

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on
September 5, 2011; Ryan's Steakhouse Bluefield, VA.

<http://www.erarc.com>

The September ERARC meeting was opened at 703pm by Doug Ritchey WG8D, ERARC President. There were 15 members and guests in attendance. Doug had a handout for those in attendance which included: "MISSION STATEMENT: 'To promote fellowship between amateur radio operators, radio enthusiasts and the general public. To bring new people into the hobby by informing, teaching, and examining for license. To promote cooperation with outside clubs and associations to our mutual benefit and the overall good of amateur radio. To have fun with all things radio.'"

Doug welcomed all in attendance and asked for a moment of silence to reflect on the life of Ronnie Childress KD8HBO who passed away last Wednesday.

Doug asked Lonnie Underwood to speak on Ronnie's life as they were good friends. Lonnie spoke of Ronnie's last few hours and about what a good man he was and how hard he had worked on ARES in Mercer County, WV as the Emergency Coordinator until his wife became ill and subsequently died. She and Ronnie had adopted their grandson and he became Ronnie's 'lifework'. Ronnie and Lonnie were just like brothers and depended on each other during trying times. Ronnie will be sorely missed. God bless you, Ronnie, KD8HBO-SK.

Doug postponed the Mobile Radio contest for this evening due to the torrential rains that we've had all day. (The ERARC October 3, 2011 "Mobile Station Contest" will be held in Ryan's parking lot after the ERARC business meeting. Judging will be on the personal vehicle's mobile radio capability, clean appearance, and number of bands the vehicle is capable of and ease of use to the driver. This will be a great time to share ideas, knowledge and to learn something Ham-related. The grand prize will be a \$25.00 dinner gift certificate.)

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the August meeting. There were no additions, corrections or deletions noted.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR gave the treasurer's report. He had paid two phone bills for \$37.64, purchased a \$10.00 jump drive for all of the Treasurer's computer information, and had taken in \$382.00 in dues renewals. He now has received around 40 renewals so far and there were 98 paid memberships as of the end of last fiscal year.

ERARC dues are now being accepted for the 2011-2012 year. They are still \$15.00 per Amateur with an additional \$1.00 for each Ham at the same mailing address.

ERARC P.O. Box 1362, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Doug thanked Roger for taking care of the flower fund expenditure for Ronnie's funeral.

Don Anderson WD8OOR reported that the repeaters were doing OK and that the '06 may be getting "some improvements" within the next month. (There was no elaboration of this comment). Don asked the Club of their interest in possibly linking the 145.49 to the 147.06 via 440 MHz. It would be a system in which one could 'bring up the link' or 'take down the link' by DTMF commands from either machine. Discussion. By a show of hands, those present agreed that this would be something to look into and asked Don to continue to gather information for this move. John Riddle N8RIG said that the N8RIG 6M machine could also be hard-wired-linked into the 145.49 as it had been done before. He said that if it was linked, that those listening would know when a 6M opening was occurring.

Don said that we need a work crew to go to the '49 repeater site for several projects that need to be performed before colder weather sets in. (Look for email alerts forthcoming to announce the date and time).

Gary Kadar N8GK mentioned that there were testers but no test-takers at the August ERARC ARRL VE test session. He also voiced concerns on those coming to test since the 911 center now has their parking lot and other entries under lock and key. He said that it's almost scary for a potential test taker to witness the "correctional center look" (w4of quote marks and comment) of the Center now with all of the fencing and barbed wire. He also expressed concerns that when he shows up at the front door, the dispatchers don't know that we're coming and are almost clueless to the ERARC test sessions. Gary said that he would like to make some laminated signage for those coming to test so that they would know that they're in the right place. Don Anderson said that he would talk to Bob Hoge N8RIR, the 911 Director about these concerns.

On another note, Gary found out at the August test session that Arlie Hick's N8AH wife had passed away 6 months before then. No one in the Club knew about this and we want to honor her as we do all member's/spouse's passing. Discussion. Don Anderson will go by Arlie's and talk to him. Don also mentioned that he went by Bob Frazier's WB8NRK home and was surprised as to how much better Bob is communicating and getting around. Trancy Belcher KA8CFR said that he had seen Bob recently and agreed with Don's observations.

Doug reminded us to be sure to check out the ERARC Facebook pages. He said that it was within just a few hours that

we all found out about Ronnie Childress' passing due to Facebook.

Lonnie Underwood KI4EED, Mercer Co. ARES EC talked about the local group. He hopes to get a mock disaster situation going on sometime in September or October. He reminds us all of the Tuesday @8pm net on the 145.49 repeater. You do not have to be an ARES member to help. Please let Lonnie know that you're there if needed. Thanks! Lonnie and Doug talked briefly about the Northern Virginia ARES activation during the recent earthquake that totally overloaded the cell phone systems and ARES was activated.

Doug: Need to get a nomination committee together for the upcoming election of officers for the 2011-2012 year. We need people to fill in the Club positions. Don Anderson made a motion, seconded by Lonnie Underwood to keep the current officers for the upcoming year but Doug said that would be OK IF all of the current officers agreed and that he had a "real problem" with that. Lonnie expressed interest in being on the nominating committee.

Gary Kadar mentioned the ARRL September VHF contest (<http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf-qso-party>) this coming weekend. Due the short notice, serious discussion will occur at Saturday's breakfast meeting taking in account any interest, weather, location and other factors.

Steve O'Dell won the 50/50 drawing for the Club's flower fund. The meeting was over by 8:10pm

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

1) TO DO LIST: Antenna for the Bluefield, Va. Rescue Squad (ongoing per Lonnie)