

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC
April 7, 2009

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.

A motion to accept the March 3, 2009, minutes as they were E-Mailed was made by Matt, KD8GWP, and seconded by Bill, N8JXO. 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 Jerry, KD8JNH, and seconded by Bob, KB8RNE. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A report was given on the 147.255 MHz Repeater system. Ken, WA8LLM, says there is defiantly a problem with the repeater. The E-911 Remote Receiver is not getting into the repeater even though it looks like it's transmitting. The Laurel Creek Remote Receiver could not get into the repeater. The only UHF Link Frequency that seems to be working is the one assigned to Williamstown Remote Receiver. Ken changed the Laurel Creek UHF Link Frequency to the same one as Williamstown. Any station that gets into both the Williamstown and Laurel Creek Remote Receivers at the same time will cause a mixture of the two Remote Receivers. The mixing of the two receivers will cause a noisy tone on the Repeater. Ken suggested that stations who might be getting into the two Remotes, to lower their power so they only get into one of the receivers at a time. It's possible the UHF Receiver Antenna at the transmitter may have been damaged during the Winter ice.

Terry, KC8TUE, said he has anything to report on the Parkersburg Community Foundation. He doesn't know if Denise, KC8TUF, has started on the Ross Foundation grant yet or not. He said that he has to get a grant package from the Bowan Foundation before he can start on it. Nothing has been heard back on the Letters of Inquiry that has been sent out. Don, N8NUS, said there will be some Citizen Corp grant money available. Ken said that he got the information, but was unable to forward it to Terry, it kept bouncing back. It seemed to go to Denise okay. Don said that he would see that Terry gets the information. Don said that it might be possible to get a trailer that would store and haul CERT Training material. Don also suggested that money for reimbursement for mileage and training material be added in the grant.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep track of their time and mileage for anything that involves Amateur Radio and emergency communications.

There hasn't been any interest in holding an antenna work party, or other projects in Dave, N8NWV's garage.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 200 foot tower is still on hold. He will contact the Mason County OES Director in a couple months and see what became of the tower.

Don, N8NUS, says no one contacted him about holding a CERT Class. He said that ten students would be about the right size class. Any one wanting to take the CERT Class should contact either Don or Denise, KC8TUF. Don says that he has 20 CERT Bags and plenty of CERT Training Books.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded the members they could still register as a RACES

(Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) member by contacting Duane, N8LDM.

Tyler, KD8CPP, gave a Hamfest report. The Hamfest will be held on October 10th. The activity committee held their meeting after last month's business meeting. He said the basics such as prices for tables and entree were discussed. He said the activity has been changed from a Swap Meet to a Hamfest. Bill, N8JXO, needs to get information such as the location, hours of operation, how much the tickets will be, parking information, availability of electricity, any rules for tailgating, rules for the inside displays, and the time the VE Testing will be held. Bill also wanted to know if advance Hamfest Tickets would be sold on the Internet. Tyler said that he would contact Gary, KC8ZZS, and see if another Hamfest Committee Meeting can be set up before the May meeting.

Ken, WA8LLM said that he would be going to a Communications Leadership class at Camp Dawson on April 14th, 15th, and 16th. On April 17th he will apply for three BINBO Licenses and the Raffle License. He's hoping to have the Raffle License by the first of May and will start selling the Radio-A-Day Give Away tickets. He would also like to have fliers for the Hamfest and the Raffle so he can E-Mail them out to the 250 or so addresses he has. As soon as the Raffle License arrives Bill, N8JXO, will open up the website for selling the tickets.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to be sure and work on their FEMA NIMS Courses. He would like for every one to have the IS-100A, IS-200A, IS-700, and IS-800B courses completed by the end of the year. Ken said that he saw on the FEMA site that IS Courses can be downloaded for classroom instruction. Don, N8NUS, said that classroom tests are different from the On Line tests. It's possible to teach a class using the On Line information and then the students could go on line and take the test.

Ken, WA8LLM, says he hasn't even started getting the paper work caught up to get a Financial Statement before we can apply to become a United Way recipient. He understands the United Way will start taking applications in May.

Ken, WA8LLM, says that he still needs to get a couple of ARES and WCEC ID Cards printed up, but has been too busy to get them done.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone the Volcano Days BINGO will be held on September 25th, 26th, and 27th. The BINGO License should be here by the May Business meeting.

There was a reminder the next W5YI VE Testing would be held on Saturday, April 11th at 6:00 pm at the E-911 Communications Center.

There was a short report about the Charleston Hamfest. Ken, WA8LLM, said he didn't get to see much of the Hamfest since he spent most of his time attending the ARES Forums.

The Jackson County Hamfest will be May 3rd at the Ripley Middle School in Ripley.

The Challenge at Mountwood Mountain Bike Race will also be held on May 3rd at Mountwood Park. A list of names was put together of operators who said they would like to help with the bike race. Duane, N8LDM, said that he would also like to have the T Shirt sizes so that he can pull those out about a week before the race. Duane said that he would

look the race course over and find where radio operators need to be assigned. Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to be sure their T Shirt size is correct on the WCEC Roster. Ken also wanted to know who was going to go to the Jackson County Hamfest so they can take the Raffle Tickets down to sell. Ken put together a form to keep track of the bike riders as they pass each location. He also put clocks on clipboards so the rider's time can be recorded. Since the numbering system will change some this year, the operators will record every rider as they pass by their location. We won't worry about what class each rider is in. A short discussion followed.

The Athens County, Ohio, Hamfest will be on Sunday, April 26th.

West Virginia Interstate Fair & Exposition BINGO will be held July 14th through 18th.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he made contact with Sharon Kesselring with the American Red Cross about the CPR/First Aid Class. Sharon has applied for the grant. As soon as she gets the grant, we will start working on a schedule date. For those who won't be able to take the class, Don, N8NUS, said that he would be able to teach a CPR Class.

