

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC
June 2, 2009

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were 35 members and guests present.

A motion to accept the May 5, 2009, minutes as they were E-Mailed, was made by Bob, KB8RNE, and seconded by Dave, N8NWV. 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 Brandon, KD8JXY, seconded by Dot, KC8HAI. Motion carried.

Before the meeting got started, Sharon Kesselring from the Red Cross talked to the group about taking First Aid, CPR, and AED training that would be free of charge since the Red Cross had received a grant to teach the classes. The CPR Certification would be good for one year, and the First Aid Certification would be good for three years. The training needs to be completed by June 15th. Dates were set up for those who wanted to take the training. Lists were passed around for those wanted to take the training on June 6th and on June 13th.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz Repeater system. He figured everyone already knew the tower site which houses the repeater took a major lightening strike and did a lot of damage. The lightening destroyed the 147.255 repeater. He put together a quick repeater by connecting an Alinco DR-435 and DR-135 back-to-back to act as a repeater. The repeater doesn't have a tail, courtesy beep, or an Identifier. He said that he salvaged some of the parts that can be used to put some of the above items back in operation. When he gets some additional time he will try to get the system back in better operation. At the present time the DR-435 is scanning the Remote Receiver frequencies and picks up the first one it hears. There is no voter on the system, so the first receiver it hears may not be the best signal. It will be a learning curve on using the repeater for awhile.

Terry, KC8TUE, said there still hasn't been anything heard back about any of the grants.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep track of their time and mileage for activities that involves Amateur Radio or emergency communications. The sheets that were supposed to be used to keep track of member's hours had the wrong dates so they aren't of much good. The best thing to do is just keep track of your hours.

Dave, N8NWV, corrected the days that he that he would be available for antenna, or any work party that Ken, WA8LLM, had sent out. The days that Dave would be available to hold work parties would be. He would not be available on Thursdays and evenings. He would be available on Saturdays, but no Sundays. The best time would be on Saturdays.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 200 foot tower is still on hold. He will contact the Mason County OES Director some time in the future.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded the members they could still register as a RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) member by contacting Duane, N8LDM.

Terry, KC8TUE, said that he has talked to Gary, KC8ZZS, about the Hamfest. Gary has been working about 18 hours a day. Bill, N8JXO, still needs to get some information about the Hamfest to put on the website.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Radio-A-Day Give Away. The tickets are selling slow. There have only been about 45 out of 1000 tickets sold. Ken said that he has been in contact with the ARRL about putting a one and a quarter inch by 2 and quarter inch AD in the July and August QST magazine. The cost is \$178 dollars per month. The Ad is very restrictive about what it can say. The words Give Away can't be used. Ken asked for any suggestions about advertising. Bob, KB8RNE suggested that we only advertise in the QST magazine for two months. Ken said that he has also been in contact with the SERA (SouthEast Repeater Association about advertising in their magazine. The cost for their Ads is \$88 per Ad. Their magazine only goes out four times a year. Jerry, KD8JNH, suggested that we think about advertising on QRZ.com. Ken, KB8QPW, went to the QRZ.com site and found the cost is \$100 per slot per month. He said their website gets hit up to 17000 times a day. There was a lengthy discussion. Terry, KC8TUE, made a motion to advertise on QRZ.com if we can get it at a price of \$255 for three months, and use QST and SERA as back-ups. Dave, N8NWV, seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to 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. Ryan, KD8EMM, has now completed IS-0001,100, 200, 700, and 800B. Ken said that he would like to hold a class to teach some of the On Line classes. The students could then go on line and take the test.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he is still behind getting some Id Cards made up. Now he needs to get some of the ID Cards changed since three of our members has passed their Technician Class License and will be getting their Amateur License and changing their Unit numbers.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone the Volcano Days BINGO will be held on September 25th, 26th, and 27th.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone the West Virginia Interstate Fair and Exposition BINGO would be held July 14th through 18th.

Ken, KB8QPW, brought his Safety Vest in for Show-N-Tell. He got the vest at Harbor Freight for around six dollars. He then went to Wal*Mart and got reflective letters to put he word COMMUNICATIONS on the back.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there was supposed to have been a Walk Through at WVU-P, for the Mission Of Mercy. Ken and Dot, KC8HAI, went to WVU-P,

but couldn't find anyone. Ken would like to get some kind of idea of what they are wanting in the line of telephones at the event. The event will be held on July 31, and August 1st.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone the Parkersburg Homecoming BINGO will be held August 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.

A list was passed around for those wanting to help with the Parkersburg Half Marathon. The Parkersburg Half Marathon will be held on August 22nd.

