

Minutes of the East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on March 6, 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 19 members / guests in attendance. Keith welcomed everyone and especially Cruz Soto KE8BRP, Bobby Frazier KD8LDA, and Henry Farmer KC3FVH. (Keith also mentioned that he forgot to report last month that a check for \$25 was sent to the State of WV for the Club's business license. This was added to the February 2017 minutes)

Hooger Fisher W4OF read the minutes of the January 6, 2017 and January 11, 2017 meetings. January 11 was a called meeting to accept the nomination of Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR as the new ERARC Treasurer. There were no changes made and the minutes were approved.

Bruce Puckett KJ4YTR gave the Treasurer's report. He deposited \$30 in dues. . **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 was asked to give a repeater report. The 442.45, 53.37, 444.45 DMR and 147.06 machines are working well. The 145.49, 220, the link radio on the '06, Echolink and the 145.69 packet radio are all in need of 'warm weather maintenance, setup and/or repairs' Don said. The new 220 is awaiting frequency coordination. (Hopefully it will be 224.46.) He said that everyone can afford the new Baofeng FM handhelds as they are going for \$5 to \$8. There is a new DMR Tytera MD-380 on Ebay for \$100 and MD-390 (has GPS) for \$140. The Baofeng Btech UV-5X3 is a 5W tri-band handheld going for around \$70. The free "Chirp" programming software makes it pretty easy to program most manufacturers' products. See

<http://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Home> for more information.

Skywarn (Roger Stefancic KC8GLR) and Mercer Co. ARES (Steve O'dell N8SNR) nets: no announcements.

Gary Kadar N8GK: ERARC ARRL VE test session on February 11, 2017. Two new Technicians Jaiden Borich KE8GDP and his father Johnny Borich KE8GDO, upgrade to General Henry Farmer KC3FVH, and upgrade to General then to Extra Greg Dominguez N3MPR.

Also while at the test session, Don Anderson, Roger Stefancic and Bruce Puckett repaired the 2M antenna and tried to troubleshoot the 440s problem. That is another 'warmer weather' project. They tested the HF rig and it does work.

Keith reminded all about the Special Event Amateur Radio station that we will setup at the Mercer County Airport fly-in and car show on May 27, 2017.

Evelyn Thompson KC5SE announced that her friend, Laura Houston KI7LBD finally got licensed in Seattle Washington. Laura's father was K5TPK. Probably an Elmer and friend.

Hooger passed around flyers for The Charleston, WV hamfest on March 25, 2017 and for the April 15, 2017 hamfest sponsored by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/charleston-hamfest-and-computer-show-4> and <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/roanoke-division-convention-raleigh-hamfest-1>

"To Do" list: check the 440 radio at the 911 Center. AND:

Matt Morris KC8LGS had asked us to think about any 'wants' or 'needs' that we could possibly get via grants that he could fill out on our behalf. Items mentioned (1) 440 radio for 911 Center (2) a new HF radio for the Communications Trailer (3) a new HF antenna for our

use, Yagi vs. Hex Beam (4) New HF rig for 911 Center ((Gary said that it would be nice to make this one a remote HF base for members to use)) and (5) Keith said that it would be nice to find a larger place to meet that had food.

Also... Message on the ERARC Facebook page: "From: Danny Cole K8DLT of Beckley. Check out our new DMR site. Pass it along please. We need all of the help and input we can get.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/397064173960125/> "

The meeting was over at 0730pm.

Submitted by Hooger Fisher W4OF, ERARC Secretary.

ERARC

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