

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

April 3, 2007

The monthly WCEC business meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were 26 members and guests present.

Minutes from the March 6, 2007, meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 repeater system. Ken said that he, Dot, KC8HAI, and Ryan, Unit 299A went to the Limestone Hill Tower Site to see if they could find out why the Remote Receiver was not in operation. Ken tried to do a hard reset on the receiver, but the unit did not respond. It looks like the unit may have taken a lightning strike. After they left the Limestone Tower Site they made a trip to the Elizabeth Hill Tower Site. At that location they replaced the top elements of both the Remote Receiver and the MARS Packet antennas. Even though the Remote Receiver worked fine when it was first installed, it didn't want to transmit when the Two Meter antenna was connected to the unit. The unit does not have a duplexer so a "TEE" arrangement was used. It seemed like the UHF Transmit signal was being shorted out by the Two Meter antenna. So neither of the Remote Receivers were put back in operation. Ken said that he could hear Brad, KC8TYU, direct when he was in the driveway in Belleville, but he wasn't getting into either of the only two Remote Receivers that were still in operation. Ken said that he made another trip back to the Elizabeth Tower site to pick up the Dual Band Walkie-Talkie and use it on the Dual Band antenna at the Laurel Creek Tower Site. Ken said the radio didn't do what he expected, and that it was getting very hot when it was in use. Just before the meeting, Ken, KB8QPW, and Duane, N8LDM, took a trip to the E-911 Core Road Tower site to see if the Remote Receiver, Receive antenna was defective. They said the top element of the antenna was laying on the ground. The only way we could figure the station is still receiving is that it is getting secondary emissions from the other High Band antennas at the tower site.

Terry, KC8TUE, and Denise, KC8TUF, gave reports on some of the grants that have been applied for. They said the FEMA Grant is still on hold,

and won't be released for a couple more months. Terry said as far as the McDonough Foundation, it is a "no go". We have not been turned down yet, they are still trying to get their information together.

Denise said that she found an application on the internet for a grant from Bill Gates. Terry said that Denise did a search on the internet and found about 250 other grants that are nationwide.

Ken, KB8QPW, talked to Ken, WA8LLM, after the last month's meeting and talked about the October, 2006, meeting minutes. Ken H. read the October Minutes about the Dog Tags that would be used as a second means of identification. The minutes said the group had agreed to purchase the Dog Tags. In the November minutes Ken H. said that he was going to contact the manufacturer of the tags to see if a number larger than the organization name could be stamped on it. At the time Ken H had not made the contact. At the March 6, 2007, meeting the group also decided to purchase a less expensive Dog Tag. The difference between the two tags is that one is Stainless Steel, and the less expensive ones are Aluminum. There was a discussion as to going back to the original Tags or go with the less expensive ones. Lisa, KB8UER, suggested that Ken H. contact the Stainless Steel manufacture to check stamping of the large number on the tags and bring the discussion back to the May meeting. There was short discussion that the only purpose of the tag is so that can be displayed at the command post to allow those in charge know who is at a disaster scene.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that all of the Safety Break letters have been mailed. None of the three people got a letter about the Safety Break over the Easter Weekend.

Communications for Artsbridge is Thursday, May 24th, at WVUP. If you got a letter from Artsbridge, fill it out and send it back in. Be sure that your mark on it that you will be working communications. We need to be at WVUP by 8:00 am. Ken, WA8LLM, said that we will be taking the radio system and the new telephone system to WVUP. Maybe we can get the officials attention using cordless telephones, instead of radios.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report of the basement at the old EOC. The basement has been cleaned out, and the carpet has been removed. Ken said that he has been working with Mike Dailey, KC8JHJ, Chief of Eastwood VFD. Mike and Ken attended a Wood County Emergency Services Advisory committee meeting. There was a lengthy discussion at the

advisory meeting about Eastwood VFD getting the members, equipment, and building from Wood County Rescue Squad, and using the basement for WCEC to build a backup Communications and Emergency Operations Center. There was supposed to be another meeting in a couple of weeks to iron out other problems. Ken was to write up a proposal to give to the County Commission. If things go good with the next advisory meeting, Ken will have to go in front of the County Commissioners and present the proposal. Ken gave a lengthy explanation about a couple other meetings with the members of the Wood County Rescue, and the County Fire Chief's. It was asked about the building that we started to build on the Hendershot Farm. Ken said that if we can ever get grant money coming in, that we would go ahead and work on that project. That way we would have complete control of the building.

Athens Hamfest will be Sunday, April 29th.

Jackson County Hamfest will be Sunday, May 6th.

Ken, WA8LLM, and Terry, KC8TUE, gave a report on the Coast Guard exercise which was held March 15th. WCEC didn't do much work in the line of communications in the morning of the exercise, but we did do a lot of "Show-N-Tell". In the afternoon the officials used the new telephone system as their main communications, since the different groups were spread out in the building. The officials were going to use Cellphones for the exercise, but they decided to use the WCEC portable telephone system. We got a little publicity, and are invited to demonstrate the telephone system to the Central Ohio Valley Industrial Emergency Organization (COVIEO) meeting on May 22nd. Terry came up some ideas to improve the telephone system, like a flashing light when some one is calling the operator, and also a Beep in the operators ear in case the operator has their head turned. Ken explained other features that would be added to the system later.

W5YI VE Testing April 14th at the E-911 Center.

Denise, KC8TUF, has already started keeping track of members hours. We need to do this so that we can report it when we apply for grants.

