

# Wood County Emergency Communications

*Serving Wood County West Virginia and surrounding areas*



## Minutes of Monthly Business Meeting January 1, 2013

Due to it being the first day of the year, and most businesses would be closed, it was decided to hold the meeting earlier in the evening. The monthly business meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were 19 members and guests present.

A motion to accept the December 4, 2012, minutes, as they were E-Mailed, was made by Brad, KC8TYU, and seconded by Barb, KD8SQY. Motion carried. Printed copies of the minutes and agenda were also available at the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was read. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Rick, WV8DOC, and seconded by Krista, KC8VLJ. Motion carried.

### Old Business

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz Repeater system. He said the Williamstown Remote Receiver was still down. Ken said that he took the unit home to look at. There didn't seem to be anything wrong with it, or the Packet station that were both off the air. It looked like the only thing wrong with both stations was the batteries, and a melted terminal on the power supply. Matt, N8MDG, built a Remote Receiver to place at the E-911 tower site using a couple of radios tied back-to-back. The audio level is a little higher, but that will be corrected the next time that Matt and Ken make a trip to the repeater tower site. Matt worked on the Remote Receiver that was at the E-911 tower site which had an echo to it. He was going to install it at a location that should cover the Williamstown area. When he tried to re-program the radio, it went brain dead, and he can't get it to do anything. Since Ken and Matt, are planning to place a Remote Receiver at another tower location not far from Williamstown, Ken decided to install the Williamstown Remote Receiver at the Elizabeth Hill tower site, using the same link frequency as the Laurel Creek receiver. That Remote Receiver should cover a lot of Wirt County, the Route 47 area, and South-eastern part of Wood County. Kevin, KC8OXY,

removed a Remote Receiver that was at the tower site near Deerwalk, owned by Max Barker, KC8JHI. It hasn't been in operation for a few years. They are planning to re-program that receiver and place it at the Williamstown tower site using the same link frequency as Rockport. By doubling up on the link frequencies, we can have more Remote Receivers to cover the county better with Hand Held radios. Since the new Dual Band Hand Held radios have arrived, and are programmed, plans are to use the old UHF Motorola Hand Held radios for Link Transmitters for Remote Receivers. A bunch of Remote Receivers can be built using the old VHF Motorola Hand Held radios, that were given to the group, by the Sheriff's Department, and the old UHF Hand Held radios. By doing that, all of the Remote Receivers on the repeater system will be the same, and maintenance will be a lot easier. Ken also explained some of the other work that has been done on the repeater by Matt, N8MDG. But, with the little problems on the repeater, it is a lot better shape then it used to be, thanks to Matt. And, Matt still has to keep his own 444.925 MHz repeater working. He would like to have more activity on the 444.925 repeater.

Terry, KC8TUE, said he had nothing to report on any grants, and he is starting to work on the donation letters. He will print off donation letters for anyone who needs them. There was a reminder for everyone to keep track of their mileage and hours for grant applications. Dave, N8NWV, turned his report in at the meeting.

Rick, WV8DOC, said he didn't have anything to report on CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Ken, WA8LLM, said that he needs to go back to Elizabeth to finish CERT Communications Class, when it gets scheduled.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone, who hasn't done so already, about the NIMS courses, IS-100, 200, 700, and 800 or their latest issue.

Terry, KC8TUE, gave a report on the Health Department Communications Trailer. He said that it was still sitting at Fire Station #2 at 16th and Covert Streets.

Ken, WA8LLM, and Terry, KC8TUE, discussed what to do about new T-Shirts since the roster is being reviewed. Terry said that he contacted the company on TV that will make special T-Shirts. They want \$13.95 a piece. The group thought it would be better to stick with Shirt Factory for any T-Shirts that need to purchase.

Bill, N8JXO, said the [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com) website is up to date. He's putting Hamfest listing on the site as he gets them. Some of the listings he gets are a year in advance.

