

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on January 2, 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 17 members/guests in attendance. Keith welcomed everyone.

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the November meeting and made mention of the Christmas/Dinner meeting on December 5, 2016 at La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant. There were no changes made and the minutes were approved.

George Leedy KJ4BXS, ERARC Treasurer has tendered his resignation due to personal reasons and Keith gave this report from Dec. 16, 2016. Renewals have been logged by hand and membership cards have been mailed. He read a thank-you note from the Bluefield Union Mission. Our members donated \$155 during our Christmas dinner/meeting.

WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING DUES FOR THE 2016-2017 YEAR! \$15 per Amateur and \$1 for additional Ham at the same address. We appreciate your supporting local Amateur communications in our community.

Don Anderson gave a repeater report. The link between the 145.49 and 147.06 does not work and he doesn't know if it is a link problem or a controller problem. This is being investigated. 442.45 DMR is doing well and is using the Brandmeister portal now (<https://brandmeister.network/>). With a recent monetary donation to the Club, a stand-alone 220 repeater system is being procured. Several items are either on their way or in the process of being purchased. Don said that we also need to find a remote base-link radio to connect this repeater to the Dismal Peak 220 repeater. The 145.49 is having problems that may be due to changes in weather. Jay Belt is going to switch to the older antenna (change feed line connection within the building) to see if this can rule out an antenna problem.

David Sexton AB8D said that he had been contacted by other DMR operators/owners asking the ERARC for permission to use our

URL/hyperlink on their websites. Beckley resident Danny Cole K8DLT (<http://www.wvdmr.com> *) and Gilbert, WV resident Alan Pack KC8BFG (<http://www.swvdmr.com>). These sites offer DMR repeater information, registry information and sample code plugs. Chris Hatcher KC8AFH of Beckley has sold his DMR repeater. David said that there is still a Thursday night statewide net. Danny can be reached by phone for DMR radio advice. 304 575 6674. (* not to be confused with www dot wvdmr dot net)

ARRL Mercer County, WV Emergency Coordinator Matt Morris, KC8LGS is wanting the Club to come up with a 'wish list' of items that we would like to have or need as there are funding possibilities on a local, regional and national level. He's looking into filling out grant applications for funding. Steve O'dell N8SNR again volunteered his services to the renewed Mercer County ARES group. Greg Dominguez N3MPR said that during 911 at the Pentagon, the radio systems were overloaded and ended up being almost useless. He has several Motorola Saber handhelds that he would like to donate to the Club. They are 1990s models but intermodulation should not be a big deal with these units. Harold Hodge N8NCP reminded all present of the WV ARES/RACES net that follows the 530pm WV Fone net on 3.816 MHz on the first Thursday of each month. Matt asked if the local Civil Air Patrol Squadron is involved with Amateur Radio. He was given the email address for Don and Dottie Walker (KD8MKY and KD8NEV respectively) who are very involved with the CAP.

Harold Hodges suggested that we all check out <http://eqsl.cc> . He looked into it and had a bunch of QSL contacts waiting on his confirmation. The ERARC is a member of this service. It was suggested that we use this service for the Special Event Station mentioned below.

Keith had Evelyn Thompson KC5SE (previously KE5DLA) to introduce herself to the membership. She moved to Bluefield, WV from Texas, and holds an Advanced license. Her nickname is "ET".

Keith mentioned that he would like the Club to participate in and sanction a Special Event Station on the May Memorial Weekend's Mercer County Airport Fly-in. (Saturday only). He would like to get this event advertised in an upcoming issue of QST magazine.

Bill Sowers K8WBS wanted to thank Ginny Fisher KF4YBU and Hooger Fisher for procuring the La Fiesta Mexican restaurant for our Christmas dinner/meeting. He said that the upstairs was nicely decorated and everything went very well. He appreciated all of the work that was involved.

Old business: see the 'to-do list' below.

New business: Keith said that the Amateur radio estate of Bill Fisher WV5TX is going to be listed soon and he will email the list to local amateurs.

Gary Kadar N8GK said that the next ARRL test session will be on Saturday, February 11. He said that the ERARC scored toward the bottom for our Field Day class but that we were not AT the bottom if the list. The January VHF contest was mentioned: <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf> as well as the Winter Field Day event: <http://www.arrl.org/news/winter-field-day-set-for-january-30-31> .

"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.

The meeting was over at 0748pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.
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