

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

October 2, 2007

The monthly WCEC business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were 28 members and guests present.

Minutes from the September 4, 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 has installed a new antenna and transmission line for the Laurel Creek Remote Receiver. The new antenna system seems to have improved the Remote Receiver. The Laurel Creek receiver is the only one on the 147.255 system that is not operating with Tone Squelch, it is operating carrier squelch only. If you want to get into just the Laurel Creek receiver, turn the transmitter tone off.

Terry, KC8TUE, and Denise, KC8TUF, gave reports on grants which are being applied for. They said the grant to the Ross Foundation in the amount of \$2500, was turned in on September 25th, a few days before the October 1st deadline. The Ross grant is for use on the DAREN Packet system. Terry said that we were too late to get a grant turned into the Parkersburg Foundation, but we can still apply for Mini-Grants through the foundation. The Mini-Grants have a maximum amount of \$2500. Terry has sent for paperwork for the grant, and said he should have it by Monday, October 8th. Don, N8NUS, had told Terry that since the 2005 Homeland Security Grant money, for CERT, has not been spent, the 2006 Homeland Security Grant money has been cancelled, so we won't be hearing anything about the grant we applied for there.

Ken WA8LLM, said that he has not heard anything about the basement of the old EOC on Staunton Ave., but he did overhear Ed Hupp say that he wasn't for sure when he was going to turn the power off to the building. The Red Cross has been storing water in the building out back of the EOC, but they are now moving it to the Civil Air Patrol building at the Airport. Since it looks like the county may be going to vacate the old EOC, he feels that we should not pursue it any longer. If something comes up in the future, we may look at trying to get it.

Since it has been suggested that WCEC and Eastwood VFD have a Mutual Aid Agreement, there is no longer a need to pursue a Sub-Contract with the fire department.

Denise, KC8TUF, and Ken, WA8LLM, discussed the amount of hours that a member should have before a certificate is printed up. The total hours for this year for the members is not complete, but they are still working on it. It was suggested that the amount of hours be 10 to 20 percent of the total hours available for each year.

Ken, WA8LLM, passed out a Draft Copy of the modified By-Laws to the Trustees to look over and make suggested changes. The last time the By-Laws were Revised was January 7, 1999. There are a few changes that need to be made and the description of the Board of Directors has been written into the By-Laws. The Trustees will look over the By-Laws, and make changes they see fit, and bring them back to the November meeting. The group will have a chance to discuss the changes and vote on them.

Since we no longer use the point system to keep track of members activity, it was suggested that a minimum amount of hours be used to determine if a member should be dropped from the WCEC Roster. Exceptions to some members need to be discussed on an individual basis. Some members on the roster are not active, but support the organization in special ways.

There was a reminder of the Safety Fair that will be held on Saturday, October 6th, at Erickson Field on South Side from 10 am to 3 pm.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Volcano Days BINGO activity. He said the weather was great with no rain. Even though the crowd seemed to be large, we didn't make as much money as we should have. We made about 200 dollars more then we did last year.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that until he hears something about the FEMA trailers, of which we were supposed to get one, we will drop the project. The trailers were being sold for \$1000, and there was supposed to be a group go to Maryland, but it is on hold per FEMA.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Chick-Fil High School Cross Country races which were held on September 15th. The Chick-Fil had 6 races plus an Elementary School race at the start of the day. We were able

to cover all the locations for the races. Some of the radio operators were also in charge of operating the Time Clocks. There were a few incidents that required calling for Medical attention, but none of them were serious. Terry, KC8TUE, said there was as many as 250 to 260 runners on some of the races. He did a count of the runners, and he figured there was an average of 205 runners per race.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that while he was at the Chick-Fil races, he talked to the Shirt Factory about making T-Shirts for WCEC. He said that he was given a price of about 7 or 8 dollars each if there is a minimum of 12 T-Shirts. Ken may go talk to them, and get a more firm price. It was suggested about having reflected lettering.

Ken, WA8LLM, also gave a report on the Middle School/High School Cross Country races which were held on September 25th. There was five races on that date. He also gave a report on the Junior High School Cross Country races which were held October 1st. There were only two races on that date.

There was a reminder of the W5YI Testing which will be held at 6:00 pm at the E-911 building on Saturday, October 13th.

There was a discussion about the State Wide SET (Simulated Emergency Test) that would be held on October 6th, the same day as the Safety Fair. Since it will be held the same day as the Safety Fair, we want to get as many WCEC members as possible involved. The SET will be operated from 1 pm to 3 pm. Anyone that can be there should just show up. If you can't make it to the event, maybe you could check into the DAREN Chatroom Net on Packet Radio. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he will have MOBILECOM-1 at the event. Ken also had copies of the ARRL RADIOGRAMS for people to make up messages and pass during the SET. Ken explained about the DAREN Chatroom Net which is operated the first Thursday of every month.

Ken, WA8LLM, brought in a plastic pipe J-Pole antenna that fits nicely on the top of the 16 foot Fiberglass Flag Poles, which were purchased last month. Several of the members asked about building one for themselves. Ken suggested that we hold an antenna work party so the members can build their own antennas. There was no date set.