Terry, KC8TUE, is still trying to line up insurance for the Airport, so we can get in the building. Ken, WA8LLM, and Terry have put together a financial report for the last three years, trying to get the information for the insurance company that does the Wood County insurance. Terry was on the telephone with the company for an hour and a half. Even though the salesman for the company doesn't think he can help us get insurance, he still wants the information submitted and let the board of directors make a decision. He said that if they decide to insure the group, the minimum cost will be \$1500 a year. Terry thinks we should go back to the Interstate Company and talk to them, since it be around \$500 a year. The Coun-

ty Commission said that if the cost of the insurance is a problem, that they may be able to take care of it, but that is one commissioner talking. The commission may pay for it a couple of years, then not pay it again. If that is the case we would have to come up with the money, or drop the insurance. If we drop the insurance then we are out of the building. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there are still WCEC patches if any wants one or more. They are \$2.00 apiece.

There hasn't been any more said about moving the cabinets from one building to another building at the airport. We may try to set up another date to move the cabinets when the weather gets better.

A work group to clean up the Sand Hill tower would be held off until Summer, or the weather gets warmer.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the new Hand Held radios that are replacing the old Motorola Hand Held radios are in. Kevin, KC8OXY, has downloaded the programming software, and the radios have been programmed. There were 25 radios, 15 would be kept by the organization, and the other 10 would be sold to members of the organization at \$95 each. Five have already been spoken for, so there are five left. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the ID Cards were on the sign-in table. He decided he was not going to try to keep up with the NIMS courses on the back of the ID Cards. Also if the Medical Forms aren't up-to-date, he was going to use the latest one he has on file. The Medical Information is for the person in case they need to have medical attention, and are not able to communicate that to the medical provider. Hopefully the information is not too far out of date. He would like to have the information updated yearly, or if there is a major medical change.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on Hospital drill that was held on Thursday, December 6, 2012. Additional antennas were installed on the roof of the Health Department, and additional radios installed. The group set up the portable telephone system and two of our members were telephone operators. Cellphones were used with

telephone system. Packet stations were used with most of the hospitals, and Health Care providers. The locations that didn't have packet radio used VHF repeaters, or HF radios to communicate. There were a lot of lessons learned, and the mistakes and problems that were recognized are already being worked on. Ken explained some of the problems with the telephone system. There were a lot of good comments about the communications. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report about the trailer that is sitting a Matt, KD8GWP's house. After the December meeting, Ken talked to Harry Deitzler, from the Deitzler Foundation. Harry said that he would donate \$1000 toward the purchasing of the trailer, if the group could come up with the other \$1000. Donations were raised and the Trustees would allow the final amount of money to be taken out of the Regular Checking Account to purchase the trailer. Ken said he would get the rest of the paperwork together, and maybe have title for the trailer by the February meeting. Some of the members have already looked over the trailer. A short discussion followed.

## **New Business**

Ken, WA8LLM, said that while the Hospital Drill was going on, Tim Miller from the Health Department wanted to schedule a one day Technician Class license class. The class was scheduled for Thursday, January 24th, at the Health Department.

W5YI VE Testing will be February 9, at 6:00pm at the Health Department.

Ken, WA8LLM, brought up for discussion about having membership dues. He has never liked the idea of having dues, but it may come to it. The Bylaws says that membership dues can be required if need be. Since only about 10 percent of the WCEC members are the ones who work for 90 percent of the income, dues may be required for membership. Nothing has been set up yet, but those who are talking about having dues would like to see them prorated for the amount of work the members do on fund raising events. The group was asked to think about it, and it would be brought up in a future

meeting. If membership dues are incorporated, they wouldn't be started until January, 2014. A short discussion followed.

The group was asked if they want to have a Hamfest again this year. Judy, N8UFQ, made a motion the hold the Hamfest, seconded by Cathy, KC8DJJ. The motion carried, the Hamfest would be held on the second Saturday in October.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said they are planning to a Spaghetti Supper. All the details haven't been worked out yet.

Tammy Smith had a suggestion of holding a dance. The event could be a good fund raising event. A short discussion followed.

Dave, N8NWV, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ken, KB8QPW. Meeting adjourned.

## **Attendees**

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251  
Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258  
Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit 257  
Colt Wotring Unit 299G  
Kymber Wotring Unit 299J  
Brad Carabine KC8TYU/Unit 287  
Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268  
Tammy Smith  
Dave Wright N8NWV/Unit 285  
Krista Mills KC8VLJ/Unit 295  
Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289  
Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278  
Rick Sawyer WV8DOC/Unit 364  
Barbra Nohe KD8SQY/Unit 375  
Matt Wright KD8GWP/Unit 354  
Leland Wright Unit 299L  
Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255  
Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283  
Jeff Newton N8WQO/Unit 298