

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on July 4, 2016 at Burger King restaurant, Bluefield, Va. (The Valley Country Restaurant is closed for the holiday). <http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Backup meeting location at Burger King, Bluefield, Va. The meeting was opened at 0658pm by Harold Hodges N8NCP, ERARC President. There were 17 members/ guests in attendance. Harold welcomed all to the meeting especially new members Greg Hill N8APP and his wife Debbie K8AGC from Spanishburg, WV.

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

Roger Stefancic KC8LGR, ERARC Treasurer, gave his report. There were no payments nor deposits made for the month. THERE ARE TWO MORE SAMS CLUBS SLOTS (THRU THE CLUB) AVAILABLE IF ANY MEMBER IS INTERESTED.

(Harold had asked that we all think about taking an ERARC office for the upcoming year. The President and Treasurer's offices will be up for some new blood for sure.)

Jay Belt K8CTI was asked about the Magic Jack internet phone system for the repeater(s). He said that we need to pay the \$40/year subscription fee. Robert Cook KA8MDZ said that if we pay for 5 years up front, it will cost around \$20 per month. Don Anderson WD8OOR made a motion, seconded by Bill Sowers K8WBS to go ahead and get the Magic Jack hooked up and on the repeater(s). The vote passed by a show of hands.

Don Anderson said that he has made several calls to the WV Emcomm Communications person (Adam _____ ?) and has left three voice mails concerning the WV communications systems at Windmill Gap which are evidently getting into our repeater(s). He has had no reply. Cruz Soto KE8BRP said that he knows Adam personally and will try to help us out with the noise problem(s). Cruz is the repeater owner of the 147.33 PL 100hz repeater in McDowell County, as well as other machines in that county. Roger Stefancic asked if it was possible to add a PL tone to our repeaters that are having noise problems; specifically the 147.06 and

145.49 machines. Don said that the SERA makes suggestions for PL tones, that we can't, or shouldn't, just choose a tone set. He will check with the SERA journal and see that they recommend. He has to go to each repeater site to add the tone(s). He feels that it will be either 100 or 103.5hz.

Don gave a Field Day report. We were a 6A VA group which means that we were a club with 6 transmitters on the air at any one time, located in Virginia. Hooger passed around a photo that Melvin Grubb took via air-mobile as Jay Belt flew over the Field Day site at BSA Camp Roland, Bastian, Va. Don said that the 6pm pot luck meal was just great and there was way too much good food. The borrowed 911 trailer was pressure washed before it was returned to the Center. Shelves were mounted in the 'radio room' in the trailer and band plans, grid square maps and the like were pinned onto the walls. Gary Kadar N8GK said that 15M was mostly 'dead' until right at the end of our operating session.

Cruz Soto introduced himself to the group. We had previously talked about linking his 147.33 machine to our 147.06 so that McDowell County could communicate better outside of locations there. His controller has been sent off for upgrades and the repeater has been off the air for about 4 weeks now. He hopes to link on 440 or 220 to our machine if possible. There are many Hams down his way that come to the Bluefield/Princeton area for doctor's appointments, etc. and they like to contact their home bases via Amateur Radio; this would help with the communication problems that they now have. He is also looking for a site close to Tazewell for a new 220 repeater. Discussion. Jay Belt asked if Onieda Peak, Springville, Va. would suffice. Cruz said that it would be a 'hub repeater' that would hopefully connect into the Carolinas. Don Anderson said that maybe the Windmill Gap area could be a possible also. Don said that the 442.45 there has great coverage in the Tazewell, Va. area and that a 220 machine should have even better coverage from the 'Gap also. Jay Belt will continue to communicate with Cruz and keep this project on the front burner.

Roger Stefancic asked about getting band-pass filters for our antennas during Field Day, etc. Discussion. Don Anderson will look into this and check availability and pricing. There is and can be much interference between several different transmitters in such a tight area such as Field Day.

Keith Jennings NO8P again mentioned that we still have permission to take the 911 Communication Trailer to the August 5-6 Mercer County Fair and promote Amateur Radio and the Club. He will need help for sure and hopes to get DMR, 2M, 440 and HF displayed and used at this event. He has brochures, etc. to pass out. Greg Hill has a homemade 11el 440 beam to donate to the Club.

Gary Kadar says that the new question pool for Extra came out on July 1. Be sure that you have the new question pool if you plan on an upgrade.

Hooger Fisher reminded all that we have committed to help Ed Evans WV8ED run Jamboree on the Air for the local Scouts on Saturday, October 15. It will probably be held at BSA Camp Roland, Bastian, Va.

The meeting was over by 744pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

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