

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

March 6, 2007

The monthly WCEC business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were 27 members and guests present.

Minutes from the January 2, 2007, meeting were read and approved. The January minutes were read since there was no February meeting due to a severe snow storm on that day.

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 and Ken, KB8QPW, determined which Remote Receiver was causing the low audio problem, and took it off line by remote access. It was the Deerwalk Receiver. It was theorized it might be low battery voltage since that site is solar power. It was also discussed about the E-911 receiver still being operational even though the top part of the antenna is missing. A short discussion followed.

Terry, KC8TUE, gave reports on some of the grants that have been applied for. He and Denise, KC8TUF, went to a grant writing class and learned a lot about writing grants. WCEC paid for them to go to the class at WVUP on March 2nd. Lisa Collins was the person that taught the class. Terry and Denise explained some items that need to be changed in the organization, such as creating a Board of Directors and keeping better track of members hours. The Board of Directors need to be people who are recognized in the community, and people who can be contacted if the grantors have questions about WCEC. Denise said that since they had attended the grant writing class, the McDonough Foundation gave WCEC a 3 week extension to correct some of the mistakes that were made on the grant application to their organization. Terry said that he got a letter back from the Sisters of St. Joseph stating that we didn't meet the requirements to apply for a grant. Denise said that we need to show the people that we are applying to get grants from, that we are trying to raise the money ourselves. Denise said that whether we get a grant from an organization, or not, that we need to send each organization a Thank You letter. Terry said the FEMA grant has been postponed, and won't be announced for at least another month. Lisa Collins said that Government grants should be the very

last option, since they have too many restrictions, and you have to have matching funds. Terry said that he can also use the computer at WVUP to look for grants that are not accessible to the general public. Anna, KC8JWW, said that the grant class she took several years ago never taught her anything like the class that Terry and Denise attended.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Tabletop exercise which was held on Tuesday, January, 9th. He said there were some problems with the telephone system. Some of the cordless telephones were interfering with each other. As long as only one conversation was in progress the system worked fine. As soon as someone else wanted to make a phone call, the system went nuts. One of the organizations, that recognized there was a problem with the phone system, made the comment "that is how it will be in a real disaster". Ken has corrected the problem, and the telephone system is now mounted on a two wheel dolly that will make it easier to transport. Ken has also added one more telephone line to the system. The 11th line will be used by the radio communications operators which will be in close proximity of the telephone system. The 11th line will be a wire phone and not a cordless phone. There are

plans to use the phone system for some of our own activities such as Field Day, The Air Show, and Artsbridge at WVUP. Terry, KC8TUE, said that another problem with the telephone system, were the people. Some of them didn't know how to use a cordless phone, and kept forgetting to hang it up. It was estimated the system should run 6 to 8 hours on battery power. We're not sure how long the cordless phone batteries themselves will last.

Denise, KC8TUF, gave a report on another Dog Tag that is a lot cheaper than the others we had found. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he stamped the sample tag to see how hard it would be. The tags could be etched with the organization name and then the unit number could be stamped.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on basic Packet Radio Class which was held on Saturday, January 6th, at the E-911 Center. There was about 12 people that showed up for the class. Ken said that we need to hold another Packet Class. If anyone wants to bring their own computer to the class there are just a couple requirements. The computer needs to

have a telecommunications program such as Procomm Plus or Hyperterm, and also have an RS-232 serial port.

Bill, N8JXO, has changed the look of the WCEC.COM website. He needs to get as much information together so that he can put it on the site.

Ken, KB8QPW, has the password set up so that more than one person can make changes that need to be done. Bill says that he needs a list of what services and equipment that we can provide. Tyler, KD8CPP, said that he could also help with the website.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he got a letter from the Department of Highways of the dates that are available for the Safety Breaks this year. Ken, KB8QPW, and Judy, N8UFQ, said they didn't get their letters. Each of the dates are three days long. Tyler, KD8CPP, said that he would coordinate the schedules for the breaks, if the organization decides to apply for them. Denise, KC8TUF, said that we need to apply for all of the breaks, whether they fall in the middle of the week or, on the weekends. We need to show those who we are applying for grants from, that we are trying to be self sufficient. Ken read a list of the amounts of money that was made on each of the previous years Safety Breaks. It showed that about one forth of our yearly budget is from the Safety Breaks. It was decided to apply for all the Safety Breaks. Ken, KB8QPW, said that he will not be able to help with the Safety Breaks, since it is a "Conflict of Interest" with Society For the Blind, the company which he works for. Ken, KB8QPW, was advised there are other fund raisers he can help with.

