

Wood County Emergency Communications

Serving Wood County West Virginia and surrounding areas



Minutes of Monthly Business Meeting January 4, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were only 11 members present.

A motion to accept the December 7, 2010, minutes as they were e-mailed, was made by Dave, N8NWV, and seconded by Rick, WV8DOC. Motion carried. Printed copies of the minutes and agenda were also available at the meeting. The Treasurer's Report was read. Ken, WA8LLM, said the group had received a donation check in the amount of \$125 and a plaque, which was passed around. The check and plaque were from Eastwood VFD for helping them with their Ice Cream Social. There is \$36 in the PayPal account, and it was decided to leave it there for the time being. A motion to accept the report was made by Bob, KB8RNE, and seconded by Jerry, WV8HAM. Motion carried.

Old Business

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz repeater system. Ken said for a couple of days the repeater was getting interference from the county fire repeater on Red Hill. By the end of the second day, the problem was corrected by repairing a piece of defective equipment on the fire repeater. Other than that, the 147.255 repeater is working great.

Terry, KC8TUE, said that he had e-mailed Staples about a community grant which he and Ken, WA8LLM, have been working on. Terry also said that he and

Rick, WV8DOC, are going to apply for a secondary grant through the McDonough Foundation. Ken said the group is still waiting for the grant from the Grainger Foundation. Ken has picked up the Wal*Mart grant applications from Cathy, KC8DJJ. He and Terry are going to finish them and get them submitted. It was decided to print and hand out or mail donation letters to business in the area as soon as Terry gets printer ink and stamps. Jerry, WV8HAM, suggested we also contact all of the car dealerships.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that some of the members reported their hours and mileage for 2010. He reminded everyone to keep record of the mileage and hours and turn them into Terry, KC8TUE, or himself whenever they wanted to.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone about the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class starting in January at the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department. Rick, WV8DOC, gave a list of the dates. The CERT class will be held on January 13, 20, 27, and February 3, and 10. The five day class will be held at the Mid Ohio Health Department, 211 6th Street, first floor conference room, from 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

The members were reminded that if they want to register as a RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) member, they need to fill out an application and get it to Duane, N8LDM.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there are still copies of the NIMS IS-100, 200, 700, and 800

Incident Command System courses available for those who still want to complete the courses. Ken also explained about the membership status on the roster. Some members will be classified as Communication Technicians, and others as Auxiliary. To be NIMS Compliant, 70 percent of the members need to have completed, or be in the process of completing, courses as suggested by the organization leadership. Rick, WV8DOC, suggested different level classifications of Communication Technician. A lengthy discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Health Department Communications Trailer. There hasn't been much work on it this past month. There is an electric heater in the trailer to keep it and the equipment from being too cold. We are still waiting for the Grainger grant so that we can install the telephone system in it. Getting any information about the grant is getting harder, since the employee at Grainger, Jeff Walsh, who submitted the grant, has changed positions in the company. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the group needs to get started putting together a Hamfest Committee for 2011. Ken said that Ken, WV8EER, indicated that he would be interested in chairing the committee, but he wasn't at the meeting, so we will wait until next month to assign a Hamfest Chairman. Ken said that we shouldn't wait until the last minute to start getting door and main prizes for the Hamfest. Ken suggested that we have a page on the website with pictures of the prizes. Also, we could have a page with the logos of the businesses that contribute to the Hamfest. Bill, N8JXO, said we may need to get permission from some of the businesses to use their name or logo. A lengthy discussion followed.

Since Ken, WV8EER, wasn't at the meeting, a report on the T-Shirts was tabled until the next meeting.

No one attended any of the Food Handler classes held at the Health Department this past month. Anyone wanting to take the class will be reimbursed for the price of the class, which is five dollars.

