

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC
November 3, 2009

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were 38 members and guests present. A motion to accept the October 6, 2009, minutes as they were E-Mailed, was made by Dave, N8NWV, and seconded by Tyler, KD8CPP. 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, WV8HAM, and seconded by Matt, KD8GWP. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz Repeater system. Ken said he hasn't done anything to the repeater yet. It seems to be working. Ken says that if it's not raining on Wednesday the 7th, he will try to make a trip to the tower site and see if he can make the repeater work better. He says the UHF Receiver Antenna is just sitting up along side of the transmitter building. With all of the wind we've had, it's possible the antenna may have fallen over. The UHF receive antenna is only up ten feet. Ken says he needs to replace the UHF antenna and coax on the tower. He figures that when the lightning hit the tower, the original antenna and/or coax may have been damaged.

Terry, KC8TUE, said he hasn't heard anything about the grants that he applied for. The only grant that we got was the one Jim Rose, KD8ITI, with the health department, applied for, through Grainger. Ken, WA8LLM, gave a brief explanation about the trailer which the Health Department is wanting to install communications in. All of the money from the Grainger Grant will go toward the purchasing of communication equipment for the trailer. Ken said that as soon as Doug Hess can get it scheduled, Ken and Jim will have the big "show" check presented to them in front of the County Commission. Terry says he would still like to have help on the grant writing. He said that Jenny, KC8UYB, is willing to help. Anyone else wanting to help should contact Terry. Terry said that since we got the Grainger Grant that we may be able to apply again to the McDonough Foundation for a back-up grant, since they don't give grants on initial projects. He said they will give grants matching the initial grants. Terry would pursue that grant.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the members should have their hours available by the next month's meeting so they can be compiled and added to the grants that will be written starting in January.

Dave, N8NWV, said that his garage and work shop is closed for the Winter.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he talked to Chuck Blake, N8HEN, the Mason County OES Director about the 200 foot tower. Chuck said that engineers were supposed to be evaluating the grounding of the new 911 tower on the day of the meeting. Ken said there was about \$160,000 in damage to their tower and radio equipment when it took a lightning hit. He said that one Fire Department hasn't made up their mind yet about the tower. Chuck would like to get rid of it,

but he has to wait. Ken said that he wasn't for sure if we were going to have to pay for it, or if it would be donated. Ken told Chuck that he would check back with him from time-to-time.

Don, N8NUS, wasn't at the meeting so he wasn't able to report about any CERT Classes or activities that he might have planned.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded the members they could still register as a RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) member by contacting Duane, N8LDM. Duane said that all of the members who are registered should get him an updated copy of their communication capabilities. Ken passed a copy of a roster around for the members to indicate if they want to be registered as RACES members. Duane will go through the list, and those who are not already registered will get a registration form.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave an expense report on the Hamfest. He gave a breakdown of where the expenses were spent, including the signs, the insurance, and prizes, which came to \$838.68. Cathy, KC8DJJ, said that we took in \$1280. We made \$441.32. Cathy said that has sent thank you letters to all of those who donated door prizes. She also sent a picture to the Texas Road House. The manager of Texas Road House said that only about 10 percent of those asking for donations ever follows through with bringing a picture back. It was suggested a survey form be put on the website. Bill, N8JXO, said that if we were going to hold a Hamfest in 2010, that we should have it on there. Bill said he would put it on the website if we decide to hold a Hamfest.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Radio-A-Day Giveaway. He gave breakdown on all of the expenses which included license, tickets, Paypal, radios, mailings & shipping, envelopes, table at other Hamfests, and labels. Total expenses came to \$1807.78. There were 92 tickets sold which came to \$1840. We made \$32.22 out of the venture. We made just a little more since one of the radios had a \$50 rebate, which should come in the next two months. Ken said that it's a venture that we're not going to do again. Other fund raiser may be looked at.

Ken, WA8LLM, talked about holding NIMS course classes. We may check to see if we can hold the classes at the Eastwood Fire Station. He would have liked to had everyone NIMS compliant by the end of the year, which he was sure couldn't be done, but we needed to have a goal. Several members said they would be willing to take the class to receive their certificate. Bill, N8JXO, said there is a link to ICS website on the wc8ec.com website under the Training area.

Ken, WA8LLM, took a few pictures before the meeting for ID Cards. The pictures that were already taken were passed around to see if anyone wants a different picture on their ID Card. A copy of last year's medical forms were handed out to be updated. This year's Id Card expires December 31, 2009.

Ken, WA8LLM, says he still needs to send John Dobbins, W8WEJ, a donation letter for the crank up tower. Ken said that he talked to

John the other day. John said that as long as he gets the letter before he does his taxes, that all right.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that Jim Rose, KC8ITI, has talked to the Parkersburg Fire Chief about using one of the Parkersburg Fire station to put the Health Department trailer in so that it can be worked on. Ken said the cabinets have already been placed in the trailer. Ken gave a short list of the equipment that is going to be installed. A lot of the computer equipment is already on hand and ready to be installed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has registered the Field Day Network Logging program. He sent out the passcode to several members who would be the ones setting up the system on Field Day. A short discussion followed.

It was decided to hold off on any discussion on a bus trip to the Dayton Hamfest until the next meeting, or until Lisa, KB8UER, is at the meeting.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that during the Hamfest, Gary, KC8ZZS, programmed the UHF Walkie/Talkies with the Mountwood Park Repeater frequency. The next time we have an activity at Mountwood Park, we should have enough communication to cover the whole park. Gary also programmed the frequency of 446.000 MHz in the Walkie/Talkies. Ken, KB8QPW, said the Mountwood repeater has good coverage. He is able to hit the repeater from his house, near the Parkersburg High School.