Lisa, KB8UER, gave a report on the W5YI Testing that was held on February 10th. There was two or three people that showed up for the testing. There was 14 people that showed up on February 24th for the special test session. Opie, KC8ZBQ, and Tyler, KD8CPP, upgraded to General Class License.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that getting the basement of the old EOC at 1810 Staunton Avenue doesn't look very promising. He thinks those in charge of the building are trying to discourage it. Ken and Duane, N8LDM, met with ED Hupp on Friday, March 2nd. The basement had been flooded by broken water pipes and the County Commission said the building needed to be cleaned out and the carpet removed. Ed said the building would have to be brought back up to "CODE". They were going to start cleaning it out on the Monday before the WCEC meeting. Ed is trying to get Ken interested in sharing a building at the Wood County Airport.

Duane said that it's all politics. A short discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

W5YI VE Testing will be April 14th at 6:00 pm at the E-911 Center.

Daylight Savings Time will be coming on March 11th.

Charleston Hamfest will be March 17th.

Athens Hamfest April 29th.

Jackson County Hamfest will be May 6th.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he had talked to Mike Dailey, KC8JHJ, who is also the Fire Chief of Eastwood Fire Department. There has been a discussion between the Fire Departments of each of them starting to specialize in different aspects of Fire and Rescue. It was even mentioned that one of the Fire Departments would specialize in communications, but no one had started it yet. Mike said that if WCEC would be a partner, they would sponsor the communications. What that means is, if WCEC would be like a sub-contractor to Eastwood VFD, there may be some equipment become available. One of the items they talked about is a trailer. Nothing is final, there needs to be some more discussion and then it needs to be brought back to the WCEC membership.

Artsbridge at WVUP will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd.

Duane, N8LDM, asked if Ken, WA8LLM, had been contacted by the bike club about the Challenge at Mountwood on April 15th. Ken hadn't heard about it yet.

An additional list of activities such as River Sweep June 16th, Field Day, June 23rd and 24th were mentioned. Homecoming BINGO, Parkersburg Half Marathon, Volcano Days, and WV Interstate Fair was also mentioned, but no dates were brought up.

Anna, KC8JWW, wanted to know if there has been anything heard about the MS-150 this year. Ken, WA8LLM, said he has not been contacted, and

the coordinator had changed jobs in the organization. Also if the Holiday Inn closes it's doors, there will be no sponsor, and the MS-150 may be moved back to the Southern part of the state.

Judy, N8UFQ, brought a flyer for a Meth Lab Awareness Class. The class will be held March 20th, from 4 to 6 pm at the Northwestern Landfill Classroom. Anyone can attend.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there would be a Coast Guard exercise held on March 15th, at Marietta Collage. Ken said that he is going to talk to the person organizing the event to see if they need the telephone system.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Ryan Riser Unit 299A, Krista Mills KC8VLJ/Unit 295, Tricia Magyarosi KC8VLI/Unit 294, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289, Denise Magyarosi-Mills KC8TUF/Unit 290, Lisa Hendershot KB8UER/Unit 270, Anna Hendershot, KC8JWW/Unit 263, Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278, Emily Bodie KB8YPB/Unit 288, Dave Wright KC8ZZX/Unit 285, Daniel Ritchie KC8ZLK/Unit 296, Steve Ritchie KB8CCQ/Unit 297, Gary Bosworth KC8ZZS/Unit 277, Tim Dooley, N8WO/Unit 273, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 352, Loretta DeHanvon/Unit 299L, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268, Tyler Lewis KD8CPP/Unit 351, Ryan Thomas KD8EMM/Unit 353, Kevin Harris KC8OXY/Unit 253, Addie Harris Unit 299D, Duane Jones N8LDM/Unit 260/ES-2, Scott Jones Unit 299C