

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

September 2, 2008

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were 23 members and guests present.

A motion to accept the August 5, 2008, minutes as they were E-Mailed was made by Dave, N8NWV, and seconded by Duane, N8LDM. 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 Bill, N8JXO, and seconded by Dave, N8NWV. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 repeater system. Ken said the repeater was working good before the Half Marathon after a temporary Remote Receiver was installed on Fort Borman Hill. But, 15 minutes before the start of the race some one sat on a microphone and locked up the repeater. We were unable to provide the starting tone for timers stop watches. After the race the temporary receiver was re-installed on Laurel Creek where it's working fine.

Terry, KC8TUE, said the Parkersburg Community Foundation grant was re-submitted on August 29th. He said the Bower Foundation submission deadline past before he could get that one submitted. He was told that a proposal could be submitted after the first of the year. Both of the grants were for a new communications trailer. Terry has been given stamps, letterhead, and ink cartridges to mail out letters asking for agencies that provide grants. He said that he could also send out donation letters. Denise, KC8TUF, needed tab material to put together the grant proposal to Parkersburg Community Foundation. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded members to keep their activity participation hours up to date. Ray, N8TWV, wanted to know if attending Amateur Radio Hamfests can also be counted. The group was told that hours and mileage for any activity that involves Amateur Radio should be counted, since Amateur Radio is also for emergency communications.

Dave, N8NWV, said that it would be better to wait until September or

October when it would be cooler to work in his garage, for working on antennas or any other Amateur Radio related projects. Dave says he has plenty of tools to work with. A short discussion on projects followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 200 foot tower is still on hold. He said he would call Mason County and see what the status of the tower is. The tower is on the ground, but the Mason County Commissioners are waiting to hear from the Putnam County Office of Emergency Service since they are wanting to put up their own tower.

Dave, N8NWV, told about the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) emergency kits that were on display at the Safety Fair on August 30th at the Parkersburg City Park. Don, N8NUS, described what his function with CERT is, and that he is still authorized to teach CERT Classes. He still has some CERT Kits available, but is unable order get any more. He has been doing a class in Tyler County. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded the members they could register as a RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) member by contacting Duane, N8LDM. A short description and discussion about RACES followed.

Since Gary, KC8ZZS, wasn't at the meeting, there was no discussion about holding a Swap Meet. With school back in session, we figure Gary is tied up with work at Marietta College. We are looking at a date in October that won't conflict with other Amateur rated activities. No one has talked to, or received E-Mail from, Gary for some time. Maybe things will slow down for him and he will be able to make the next meeting. Ken, WA8LLM, said that Gary has a couple of laptop computers that needs some minor repair. One of the computers can be setup and used with the portable printer that is on loan from the Mid Ohio Valley Health Department. The printer can be used for what ever is needed in emergency communications.

Ray, N8TWV, said the IS-100 and IS-200 FEMA courses have been changed, and the new numbers are IS-100A and IS-200A. When the IS-800 was changed to IS-800A, the basic questions were the same, with a few changes. It's possible that most of the questions on IS-100 and 200 may be the same with some minor changes. If you have taken IS-100 and IS-200, they are still good, but if you want to take the new courses you can do that. All that members of WCEC should take are IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800, or the latest version.

Copies of the Hidden Word Puzzles, that Cathy, KC8DJJ, printed up were available for members to pick up. The answers to last month's puzzle was on the back of this month's puzzle.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Half Marathon. Ken, said that we didn't do good at all on the starting of the timers stop watches since the repeater got locked up. Ken said that he has been thinking of how to set up next year. He said that he would like to operate on a VHF simplex frequency and have two people on the hill at Fort Borman Park to baby sit the system. To keep from having to use a generator, several batteries would be used. The person with the starting gun would operate on a UHF frequency that would re-transmit on the VHF frequency. It was suggested that tests be done before the next Half Marathon. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Parkersburg Homecoming. Since the BINGO games were some distance from the rest of the activities, it was decided that we sell water and soft drinks to the BINGO players so they wouldn't have to get up to get something to drink, and maybe not come back. It was decided that we should keep the BINGO games where they are at. We need to make up some BINGO signs that can be placed in other activity areas so people will know where we are at. It has been said that in a year or two the Point Park project should be completed, and then most of the activities will be back near the BINGO games. We may have been down a little bit in funds, but it may pay off in a long run.

