

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

May 6, 2008

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were 29 members and guests present.

A motion to approve the April 1, 2008, minutes as they were E-Mailed out was made by Dave, N8NWV, and seconded by Dot, KC8HAI. Motion carried. Printed copies of the minutes and agenda were also available at the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was read and a motion to accept was made by Bob, KB8RNE, and seconded by Dave, N8NWV. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 repeater system. He said that he and Dot, KC8HAI, went to the repeater site to find out why it went off the air. He said the main voter card had a problem in it and had to be repaired. He was able to remove parts from the secondary card and get the primary one working. The secondary card just has to have the parts put back in it. He has to re-arrange the UHF Link Receivers so they would all be working through the main voter card. The repeater system seems to be working okay now.

Terry, KC8TUE, said that we are still waiting to hear back about the grant for the communications trailer from the Parkersburg Community Foundation. Denise, KC8TUF, said the announcements should be released next week. There was a lengthy discussion about a dinner/meeting which Terry and Ken, WA8LLM, was supposed to attend. Terry, Ken, and Dot, KC8HAI, did attend the meeting and gave reports on the different groups they were assigned to. The dinner/meeting was very informative, and may help to get grants in the future. Ken said that he talked to the head of the United Fund about being a United Fund recipient. He was informed there are about 16 items that WCEC must meet to apply. Ken is supposed to be receiving them and we may try to apply on next year's membership drive.

There was a reminder for all members to keep their participation time sheets up to date.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he made up some copper J-Pole antennas to take

to the Athens and Jackson County Hamfest. He said that he sold a few of them and that if the organization wanted to do it, that we might be able to sell some on E-Bay as a fund raiser. Dave, N8NWV said that he is getting his garage cleaned out and that we would be able to hold an antenna building work party at his house before long. Kevin, KC8OXY, has opened an E-Bay account for WCEC if we decide to sell copper J-Pole antennas there. Ken said that it would be easier to just sell, and ship the Gamma Match for the antennas. If it could be done we could put the assembly information on the WC8EC.com website for people to see. Putting the information on the website would also invite people to the website. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he went down to Miller Communications to talk to Randy, KB8OHX, about the cameras and a Remote Receiver at Fort Borman Park. Randy was out of town and wouldn't be back for a week. In the mean time Ken found out the cameras have not been installed at the park yet, so we still have a chance of getting Millers to install the Remote Receiver, if the County Commission approves it.

Denise, KC8TUF, said that she checked on the possibility of applying for a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) grant, but there was no way that we could apply. There was a short discussion about CERT.

Duane, N8LDM, had copies of the new RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) application at the meeting and several members filled them out. Duane was having trouble with the copy machine so some of the member didn't get an application. Any member wanting to register as a RACES member should be able to get an application at the next meeting. Duane gave WCEC a copy of Memorandum Of Understandings between Wood County Emergency Management and WCEC & ARES.

There was very little discussion about holding a Hamfest next year.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded the members they should try to complete some of the FEMA Independent Study courses: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800B, so that it looks like we are trying to be NIMS compliant. It looks good when we are applying for grants. If we decide to apply for any government grants we will need to show that we are trying to be compliant. Matt, KC8GWP, suggested that we put a link from the WC8EC website to the FEMA Independent Study on the WC8EC.com website. That way it would be easy to be connect to the site and take some of the courses. Ken said that he would talk to Bill, N8JXO, about it.

There was a reminder that Field Day will be held June 28th and 29th. Ken, WA8LLM, said that around the first of June he would be mailing out letters to the News Media and selected officials inviting them to Field Day. He reminded those who want their radio equipment modified with Anderson Power Poles to be at the Field Day site on the Friday before. Ken will not be able to be at the Field Day site until about 5:00 pm on Friday since he will be attending a Table Top exercise.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he hasn't mailed copies of the WCEC By-Laws to the Board of Directors yet, that he would hand deliver them.

Ken, WA8LLM, E-Mailed the copies of the WCEC and ARES Communications Plans to the WCEC members and to the ARES members who he has E-Mail addresses. Ken asks for any changes before he prints up copies for everyone. Ken said that if anyone has any changes that should be made to let him know as soon as possible. He will wait until about a week before the next meeting before he prints the copies to allow the changes to be made.

