

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on July 2, 2018 at Bellacino's in Princeton, WV. <http://www.erarc.com> local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. Skywarn® local simplex freq: 146.53. Our backup meeting location is at the Bluefield, Va. Burger King.

The meeting was opened at 7pm by Matt Morris KC8LGS, ERARC President. There were 10 members and one visitor in attendance.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting and they were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR was not in attendance but Roger Stefancic KC8LGR gave his Treasurer's report. Bruce paid a power bill for the 145.49 site in the amount of \$14.60 and paid \$300.00 for our liability insurance policy. There were no deposits made. It was mentioned that there was a \$0.51 error in the APCO bill.

**(We are accepting dues for the 2017-2018 ERARC calendar year.** The cost is still \$15 per Amateur and \$1 for additional Ham at the same address. ERARC P.O. Box 1362 Bluefield, WV 24701. There is a downloadable application on the ERARC website if needed. We appreciate your supporting local Amateur communications in our community.) In Bruce's absence, Hooger took in dues for 8 members tonight, 11 total since Field Day. He was also given a bill for \$103.19 from Don Anderson WD8OOR for new tires for the tower trailer.

Don Anderson WD8OOR gave his repeater report. He tweaked the repeaters to decrease ID time, etc. and they are all working fine. Jay Belt K8CTI talked about the dual band antenna at the 911 Center. It seems that a replacement may be needed. He and others recently changed out all of the feedlines to the Ham antenna systems. Roger tried to use this antenna last Monday for the Mercer Co. Skywarn® Practice net and ended up using the 2M antenna for the APRS/packet system. Roger mentioned that the new Kenwood 2000 HF rigs are at the 911 Center. Hooger was asked to produce a thank you letter to Fredeking Construction Co. in Princeton as they donated the new countertop that the Ham Radios are sitting on. Please check into the Skywarn practice net, followed by the Mercer County ARES net every Monday (except the first one in each month) at 0730pm on 145.49-.

Matt gave the Mercer Co. ARRL Emergency Coordinator's report. He is going to take 'required' training soon as he's having more free time to do so.

Gary Kadar N8GK was not present tonight but it was mentioned that the next ERARC ARRL VE test session would be on August 11, 2018 at 9am at the Mercer Co. 911 Center. **He asks that if we talk to anyone that plans on a license**

**upgrade, that we ask that the person register with the FCC via user name and password and print out an official copy of their Amateur Radio license and bring it to the test session as well as a photo ID.**

Hooger had handed out copies of the "to do/want/need" list and each item was re-visited. We took off several items and here are comments about some of the others:

Don Anderson tweaked and tuned the 440 radio at the 911 Center... it works very well now. The packet system is still being worked on. Hooger will look into the Amazon Smile program. Ask David Lester N8VFR, ERARC Webmaster, to get with DMR guru David Sexton AB8D and add DMR talk group information, , help pages, links, etc. to the website. New Technician study manuals for the local three libraries. Discussion. Keith Jennings AD8L made a motion, seconded by Roger Stefancic to purchase these manuals. A vote was taken and the motion passed. Roger said that we may want to get on the reservation book at Glenwood Park for Field Day next year.

Field Day: "A good time was had by all." There were only 11 people for the 6pm dinner. The traffic backups on I77 kept most people home. Charles Priest came by FD and observed setup and operations. He said that his experience was an enjoyable, remarkable, learning experience for him. He got to see the spud gun of Harold Hodges N8NCP being used to string up dipoles, saw a trap Yagi, and other things that he had only read about. He is studying for his Technician license now. New Ham Charles Hampton KE8IHN was equally impressed. Keith worked with him on 20M voice and said that Charles really learned a lot with speaking on HF, protocols, logging, etc. etc. They made 42 contacts. Randall Hash WB4BBF made around 155 CW contacts on 40M. Paul Gonzalez KT4AS made a few straight key CW contacts too. Gary Kadar made 41 contacts on 15M. Harold, Don and Hooger made 42 contacts on 75M.

The meeting was over at 0736pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary. ERARC P.O. Box 1362 Bluefield, WV 24701

"To Do" / 'wants' or 'needs' list. Items mentioned:

- (1) Get packet system up and running. Don working on this.
- (2) Continue to look into the Amazon Smile program.
- (3) Suggestion: list the DMR talkgroups, help pages, links, etc. on the ERARC website.
- (4) New repeater site to replace 145.49?
- (5) Anderson Powerpole Connector system. Don has these items and crimpers.

(6) Glenwood Park for Field Day 2019?

(7) Kenwood TS 2000 at 911 Center and Greg Dominguez AF8GD working on Winlink/digital.