Terry, KC8TUE, gave a report on the Parkersburg Homecoming Parade. In stead of using printers and papers, a new system was used so that Doug Hess, the parade Master of Ceremonies, could read the information off a screen like a Teleprompter. There were problems with the new system that need to be worked out.

There was reminder that BINGO games would be held at the Volcano Days festival on September 26th, 27th, and 28th.

Chick-Fil-A Cross Country races would be held on September 13th. Several radio operators are needed. There will be 6 or 8 races.

On September 23rd the Wood County/Washington County High School Cross Country races would be held. There would only be four races. The first race would start a 5:00 pm.

On Either September 29th or 30th, the Middle School Cross Country races will be held. There are only two races and they start at 5:00 pm. All of the races will be held at the Butcher Bend 4-H Fair grounds, across the road from the West Virginia Interstate Fair and Exposition Fair.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that we are still looking for a Certified Public Accountant. That is one of the 16 requirements needed to become a United Fund recipient. Dave, N8NWV, said that he would try to get a telephone number of a person that does Matt, KD8GWP's, taxes and see if she is CPA.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Safety Fair at the Parkersburg City Park that was held August 30th. There was a few people that stopped by the booth. A computer and monitor with ARRL movie "Amateur Radio Today" hosted by Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, was shown several times. The telephone system was on display and several of the agencies that showed up for the fair were given a telephone as a demonstration on how they would work in a real disaster. There was an HF Radio station set up and was used to check into the WV Mid Day Net. A short discussion of how we got involved was given.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Multiple Sclerosis Society called him about the MS-150 that would be held in Greenbrier County and is needing Amateur Radio help. They are having problems getting Amateurs in that area to participate.

There will be W5YI VE testing October 11th at the E-911 Center at 6:00 pm.

It was brought up about having a Christmas Party. Jeff, N8WQO, made a motion to have a party. Ryan, KD8EMM, seconded the motion. Motion passed. Duane, N8LDM, said the schedule board wasn't updated that far ahead. The first priority will be to have the Christmas party at the E-911 Center. Terry, KC8TUE, said that he would check on the church in Lubeck, to see if it is available on the Tuesday, since the Boy Scouts had it on Tuesday last year, we had to change our meeting day to Thursday. Dave, KC8VLK, is going to see if the Lubeck Fire Department would be available. The party/meeting will be held on December 2nd.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he got a telephone call about the air show this

year. He explained to the Air Show committee that WCEC couldn't communicate with the School Busses, and that it falls on the Sunday of Volcano Days. If anyone wants to go to the Air Show to help, they are welcome to do so. A short discussion followed.

Tyler Arnold, KD8GWN, presented a donation check from his parents, Ralph & Joni Arnold, in the amount of \$100 to WCEC. The group told Tyler to thank his parents.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there would be a Pig Roast at the Mineral Well Fire Department on September 6th, and they wanted to use one of our 24 by 40 canopies.

Ken, KB8QPW, wanted to know if WCEC could have a map reading class.

Don, N8NUS, said that he would teach the class as well as a class on the use of GPS Receivers.

Bill, N8JXO, said that he would like to have any pictures of any activities that we are involved with so that he can put them on the WC8EC.COM website.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Ryan Riser Unit 299A, Bob Smith KB8RNE/Unit 267, Lisa Hendershot KB8UER/Unit 270, Tim Dooley, N8WO/Unit 273, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289, Anna Hendershot, KC8JWW/Unit 263, Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268, Dave Wright N8NWV/Unit 285, Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278, David Stevens KC8VLK/Unit 274, Amy Stevens Unit 299H, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Jeff Newton N8WQO, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Ryan Thomas KD8EMM/Unit 353, Duane Jones N8LDM/Unit 260/ES-2, Don Williams N8NUS/Unit 279, Tyler Arnold, KD8GWN, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Jim Peterson, Kendale Peterson Unit 299E,