world. We will also demonstrate UHF/VHF/DMR, and hopefully other modes of communications. Keith is going to use his rig and loop and 'Alpha EZ Military' antennas. Randall Hash WB4BBF is working CW and has his own power, radio and antenna. The Club will have an HF radio and use the tri-bander antenna on the 'new' antenna tower at Roland. Ed plans on teaching the Radio Merit Badge (<http://www.usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/mb093.asp>) during the weekend also.

The meeting was over by 747pm.

"To Do" list: via Roger: check the 440 radio at the 911 Center. He says that it is not working.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.
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After the meeting, Cruz Soto drew Hooger a map of the linked system in McDowell County. He has 147.33, 443.1, 29.66, and 52.525 (remote) at Mt. View High School. On Belcher Mountain at the airport is the 440 hub. Caretta includes the 145.45 and 53.19 machines. Iaeger has the 147.655 repeater. All are linked by 220 and can end up on Onieda Peak in Tazewell County which can connect to 442.25 KF4OVA in Fancy Gap, Va. THIS can link down into the Carolinas. He's a busy guy.