Denise, KC8TUF, said that she put the flags that came with the flag poles on E-Bay, but she never heard from anyone. It was just an idea

to recover some of the money that was used to purchase the flag poles. If anyone is interested in any of the flags, they should contact Denise.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he took tables and chairs to Eastwood Fire Department for their Pig Roast on September 8th. He also took a 24 by 40 canopy to the Mineral Wells Fire Department for their Pig Roast on September 8th.

Gary, KC8ZZS, said that he would be interested in taking the position of Trustee that was vacated last month by Tim, N8WO. There was no one else that showed an interest. Bob, KB8RNE, made a motion to accept Gary as the new Trustee. Tyler, KD8CPP, seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Trustees at this time are Anna, KC8JWW, Terry, KC8TUE, and Gary, KC8ZZS.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he would like to get a list of the E-Mails for all of the members. They could just write their E-Mail on a piece of paper and give it to him. Ken, will also get E-Mail addresses from other E-Mails which he receives.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that due to other activities, he hasn't had the time to go talk to the County Commission about getting a permanent Remote Receiver installed at Fort Borman Park to be used on the 147.255 Repeater system. When things get a little slower he will go talk to them.

NEW BUSINESS

After Ken, WA8LLM, and Terry, KC8TUE, were finished with a Table Top exercise in Roane County, they made a trip to the Roane County tower site with the Assistant 911 Director. The director said there is two or three antennas still on the tower they are no longer using, and that maybe one of the them would be good for the DAREN Packet station. While at the site, Ken talked to Ken, KB8QPW, using his hand held radio. It is a very good site and may also help the Health Department Packet station in Calhoun County.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he modified the black boxes for the BINGO radio to make them useable for other radios. All of the black boxes are wired the same, the only difference for other type radios would be the connecting cable between the radio and the black box.

Ken, KB8QPW, brought a copy of a letter from the Department of High Ways, that showed that we have permission to operate a Safety Break at the North Bound Rest Area, over the Thanksgiving holiday. The Safety Break will be operated from 6:00 am Wednesday, November 21st through 6:00 pm, Friday, November 23rd. A Safety Break Schedule sheet was passed around for all to select a time they may be able to work. All but one shift was signed up for.

Denise, KC8TUF, said that she would like to have a 24 by 40 canopy for a Halloween party that Tricia, KC8VLI, and Krista, KC8VLJ, are planning to hold. The Halloween party will be held on October 27 from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Anyone interested should talk to one of the girls.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he is going to start making up the new WCEC ID Cards shortly, and that anyone who needs a new picture taken should let him know.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he wrote a letter to the Eagles Club to ask for a donation in reference to Volcano Days. Since Volcano Days isn't a tax exempt organization they couldn't request any money. Ken said that he would request the money and turn it over to Volcano Days. When, and if we get any money, Ken is going to ask the Volcano Days committee about not paying the 10 percent they request from operating the BINGO games at the Volcano Days festival. Anna, KC8JWW, suggested that we write to other organizations such as the VFW, Moose, Elks, etc., and ask for donations, since they are charitable organization and have to give their money to other groups and organizations. WCEC is a service organization, not a charitable organization.

Ken, WA8LLM, brought up for discussion about writing a letter in support of the Wood County Horse Riding Club to help them have trails in Mountwood Park. It was suggested that we not get involved, and not write the letter.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that since we may be using one of the antennas at the Roane County tower site we need to check out the antennas. A new MFJ-259B Antenna Analyzer was ordered and has arrived. The analyzer has already been used several times since it arrived. The old 259B the organization owns has been on the blink. Ken said that he would send it back for repair, but he wanted one last time to see if he could fix it. The old 259B began to work for a short time, then quit again. He doesn't want to send it in for repair since it works from time-to-time,

and they may not be able to fix it until it now longer works. In the mean time Ken will play with it and try to find out what the problem is.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Ryan Riser Unit 299A, Krista Mills KC8VLJ/Unit 295, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289, Tricia Magyarosi KC8VLI/Unit 294, Denise Magyarosi-Mills KC8TUF/Unit 290, Tyler Lewis KD8CPP/Unit 351, Brad Carabine KC8TYU/Unit 287, Mary Smith Unit 299F, Bob Smith KB8RNE/Unit 267, Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit 257, Steve Ritchie KB8CCQ/Unit 297, Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268, Lisa Hendershot KB8UER/Unit 270, Anna Hendershot, KC8JWW/Unit 263, Tim Dooley, N8WO/Unit 273, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 352, Duane Jones N8LDM/Unit 260/ES-2, Scott Jones Unit 299C, Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278, Matt Wright KD8GWP/Unit 354, Dave Wright N8NWV/Unit 285, Ray Johnson KC8RUJ/Unit 292, Carol Johnson KC8TUD/Unit 293, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Gary Bosworth KC8ZZS/Unit 277, Ryan Thomas KD8EMM/Unit 353