Reports on the Christmas and New Year Safety Breaks were given. A report of the past Safety Breaks was passed around. WCEC has been sponsoring Safety Breaks for 19 years. Due to the restrictions imposed by the WV Department of Highways, WCEC will no longer be sponsoring any Safety Breaks.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Christmas Parade. He said the WCEC group was never requested to help with the parade. He said the radio station had plans to use their Cell Phones to pass the Parade Line-Up information to the Master of Ceremonies. Doug Hess, the Master of Ceremonies, still wanted WCEC to help with the parade, even though there were a few problems with the WCEC system. It's a good thing that WCEC was there. The ones who were supposed to help with the Blackberry system never showed up. Ken said that a new system was used to inform the Master of Ceremonies of the parade line-up. The program that Lisa, KB8UER, had put together for the cross county races was modified. The Master of Ceremonies was equipped with a computer monitor while Jeff, KC8EEQ, and Rick, WV8DOC, input the data into the computer. Kevin, KC8OXY, and Dot, KC8HAI, were the spotters of the floats. The new system worked a lot better than any of the old ones. Ken said that WCEC probably wouldn't be doing the Parkersburg Homecoming Parade in August, since the radio station coordinating the parades no longer wants the help from WCEC, though this is subject to change.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he needs to make a few medical forms for members to get their ID cards finished.

Rick, WV8DOC, suggested the group recycle Aluminum Cans. He said that anyone who isn't saving cans for themselves can bring them to the meetings, and he will take care of getting them recycled.

There was a discussion about putting the minutes of the meetings on the WC8EC.com website. Rick, WV8DOC, said that if the group wanted to put the minutes on the website, that he would be happy to get them formatted and ready to go on the site. Rick, and Bill, N8JXO, said they may try it for a couple of months to see how it works out.

Bob, KB8RNE, wanted to know when we could get training on the Health Department Communications Trailer. As the radio and computer equipment becomes operational, training on it needs to be provided. Bob also wanted to know when we would be using the trailer. The group was told that anytime the trailer was deployed to an incident that we would be the ones who operate it, if available. WCEC won't be the ones taking the trailer to the incident, but would operate it while it was there. WCEC can use the trailer at any time, but WCEC would be responsible for getting it moved. Any training that will be done on the trailer would be held in warmer weather.

New Business

There will be Amateur Radio VE Testing this coming Saturday at the Mid-Ohio Valley Heath Department, 211 6th Street, at 6:00 PM. The testing will be W5YI or ARRL.

Ken, WA8LLM, brought up for discussion activities in 2011. Terry, KC8TUE, suggested that we have training on message handling. Ken has been thinking about having one person each week bring a piece of traffic to the Sunday net and pass it to someone else. Bill, N8JXO, put together a Power Point Presentation which was used at a training class a couple or three

years ago at the Eastwood Fire station. Bill said the Power Point is still available on the WC8EC.com website. Rick, WV8DOC, suggested that since several WCEC members are at the meeting place at about 6:00 PM the night of the meetings, that we could have some training before the meeting. Ken said he would have the traffic handling material at next month's meeting. Anyone who is there early can take a short training class. A short discussion followed.

Jerry, WV8HAM, said that Jefferson School is looking for sponsors to help pay for the school year book. A sponsor would have their company logo in the year book. The size of the logo would depend on the amount of sponsorship. He thought it would be a good idea to have the WCEC Logo in the book. The year books will be around for a long time and be seen by a lot of people. Jerry will check on the sponsorship and get back with Ken, WA8LLM.

Terry, KC8TUE, suggested the WCEC group might think about holding some kind of fund raising dinner or Ice Cream Social. He brought it up for the organization to think about. If anyone has any ideas for dinners, they should bring them to the next month meeting. A short discussion followed.

Terry, KC8TUE, made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Dot, KC8HAI. Meeting adjourned.

Attendees

Ken Harris (WA8LLM/Unit 251)
Dot Harris (KC8HAI/Unit 258)
Dave Wright (N8NWV/Unit 285)
Jerry Wilson (WV8HAM/Unit 357)
Terry Mills (KC8TUE/Unit 289)
Bob Smith (KB8RNE/Unit 276)
Barbra Nohe (Unit 299N)
Rick Sawyer (WV8DOC/Unit 364)
Bill Davidson (N8JXO/Unit 283)
Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278)
Judy Peterson (N8UFQ/Unit 255)