

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on April 1, 2013; Ryan's Steakhouse Bluefield, VA.
<http://www.erarc.com>

The meeting was opened at 703pm by Steve Rector W8QHC, ERARC President. There were 11 members and guests in attendance. All were welcomed. He has had his Novice call, KA8QHC, for 30 years and got his new vanity call recently.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the March minutes. No changes were noted by the membership. He also read Roger Stefancic's KC8LGR Treasurer's report in Roger's absence. He paid a phone bill in the amount of \$20.80 and made a \$1772.25 payment to Sibley Communications for purchase of two Station-Master antennas to replace the broken ones for the 147.06 and 442.25 repeaters. This also included a shipping bill of \$150.00. These antennas are 20 and 25 feet long, respectively.

Jay Belt K8CTI gave a repeater report. The 145.49 machine is on Don Anderson's workbench awaiting a new PA board. The backup repeater is on the mountain now and its audio is very scratchy at best. The new Station-Master antennas are going to be installed when the "West Virginia tower crew" can come to Mercer County and install them on the 911 Center's tower at the Windmill Gap site. Brian Leedy KI4URO asked if the feedlines for these antennas are OK and Jay said that they were. Each has 7/8" hardline that is pretty new. It was mentioned that the 54.37 6M N8RIG machine is off the air due to a damaged antenna at the East River Mountain site above WalMart.

Gary Kadar N8GK was asked about the ERARC VE team and he said that Danny Church N8SNU had contacted him wanting to join the team. Danny has an Extra class license. **Steve** asked about the local ARES leadership since Lonnie Underwood KI4EED resigned from the Mercer County emergency Coordinator position. No new information was expressed. **Gary** said that the battery-powered radios at the 911 Center need to be tested and charged in order to keep them viable. Steve told a story about the 1985 flood at Parsons, WV. There was no ARES back then and on the WV phone net after that time, the ARRL WV Section Manager was looking for an EC for Taylor County, WV. In 1986, Steve and his wife went about the county and signed up 21 ARES members. He was asked to be the Assistant District EC. It was a really good experience for him and he met many good Amateur Radio operators. He asked if anyone knew of a replacement for Lonnie.

Steve apologized for missing the past two meetings due to his need to be in Charleston for his job.

Brian Leedy would like to give a program at the next meeting on his internet remote base that he has working pretty well. He wants to demo how his ICOM IC-7410 HF radio works from a remote location from a laptop or even an Iphone or Ipad.

Gary Kadar said that he and/or John Riddle N8RIG have been attending the Mercer County Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings on the third Tuesday at noon at the 911 Center and that due to his job is looking for someone to attend the meeting and represent the ERARC. He may be able to attend some of the meetings. Attendance will let the 911 LEPC members know that we exist and allow us to keep up with what is going on in the County.

Harold Hodges N8NCP reminded all in attendance that the WV ARES net will be this Thursday (the first Thursday of the month) after the WV fone net on 3.811 at 5pm.

The meeting was over by 733pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.