At last month's meeting Ken, KB8QPW, said that Harbor Freight had another batch of Safety Vests. Since there was still some vest donation money from Elite Limousine left over, Ken, WA8LLM, purchased 10 more vests. The vests still need to be labeled.

Terry, KC8TUE, said that we could use the Lubeck Fire Station if we need it for the Christmas Dinner. He also made contact with the Lubeck Civic Center to use for the dinner. Jenifer, Unit 299A, said the place she had checked on was already booked for the day we needed it. Terry said that if the group wanted to become a member of the Lubeck Civic Center for \$100 the first year and \$75 each year after, that we could use the Center once a month for our meetings. Terry said the Center is available on all of our meeting nights except either March or May next year. It wouldn't be available, since it's already booked. He described the meeting room, and said there if plenty of parking available. A short discussion was held. A motion was made by Dot, KC8HAI, for WCEC to become a member of the Lubeck Civic Center, seconded by Matt, KD8GWP. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, received a telephone call the day after the last meeting saying there were six Boy Scouts who wanted to operate in the JOTA (Jamboree On The Air). Ken said that he took his trailer up to the Field Day site, and set up one HF Radio. Only two Boy Scouts and one Cub Scout showed up. The boys made contact with one station in the state of Washington. The Boy Scout leaders are supposed to get back with Ken about holding an Electronic Class so they can get their Radio and Electronic Badges.

There was a discussion about holding a monthly 50/50 Drawing at last month's meeting, but we were going to hold off until this month. There was a discussion. Terry, KC8TUE, gave a description on how the 50/50 would work. There would be very little overhead. The drawing would not be limited to any one type of group. A Raffle License is not required. Bill, N8JXO, said there are programs available that could be used to design, number and print tickets. He said that perforated ticket paper can also be acquired that can be separated and the tickets stapled together. A motion was made by Terry, KC8TUE, to sell 50/50 Tickets for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Seconded by Tyler, KD8CPP. Motion carried. There was a lengthy discussion held about how to hold the drawing, and who would print the tickets.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there is going to be a Region 5 Hospital Command Post Exercise on Thursday, December 17th. The hospitals have asked to have Amateur Radio provide backup communications. Ken said they want his telephone system to be used in the Simulated Call Center, to make the telephone calls. Packet Radio can be used between all of the hospital, since no one repeater is available to all of the hospitals. Ken gave a brief scenario of the exercise. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that one of the vendors at the Hamfest had five Motorola HT-600 Walkie/Talkies that he would sell for \$200. Ken met with him and picked them up. The radios were given to Gary, KC8ZZS, to be programmed.

Ken, WA8LLM, and Dot, KC8HAI, made contact with the West Virginia Extension Office about renting the main building at the 4-H Fair Grounds for a Hamfest. The cost of the building would be \$125. Tables would be available without looking for some. Mark, AB8WV, made a motion to hold a Hamfest in 2010. Seconded by Tyler, KD8CPP. Motion carried. There was a short discussion about holding the Hamfest at the 4-H Fairgrounds, and some of the Pros and Cons. Matt, KD8KWJ, made a motion to hold the Hamfest at the 4-H Fairgrounds. Seconded by Ryan, KD8EMM. Motion carried. Tyler, KD8CPP, made a motion to hold the Hamfest on October 9, 2010. Dave, N8NWV, seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ken will contact the Extension Office and have the building reserved. It was discussed about holding a special drawing of some kind to make the money to purchase prizes for the 2010 Hamfest. It was suggested that we give away an HF Radio. Discussions would be held during the year, prior to, the Hamfest.

Ken, WA8LLM, passed around pictures of two 10 by 10 foot inflatable tents that he had acquired from the Belpre Fire Department. The tents can be used for any activities such as Field Day. It takes about two minutes to inflate the tents. Ken brought a bunch of equipment to the meeting which came with the tents. Anyone who wanted the equipment such as suits, gloves, boots, and hose, could have them.

It was brought up about a Christmas Parade. No one knew what the date is going to be.

Matt, KD8GWP, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave, N8NWV. Meeting adjourned.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Ryan Riser
KD8LKZ/Unit 358, Kevin Harris KC8OXY/Unit 253, Addie Harris
KD8LLA/Unit 359, Anna Hendershot KC8JWW/Unit 263, Ryan Thomas
KD8EMM/Unit 353, Tyler Lewis KD8CPP/Unit 351, Mark Stull AB8WV/Unit
291, Brandon Stull,
Jerry Wilson KD8JNH/Unit 357, Crystal Barnette KD8LOB/Unit 361, Tyler
Arnold KD8GNW/Unit 355, Tim Dooley N8WO/Unit 273, Krista Mills
KC8VLJ/Unit 295, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289, Tricia Magyarosi
KC8VLI/Unit 294, Duane Jones N8LDM/Unit 260/ES-2, Bob Smith
KB8RNE/Unit 276, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Matt Wright
KD8GWP/Unit 354, Ashlee Wright Unit 299F, Andrew Wright, Rick Greene
KC8VLM/Unit 265, Jennifer Greene KC8UYB/Unit 264, Kenny Roberts
KD8MFS/Unit 362, Barbra Nohe Unit 299N, Jeff Newton N8WQO/Unit 298,
Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278, Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268, Dave Wright
N8NWV/Unit 285, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Gary Bosworth
KC8ZZS/Unit 277, Matt Greathouse KD8KWJ/Unit 363,
Chris Hinton WV8USA, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Kendale Peterson,
Unit 299E, Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit 257,