

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on November 7, 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 7pm by Keith Jennings NO8P, ERARC President. There were 16 members/ guests in attendance. Keith welcomed everyone

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

George Leedy KJ4BXS, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. He has received about 30 renewals for membership so far. THERE ARE TWO MORE SAMS CLUB MEMBERSHIPS (THRU THE CLUB) AVAILABLE IF ANY MEMBER IS INTERESTED.

WE ARE ACCEPTING DUES FOR THE UPCOMING 2016-2017 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 145.49 is stuck on Daylight Savings Time but he's working on changing that. He also mentioned that the link between the 145.49 and 147.06 is experiencing problems and it's being worked on.

Hooger read a note from David Garrett KA4TXY from Florida. He says that he received his SERA repeater journal (<http://www.sera.org/>) and it lists in VA, 145.49 and the 442.45 as having PL tones of 103.5 and in the WV listing, 147.06 and 444.45 have a PL tone of 123.0 ***The SERA would like to have verification and any updates from the owners or trustees of the Club repeaters. John Riddle N8RIG is the trustee for the Club's repeaters.*** David says that the SERA only lists DMR repeaters in Beckley and on Bolt Mountain from our local area even though we have one. He cannot connect via Echolink to our area. Don Anderson says that he'll work on that problem also. (David mentioned that ICOM has their D-Star repeaters on sale for \$1500; half price.) Our DMR repeater is working well now and Jay Belt K8CTI said that the DMR feed line was replaced with a new shielded cable and has a new 5.8ghz wireless modem (all donated by Mike Clemons KM4UCR of

<http://www.wvva.net/> .)

Keith read a note from the new ARRL Mercer County, WV Emergency Coordinator Matt Morris, KC8LGS. Items included:

1) He believes that there is grant money available to the Club, both locally and from organizations like the ARRL. He asks that we group our needs into (a) Things that we need and (b) Things that we want and then go from there.

2) Dave Thompson, Fire Chief of the Green Valley/ Glenwood Fire Department said that we could meet there for our meetings if we so desire. His only request is that we clean up after ourselves.

3) He programmed the FT 897 transceiver in the ED at Princeton Community Hospital. He plans on using this radio to check into the Monday Skywarn nets at 730pm. He hopes to have the Club have a part in future mock disaster drills in the area.

4) He is currently taking the ARRL EC training courses.

Discussion. Bill Sowers K8WBS made a motion, seconded by Roger Stefancic KC8LGR to keep meeting at the current location until something better comes available, mainly due to food availability. The motion passed.

Keith showed the BSA JOTA shirt he was given and talked about his JOTA experience at Camp Roland on October 15. Roger Stefancic, Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR, Don Anderson, Randall Hash WB4BBF, Ed Evans WV8ED, Hooger and Keith all helped with the event. Keith wanted us to keep this item in mind as we move forward: 1) giving a free one-year membership to newly licensed Hams. 2) check into the Club being designated as an "ARRL Special Service Club".

Don Anderson gave a report on trying to repair the rotor controller that Bill Sowers had donated with the tower at Camp Roland. Don contacted different repair shops and none of them will work on this model of Yaesu controller. The parts are not being made any more. The rotor works well but one does not know as to where the antenna is pointing by looking at the dial.

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

New business: Don Anderson asked the membership if we would be interested in sponsoring a new 220 repeater in the area. This offer, if it comes to fruition, will include the radio, controller, duplexers, all hardline / feed lines, antenna, power supply, etc. It will not cost the Club anything. Discussion. Steve O'dell N8SNR made a motion, seconded by Bill Sowers to pursue this venture. The motion passed with a vote. Jay Belt K8CTI said that it really should be placed in WV above the overlook at the site the takes care of.

Gary Kadar N8GK announced that there will be an ARRL VE test session this Saturday, November 12, 2016 at 9am at the Mercer County 911 Center. All tests will be given. He asks that if someone would need special examination procedural accommodation testing, that this be pre-arranged. The cost for all testing is still \$15.

Keith asked for introduction from guests Frank Monaco (The Computer Doctor, Princeton, WV), Andrew Davis, and Natasha Cline. They are interested in getting licensed.

The meeting was over by 753pm.

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

Keith: look into giving new licensees free 1 year membership to the Club.

Hooger: Special Service Club designation.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

ERARC

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