

Minutes of the Bluefield, WV's East River Amateur Radio Club meeting held on October 7, 2024
<http://www.erarc.com> Local emergency HF freq: 3.860+-5. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7pm at 704 Bland Street, Room 523, Bluefield, WV 24701. Mailing address: P.O. Box 1362, Bluefield, WV 24701

President Matt Morris KC8LGS, Vice President David Sexton AB8D, Treasurer; Jay Belt K8CTI, Secretary: George "Hooger" Fisher III W4OF, Webmaster, David Lester N8VFR, HamClubOnline liaison and VE team leader Berlon Roberts W8ZBR.

Matt announced that he's stepping down from the President's position due to family and health reasons. David Sexton has agreed to take over in his place.

The meeting was opened at 700pm by Matt Morris, ERARC President. He welcomed the other 12 in attendance. There were two participants via the ZOOM presentation tonight, Charles Hampton K8CEH and Jeff White KE8RAW. The Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. (Henry Shinn KC3KGY donated the flag, pole and stand.) Matt recognized Chris Thorne and Sophia Catron from Princeton. They have been very interested in Ham Radio, especially since Hurricane Helene.

Hooger read the minutes of the September 6 meeting and they were accepted.

Treasurer's report: There were no deposits or expenditures on either account. The PayPal link is on our www.HamclubOnline.com link.

Repeater report: Jay Belt: Except for some power loss, the repeaters are doing OK. He got permission from Star 95 to use their tower space in Princeton, WV for the 147.06 analog repeater. Brenen McGraw K8BDM donated a set of duplexers and Nelson Linkous WZ8E donated a radio and controller. Jay is in the process of obtaining a new digital frequency for the Windmill Gap site which will replace the 147.06 digital. A new 220 repeater: Jay said that a new 220 repeater would cost around \$1000 and that Bridgecom may be able to repair the RX and TX modules but it may be expensive. Discussion. Gary Kadar suggested that since our 220 is not being used much at all, that we not spend hundreds of dollars on the project. Discussion. Jay said that we should table the subject and feel out other options. Joe Roske KD8CAP asked about APRS in our area. He traveled to Minnesota and had APRS coverage from northern WV and northward. David Lester N8VFR is looking into getting APRS back on the air in Bluefield.

Gary said that the UHF/VHF contest in September was "dead" and he heard only a couple of stations.

Matt Morris: Mercer Co. Emergency Coordinator [ARES/Skywarn](#) Matt says that the same group is checking in to the weekly net and he does appreciate it. He wants to again, have the ARES net on the third Thursday of each month, 730pm on the 145.49. The Skywarn net is every Monday (except the first Monday of the month) at 7pm on 145.49.

Volunteer Examiner: Berlon Roberts W8ZBR ERARC VEC. **The next session will be Saturday, Nov 9, 2024**, at 9am at 704 Bland St. Bluefield, WV, room 523. (Those testing must have a FCC Registration Number and valid email address before testing. The cost is \$15 and we will accept cash and check but NO PLASTIC. The new FCC \$35 federal licensing fee must be paid to the FCC,

NOT THE ERARC. <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/universal-licensing-system-uls-resources/getting-fcc-registration-number-frn>) The VE team tests quarterly on the second Saturday in February, May, August and November.)

David Lester: Western North Carolina is in need of two-way GMRS/2M handheld radio communications and he, his church and others have collected enough money to purchase around 40+ Baefong radios. He is taking a load of supplies to the affected area on Wednesday and is still taking donations at his 1807 Jefferson Street Business. www.swiftnet.us Brian Leedy KI4URO is taking a load into NC on Wednesday also. Jay Belt may be flying some of the supplies into the needed area.

Nomination of officers for the upcoming year: Matt opened nominations and David Lester was nominated for the Presidency. No others were mentioned. Gary Kadar suggested that we keep all of the other officers in place. Discussion. All agreed to keep their respective offices. Other nominations for any office will be received at the November meeting.

Scouting's local Jamboree on the Air has been CANCELED. After we discussed having the event at the Mercer Co airport, etc, Hooger contacted Dan Trent, the local Scouting event contact, and he said that there is a Council-wide event that day and the local scouting District cannot have JOTA on October 19. FYI, the antennas have not been replaced on the roof yet as the roof repair has not been performed.

"To Do list":

- 1) Echolink is now located at Jay Belt's Bland Street shop. The Echolink Kenwood 2M radio needs a component before it can be back on the air.
- 2) Firmware for 145.49 on hold until we see if a new controller will be needed
- 3) APRS
- 4) Winlink. David Lester has been trying out Winlink at home. We need to get the newest software for our computers in the radio room.
- 5) Install the new Yaesu radio, antenna, coax.
- 6) Need to install / use the Ham Radio Deluxe software that we purchased.

The meeting was over at 749pm

DMR net by David Sexton AB8D: (Net is every Tuesday at 0730pm on the W8MOP 444.45 DMR repeater on the 3154 WV statewide talk group.)