Anna, KC8JWW, and Ken, WA8LLM, told the group about the Meth Lab information class that was held at the Northwestern Landfill on Tuesday March 20th. It was a good class, and if any of the members get a

chance to attend one, they should do so. Anna said that we might want to get the Sheriff's Department to put on the class for WCEC.

NEW BUSINESS

Challenge At Mountwood will be held on Sunday, April 15th. The officials want to have WCEC Communications at the event. There will also be a Down Hill race on Saturday, April 14th. Those who want to help with the communications on Sunday should be on location by 11:00 am. Anna, KC8JWW, wanted to know if we would have MOBILECOM-1 at the races. If we don't take MOBILECOM-1, then we will have the Combination Trailer there. If anyone wants to help with the Down Hill races on Saturday, they need to be there by 12:00, since they start at 1:00 pm.

Ken, WA8LLM, brought up about changes in the By-Laws, by adding a Board of Directors. Harold, N8KO, said that we should contact the Secretary of State to be sure how and what we have to do to add a Board of Directors. Ken said that he would contact the Secretary of State. There was a short discussion. Anna, KC8JWW, made a motion to amend the By-Laws to add a Board of Directors, if the Secretary of State says we can. Motion seconded by Harold, N8KO. The motion passed.

Due to the conflict of interest between WCEC and the West Virginia Society for the Blind, for which they work, Ken, KB8QPW, and Roger, KB8QPX, turned in letters of resignation. Ken is resigning as Assistant Director and Trustee. Roger is resigning as a Trustee. Both will be remaining as members of WCEC. Ken, WA8LLM, said there needs to be a new Assistant Director assigned. Harold, N8KO, made a motion to elect Terry, KC8TUE, as the new Assistant Director. Dot, KC8HAI, seconded the motion. Motion carried. The By-Laws says that we need to have three Trustees, and we have had four for several years. It was discussed that Tim, N8WO, be the third Trustee. Anna, KC8JWW, made a motion to elect Tim as the third Trustee. Terry, KC8TUE, seconded the motion. Motion carried. The three Trustees are: Terry, KC8TUE; Anna, KC8JWW; and Tim, N8WO.

Ken, WA8LLM, brought up for discussion about purchasing two Alinco DR-135 and two DR-435 transceivers to build two Remote Receivers to replace the ones at Limestone Hill and Elizabeth Hill. He wanted to know if the organization wanted to purchase the equipment now, or wait until we get grants. Judy, N8UFQ, suggested that we purchase three sets of radios, so that we will have a back-up unit. Ken, KB8QPW, made a motion to purchase three DR-135 transceivers, and three DR-435

transceivers. One set to go to Limestone, one set to go to Elizabeth, and one set left at Laurel Creek, which can be taken to any of the other locations if need be. The Laurel Creek unit can also be used as a temporary Remote Receiver at other activities as a Local Receiver. Bob, KB8RNE, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the GMRS License, KAB4164, that we use for with the UHF Repeater and Walkie-Talkies is up for renewal by June 8th. The cost for the renewal is 80 dollars for five years. Ken is going to renew the license.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he received a Domain Registry of America renewal for our WC8EC.COM website. He will be talking to Terry, KC8TUE, about the renewal. One year is \$30, Two years is \$50, and Five years is \$95. It was decided to go for the five year deal.

Denise, KC8TUF, read and gave a report on a donation letter. Denise said that she has wrote the donation letter to small businesses asking them for a \$25 donation. Her place of employment paid to have the first 150 letters mailed out. She has also written a donation letter asking for \$100 to larger businesses.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he was going to check with the owners of the new transmitter building that has been installed at the Limestone Tower site to have an equipment cabinet installed for the 147.255 Remote Receiver. Duane, N8LDM, said that while talking to the technicians for the site, he thinks they are just going to abandon the old building, and that we may be able to leave our equipment in it.

Now that we have the dates for all of the BINGO activities, we can order the BINGO Licenses.

Ken, WA8LLM, is starting to put together a list of those who are going to help with the Parkersburg Half Marathon. There needs to be a few changes this year, since the officials are wanting to announce the runners in the Two Mile Race, which finishes a little while before the Half Marathon runners start showing up. We need to have our spotters and data entry people on location about an hour earlier. Randy Kinsolving, WB8OHX, will be doing the announcing again this year.

Ken, KB8QPW, said that we may not get any of the Safety Breaks this year since the state is remodeling the Rest Areas. They are working on the Rest Areas in the Clarksburg area, and as soon as they finish, they

will start on the Mineral Wells Rest Areas. We will just have to wait and see if we get any Safety Breaks.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that our 501c3 Income Tax Return is due to be turned in by May 15. Ken has already downloaded the form and the instruction book. He said he would have the return in before the 15th.

A drawing for the 50/50 was held. Brent, KD8DLX, won \$9.50.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Ryan Riser Unit 299A, Brad Carabine KC8TYU/Unit 287, Denise Magyarosi-Mills KC8TUF/Unit 290, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289, Krista Mills KC8VLJ/Unit 295, Daniel Ritchie KC8ZLK/Unit 296, Steve Ritchie KB8CCQ/Unit 297, Duane Jones N8LDM/Unit 260/ES-2, Scott Jones Unit 299C, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, David Stevens KC8VLK/Unit 274, Amy Stevens Unit 299H, Anna Hendershot, KC8JWW/Unit 263, Lisa Hendershot KB8UER/Unit 270, Bob Smith KB8RNE/Unit 267, Tim Dooley, N8WO/Unit 273, Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268, Dave Wright KC8ZZX/Unit 285, Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278, Harold Dooley, N8KO/Unit 266, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 352, Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit 257, Emily Stevens, Unit 299K