The schedule for the Easter Safety Break was passed around again for those to fill in any vacant shifts. If there is some one on a shift that you would be able to work, and there is only one person on there, it doesn't hurt to have two or three operators on the shift. Ken, WA8LLM, said the price of Orange Drink has went up again. It is now 78 cents a bottle. We may have to try to get a grant for our Safety Breaks supplies. The Easter Safety Break is April 10th, 11th, and 12th.

Ken, KB8QPW, said that he had stopped at Bosley Construction to check on Safety Vests. They gave him a price of eight dollars. A business

in South Side said they would go fifty percent on the cost. After the vests were ordered, the business saw that our organization name was Wood County, so they backed out on the deal, thinking that we were a branch of the county government. Their financial people said they couldn't donate to a county government organization. Even though it was explained that we are not a branch of the county government, the deal was off, so we may be stuck with the full price. The vests were supposed to be available at this month's meeting, but they have never shown up. There was a lengthy discussion about vests. A lesson learned is the next time someone promises the organization money, we wait until the money is in hand before we do anything. The vests are on hold unless something can be worked out.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Mission of Mercy activity that will be held July 31st and August 1st. The officials want in house telephone communications in all of the processing stations during the event. Ken was supposed to go to a walk through some time in April or May to see what is needed. The telephone system can be set up on the Thursday before the event.

There was a reminder that Artsbridge would be held at WVUP on Friday, April 24th. Everyone is welcome to participate. Everyone should be there at about 8:30 am.

There was a reminder the Parkersburg Homecoming BINGO will be held August 21st, 22nd, 23rd. Ken, KB8QPW, said that he read it, or heard it somewhere, there may be no fireworks this year. The fireworks are the biggest draw for our BINGO games on Saturday.

Field Day will be held June 27th and 28th. Ken, WA8LLM, suggested that a group of two or three people be responsible for the set up of the different Field Day stations. After they get their station ready to go on the air they can operate it until other operators relieve them. There needs to be a couple of Field Day meetings to decide what we are going to do. A short discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

The Parkersburg Half Marathon will be held on August 22nd. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he needs to start getting a list together of those who are going to be able to help.

Ken, WA8LLM, and Duane, N8LDM, have been talking about using the Wood County Emergency Services Portable UHF Repeater for the half marathon. WCES has twelve H/Ts and WCEC has twelve H/Ts. That should give us enough radios for all of the operators. There was a discussion about purchasing new batteries for our radios. The concern is our H/Ts may not be useable after 2012.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there will be an Amateur Radio Crash Course on May 30th. The course is geared to getting as many Public Safety (Fire, Police, Ambulance, Rescue, Health Department, Red Cross, etc.) officials as possible licensed as Technicians. The class will be held at the Civil Air Patrol building on Route 31. The class will

start at 9:00 am with the reading of the Technician Class Question Pool. At the end of the reading, a Technician Class test will be administered. The students will be able to take the test two times without any cost. Any one evolved with emergency services or communications is welcome.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that the WCEC Tax Report needs to be submitted by May 15th. He hopes that it will be as easy as it was last year. Last year the report was submitted by a new system called E-Postcard.

Ken, WA8LLM, showed the clipboards with clocks attached which will be used at the Challenge at Mountwood. Those helping with the challenge should have a radio, extras batteries, pencils, warm clothes, rain gear if needed. Think warm and dry. Bob, KB8RNE, asked if Stop Watches could also be placed on the clipboards. Ken will look into it.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that John Dobson, W8WEJ, is going to give WCEC an old crank up tower that he purchased from the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub a few years ago. All he would like to have is a Donation Letter for a tax write off. Ken reminded the group the WCEC has a couple of old 3500 Watt Onan Generators that could be repaired and one of them mounted on the trailer. Ken said that he needed to get two or three people to help drag it out of John's back yard. The group thought it would be a good idea.

Ken, WA8LLM, talked about a new system for reporting severe weather during Skywarn Nets. It's a Weather Chat Room. One person would be assigned to check into the chat room during weather nets. That person will be in communications directly with a person at the National Weather Service in Charleston. Ken, KB8QPW, said the service will not available to us until after April 30th. A short discussion followed.

Dave, KC8VLK, reported the Lubeck VFD will be holding their Ice Cream Social on June 20th. The fire department needs to use the 24X80 foot canopy.

Don, N8NUS, said there will be a Basic Skywarn Class held on April 20th and an Advanced Skywarn Class on May 8th. The classes will be held at 7:00 pm at the Civil Air Patrol building on Route 31.

Lisa, KB8UER, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Matt, KD8GWP, motion carried.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Ryan Riser Unit 299A, Tricia Magyarosi KC8VLI/Unit 294, Tyler Lewis KD8CPP/Unit 351, Tyler Arnold KD8GNW/Unit 355, Ryan Thomas KD8EMM/Unit 353, David Stevens KC8VLK/Unit 274, Amy Stevens Unit 299H, Barbra Nohe, Unit 299M,
Jeff Newton N8WQO/Unit 298, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Lisa Hendershot KB8UER/Unit 270, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289, Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268, Duane Jones N8LDM/Unit 260/ES-2, Bob Smith KB8RNE/Unit 276, Tim Dooley N8WO/Unit 273, Matt Wright KD8GWP/Unit 354, Andrew Wright, Brad Carabine KC8TYU/Unit 287, Don Williams N8NUS/Unit 279,

Jerry Wilson KD8JNH/Unit 357, Mark Stull AB8WV, Brent Rice
KD8DLX/Unit 352, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Anna Hendershot
KC8JWW/Unit 263