Duane, N8LDM, said the Mountain Bike Club wanted to thank the Amateur Radio operators for providing the Safety Communications at the Challenge at Mountwood on April 12th and 13th. There were a few reports of the activities at the races. Ken, WA8LLM, and others, said that it helped having the location where Safety Communications was needed marked. Ken said that if we could get a grant, maybe we could purchase some GPS Receivers that would also help us find the locations. The GPS Receivers could also be used if anyone helped on search parties and other such activities. Duane said that he has been asked to coordinate the Challenge at Mountwood next year, but he doesn't think he wants to do it.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there was an exercise that started the day of the May meeting and would run for three days. Ken talked to Ed Hupp, as Ed was leaving the E-911 Center. Ed said the only thing they were doing was receiving messages via the Fax machine and sending replies back on the Emergency Services "E-Team" system. Radio communications weren't needed. Ken did get an invitation to participate in the exercise that will be held in June. Jim Rose, Threat Preparedness Coordinator of the Health Department said that he wanted WCEC to provide communications at the activity at the Wood County Fair grounds. He's not for sure what kind of communications will be needed. He said that Randy Lowe, 911

Director and Ed Hupp, Emergency Services Director will be out of town and not able to open up the EOC (Emergency Operations Center), so they want WCEC to simulate an EOC.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, had the new Hidden Word puzzles at the meeting.

There was a reminder that Artsbridge at WVUP will be held on Thursday, May 22nd. Those wanting to help need to be at WVUP by 8:00 am.

There was a reminder the Lubeck VFD would be held on June 21st, and we will have MOBILECOM-1 and a 24 by 80 foot canopy at their Ice Cream Social.

#### NEW BUSINESS

W5YI VE Testing will be held on June 14th at 6:00 pm at the E-911 Communications Center.

Schedules for the Northbound and Williamstown Safety Breaks over the Memorial Day weekend were passed around for members to sign up. Since we have two locations, the Communications Trailer will be at the Northbound Rest Area, and MOBILECOM-1 will be at Williamstown. The Safety Break will be held from 6:00 am on Saturday, May 24th, through Monday, May 26th.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he got a telephone call from Eastwood VFD, stating they want to use our Tables, Canopies, and Chairs at their Ice Cream Social which will be held on June 7th. They also would like for us to operate the BINGO games for them.

There will be an Pandemic Flu Tabletop exercise held on Friday, June 27th at the Blennerhassett Hotel. Camden Clark Memorial Hospital has asked WCEC to bring the portable telephone system to provide telephone service for the exercise. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he would like to hold a class on the installing and operation of the telephone system. The class would also allow those attending on how to check and repair their own home telephone service. Ken also said that we may need to provide some kind of radio communications at the exercise since Jackson County will be associated in some way. Ken will try to find out more before the next meeting.

Ken, WA8LLM, discussed the new procedure for IRS Tax reporting. He said the new procedure is to file a simple 990-N E-Postcard. The WCEC

Tax report has already been completed.

Bob, KB8RNE, wants to know when there will be training on how to set up emergency communications when key people are not available. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he is trying to come up with a date.

Anna, KC8JWW, said that she attended a class put on by the Red Cross about taking care of yourself in times of disaster. She thought it would be a good class for the members of WCEC to take. Maybe we can get the Red Cross to teach one for us.

#### THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Cathy Wotring C8DJJ/Unit 257, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289, Denise Magyarosi-Mills KC8TUF/Unit 290, Tricia Magyarosi KC8VLI/Unit 294, Krista Mills KC8VLJ/Unit 295, Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268, David Stevens KC8VLK/Unit 274, Amy Stevens Unit 299H, Tim Dooley, N8WO/Unit 273, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 352, Bob Smith KB8RNE/Unit 267, Steve Ritchie KB8CCQ/Unit 297, Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278, Dave Wright N8NWV/Unit 285, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Anna Hendershot, KC8JWW/Unit 263, Carol Johnson KC8TUD/Unit 293, Ray Johnson KC8RUJ/Unit 292, Kevin Harris KC8OXY/Unit 253, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Ryan Thomas KD8EMM/Unit 353, Tyler Lewis KD8CPP/Unit 351, Matt Wright KD8GWP/Unit 354, Duane Jones N8LDM/Unit 260/ES-2, Ryan Riser Unit 299A, Scott Jones Unit 299C, Tyler Arnold, KD8GWN