

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on
November 7, 2011; Ryan's Steakhouse Bluefield, VA.

<http://www.erarc.com>

The November ERARC meeting was opened at 700pm by Doug Ritchey WG8D, ERARC President. There were 17 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 and mentioned that Harold Hodges N8NCP had to be out of town and would not give his talk on the National Traffic System tonight. It has been postponed for a meeting next year. Check out:

<http://www.arrrl.org/nts> for more information on NTS and radiograms. <http://www.arrrl.org/arrrl-radiogram-form> .

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes from the October meeting. There were no additions, corrections or deletions noted. He mentioned that the Club had received an acknowledgement of donation to the Stop Abusive Family Environments <http://www.safewv.org> in Welch, WV in honor of David Sexton's AB8D father, Mr. Charles W. Sexton.

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR gave the treasurer's report. He now has received around 79 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. Mail to: ERARC, P.O. Box 1362, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Lonnie Underwood KI4EED spoke briefly about Bland and Mercer County ARES saying that he has a good collection of good equipment if needed and that the Bland Co. Sheriff's department is now on board. He has Camp Roland for use if needed as well as other sites for use. On Facebook, look up "Mercer County WV ARES" for more information. 59 members are listed there right now. Lonnie mentioned that he did Jamboree On The Air on October 15 at Boy Scout Camp Roland. There were a lot of Cub Scouts present and he and the kids got on the air and made contacts. He had a good time.

Don Anderson WD8OOR reported that he and several of the ERARC members (KC8LGR, K8CTI, W4OF) made a trip to the 145.49 site and had a work day to improve the feed line to the antenna system. We need to get another trip scheduled before winter sets in. The 147.06 is getting a 'new' CAT 250 controller and 'new' radio, hopefully before the next meeting as the equipment is still being tweaked on the bench. The controller will allow linking capability. <http://www.catauto.com/cat250.html>

Gary Kadar N8GK mentioned the upcoming ARRL VE test session this Saturday, November 12 at 9am at the Mercer County 911 Center. He has been contacted by one person wishing to test. Doug mentioned that the Extra Class question pool is scheduled to be replaced July 2012 so if you're studying, make sure to take and pass the test by then in order to avoid the new questions. Gary also mentioned that he had all but not renewed his ARRL membership and that the ARRL sent him an offer for free books, etc. to entice him to renew. He chose a CD with bunches and bunches of neat information, several power-point presentations and actual sounds of the different modes of communications that one would hear on the radio.

Doug reminded us to check out the Club's Facebook pages. Search "East River Amateur Radio Club". There are 81 members listed there right now.

Lonnie reminded us of the Tuesday ARES net on the 145.49 repeater at 8pm. Doug reminded us of the Saturday morning breakfast net at 7:45am.

Bill Sowers K8WBS and Doug talked about the following letter that they received recently. It has been checked for authenticity and the URL provides the story from the Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

"Dear Douglas and Bill, I am writing you asking if you would have any funds for donations to help my father and family. My father, mother and myself have radio licenses and used to be very involved in the club many years ago. Carl, Judy and Danita Fletcher.

My father was pulled out of his car and attacked by 3 men on July 20th on Mercer Street in Princeton. He was med-flighted to Charleston Trauma center with a bleed on his brain and was on life support for 4 weeks. For the last 7 weeks he had been in a Rehab center in Beckley regaining his mobility on his left side where it was paralyzed from the brain injury. He has a traumatic brain injury and needs care 24 hours a day. His teeth were knocked out and his glasses were broken. I have never asked for help from someone in my life, nor my family, but we are in desperate

need of help in order for him to come home in 3 weeks. We need to get our home handicap accessible and pay for these other expenses that we don't have the money for. My mother works 40 hours a week and can't afford to quit her job to take care of him so he needs to be able to stay with me during the day. The following is a link to the local news station that covered this. They never released his name because they are still searching for the 3rd man. Please let me know if you are able to help or might know of someone who can. Thank you for your time! Danita Fletcher"

<http://www.wvva.com/story/15125197/two-jailed-after-man-severely-beaten-in-princeton>

From Hooger: Danita N8WYU is the daughter of Carl "Mort" Fletcher N8OLG, the man who was attacked. His wife is Judy N8RIF, the sister of Bill "Fuzz" Fisher W5WMF, ex. WV5TX, ex. WA8RHT who used to live in Bluefield (Bill designed the ERARC logo). The Fletcher's address is: 1195 Cabin Branch Road, Rock, WV 24747. Bill Sowers is taking up money to send to the family also. IF you would like to send some funds to the family via Bill, his address is: 602 Old Oakvale Road, Princeton, WV 24740.

John Riddle N8RIG said that the "N8R_ _" call signs expire on Dec. 24 of this year and he should know. Doug mentioned the ERARC Christmas Dinner at <6pm> on December 5 at Ryan's Steakhouse. He asked that we, again, bring some sort of gift to exchange, nothing expensive, but something fun. ((Hooger checked with the Ryan's management after this meeting and we ARE ON the book at 6pm on December 5))

Bill Sowers said that George Dietrich KF4YGL had moved to Lynchburg, VA and has taken a full time position with Flowers Baking.

Doug: Elections. Cathy Underwood KG4CTK made a motion, seconded by Mike Puckett KE4MFO to keep the current officers for the upcoming year. Doug put an end to that suggestion and then there were no takers for the President and Vice President slots. Discussion. More discussion. The current motion was taken, voted upon and the current officers will keep their respective offices.

The meeting was over at 743pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

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