There was a discussion about purchasing new batteries for the HT-600 Walkie-Talkies. Tyler, KD8CPP, said that he could get new batteries at the cost of \$35. He says he has used the batteries and said they hold up good. A short discussion followed. The HT-600 Walkie-Talkies will still be useable after January 1, 2013, since they can still be used in the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), and the can also be programmed to go into the UHF Amateur bands.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Amateur Radio Cram Class that was held on May 30 at the Civil Air Patrol building. Ken said there were 28 people taking the class and that 27 of them passed. Four of those who passed were at the meeting. Bob Breesawitz, Ryan Riser, Addie Harris, and Josh Morgan. They should all have their licenses before the next meeting, and hopefully before Field Day.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone that Field Day will be held June 27th and 28th. He said the 24 by 40 canopy would not be set up this year. We are going to rely on small canopies for cooking and operating. Dave, N8NWV, said that shower curtains make good sides for the pop-up canopies. Ken said that if anyone wants to camp out there Thursday and/or Friday night they can do that. Ken said he needs to get the invitation letters for Field Day sent out to all of the News Media, County Elected Officials, Served Agencies, and the Fire Departments. Maybe we can get an elected official to come this year.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he hasn't done anything with the crank-up tower that WCEC got from John Dobson, W8WEJ. Ken said that he may put a new cable on in and take it to Field Day to support an antenna. Lisa, KB8UER, wanted to know if we are going to use the double inverted V antenna for the PSK-31 station. We are going to try that this year.

Ken, KB8QPW, said that he hasn't tried out the Weather Chatroom yet. While the meeting was going on Jason from the National Weather Service called Ken, WA8LLM, and ask what kind of weather we were having in Parkersburg. He was advised there was a severe storm that had just went through the area with pea size, to golf ball size hail. He asked if we could start up a weather net and have someone check into the Chatroom.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Advanced Skywarn Class that was held on May 8th at the Civil Air Patrol building. Terry, KC8TUE, said there were about 10 WCEC members at the class.

There was a report on the Chick-Fil-A Road Run which was held on Saturday, May 16th. Since it was the first annual road run, it had several problems.

There was a reminder the Lubeck VFD Ice Cream Social would be June 20th at the fire station. They will be using our 24 by 80 canopy and a 10 by 10 canopy.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, said that we had received a donation check from Elite Limousine Service in the amount of \$100. We need to get a Thank You letter sent to them.

Eastwood VFD will be holding their Ice Cream Social on June 6th at the fire station on Rt 47. They want to use our tables, chairs, canopies, and the BINGO trailer. The Canopy Trailer is already at the station. Ken, WA8LLM, will be taking a trailer a day over.

Anna, KC8JWW, said the Deerwalk VFD Ice Cream Social will be held on June 6th at the fire station on Rt 31. She's not for sure if they will want to borrow any of the canopies or not. They borrow them once in awhile.

Terry, KC8TUE, said that he got a letter from the Department of Highways for the 4th of July Safety Break. A schedule was made up and passed around for everyone to look at and sign up, if they could help. The Safety Break will be Friday, July 3, Saturday, July 4, and Sunday, July 5. We will be using the Mineral Wells Southbound Rest Area.

Ken, KB8QPW, brought up about the picnic in August. He and Tim, N8WO, have been doing some research on different locations. They have been to the McDonough Park on Rosemar Road. Tim said that he has talked to the City of Vienna about the park. There is no charge for the use of the park, but they will take donations. The park needs to be reserved. A short discussion followed. Jeff, N8WQO, made a motion that if the park is available on the day of our August meeting, that we hold this year's meeting/picnic at the McDonough Park and give a donation of \$25. Bob, KB8RNE, seconded the motion. The motion passed. Tim was going to check with city and report back.

Ray, N8TWV, said that he got a telephone call from the National Weather Service. They were checking the Spotter's location on Google Map. Other Stormspotters may get the same telephone call.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, reminded us the Waverly VFD Ice Cream Social is always the First Saturday in August. That would make it August 1st, the same day as the Mission of Mercy event at WVU-P. Waverly usually uses our canopies for the social. We may have to figure out how to do both events.

Duane, N8LDM, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lisa, KB8UER. Meeting adjourned.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Ryan Riser Unit 299A, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289, Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit

257, Barbra Nohe, Unit 299M, Jeff Newton N8WQO/Unit 298, Bob Smith
KB8RNE/Unit 276, Brandon Zickefoose KD8JXY/Unit 356, Tyler Arnold
KD8GNW/Unit 355, Ryan Thomas KD8EMM/Unit 353, Jerry Wilson
KD8JNH/Unit 357, Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278, Dave Wright N8NWX/Unit
285, Tim Dooley N8WO/Unit 273, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 352, Bill
Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Lisa Hendershot KB8UER/Unit 270, Kevin
Harris KC8OXY/Unit 253, Addie Harris Unit 299F, Judy Peterson
N8UFQ/Unit 255,
Kendale Peterson Unit 299E, David Stevens KC8VLK/Unit 274, Amy
Stevens Unit 299H, Anna Hendershot KC8JWW/Unit 263, Daniel Ritchie
KC8ZLK/Unit 296, Steve Ritchie KB8CCQ/Unit 297, Sharon Kesselring,
Tricia Magyarosi KC8VLI/Unit 294, Krista Mills KC8VLJ/Unit 295,
Josh Morgan Unit 299L, Tyler Lewis KD8CPP/Unit 351, Duane Jones
N8LDM/Unit 260/ES-2, Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268, Bob Breesawitz