

Wood County Emergency Communications

Serving Wood County West Virginia and surrounding areas



Minutes of Monthly Business Meeting March 5, 2013

The monthly business meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/ Unit 251, President. There were 17 members and guests present.

A motion to accept the February 5, 2013, minutes, as they were emailed, was made by Dave, N8NWV, and seconded by Ray, N8TWV. 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 Bill, N8JXO, and seconded by Rick, WV8DOC. Motion carried.

Old Business

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz Repeater system. He said the repeater seems to be working okay, but he thinks the Wirt County Remote Receiver may be off the air. The Packet Station at the same location also seems to be out of service. Ken said that he is working on the interface for the new Remote Receivers, and still needs to contact Tyler, WV8VFD, and pick up some of the radios that he has already worked on and has programmed. The interface that Ken is working on will identify which remote receiver was just being used by a Packet Burst. Ken talked about the new UHF Repeater that he is getting coordinated on 443.925 MHz. He says when it get installed that it will be linked to the 444.925 MHz repeater owned by Matt, N8MDG. Ken and Matt are talking about linking the UHF repeaters to the 147.255 MHz repeater on Sunday nights between 8:30 and 9:30 pm for the weekly net. The link could also be established any time there needs to be a large area of coverage. Ken said that when the weather gets better, Matt wants to install four more UHF

Link Receivers into the voter system at the repeater site. That will allow for eight Remote Receivers on the system. Ken said that he is also working on a Simplex Repeater that can be used in an emergency, or taken to the field to give better coverage during searches.

Terry, KC8TUE, said he is still researching for new grants. He said that he has handed out some of the donation letters for the Hamfest, but was informed they had the wrong date. He printed up some new ones and had them at the meeting for those who wanted to help hand them out.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep track of their volunteer hours and mileage.

Rick, WV8DOC, gave out several dates for training that the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) has scheduled for training. He said the best way to get the dates is to go to the newly set-up website linked to the website of: www.friendsofcert.org/woodcountycert/. He said to go to the "Wood County" link

and click on "Training". Rick said there will be CERT Training every Saturday in April, and that on April 27th, there will be classes on the NIMS ICS courses IS-100 and 700 in the morning, and 200 and 800 in the afternoon. It was discussed about bringing the WCEC computers to the class so the students could use them to complete their test on line.

Terry, KC8TUE, gave a report on the Health Department Communications Trailer. He hasn't been in the trailer lately, but it looks like it is still in one piece. The only radio that has been taken out of it is the one that got wet, and he took home to dry out and make sure that it is still okay. Since WCEC now has a new trailer, it was suggested that WCEC remove their radios until they could be installed in it. Since the new trailer isn't ready yet, the radios should stay in the Health Department trailer in case it is needed for a communications emergency. Ken, WA8LLM, said that since the batteries need to be kept charged in the new WCEC trailer, that at a later date solar panels may be mounted on the top of the trailer. A lengthy discussion followed.

Terry, KC8TUE, said there needs to be a list of those who need T-Shirts put together so they could be ordered. A short discussion followed.

Bill, N8JXO, gave a report on the www.wc8ec.com website. He said that it is up-to-date except for the DAREN News and ARES Bulletins. Ken, WA8LLM, said that since he has been having computer problems he's unable to send the news and bulletins, to get them posted. Ken will try to get them to Bill the next time he goes to the library.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the building at the airport. He said that since the Health Department is trying to figure a way to place the building under their insurance, that it is being put on hold. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he had the WCEC patches at the meeting this month, after he forgot them at the February meeting. Several patches were sold.

It was reported the CAP (Civil Air Patrol) will be vacating the building they are in, and moving back to the old terminal building at the Airport where WCEC has cabinets stored. If the cabinets are still there, they should be moved to the building that we are trying to get insured and moved into.

Cleanup of the Sand Hill tower will be held off until spring or summer, or when the weather gets warmer.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the last radio of the ten extras ones has been sold or spoken for. Brent, KD8DLX, took the last one and will be making payments on it. The money for the radios is being placed into the regular checking to pay toward the credit card that purchased them.

Ken, WA8LLM, said ID Cards for those who haven't received them yet were on the sign-in table.

There was another short discussion about the new WCEC Communications trailer, and some ideas on how to get it ready to install the radios, and to get it marked as a communications trailer.

Ken, WA8LLM, talked a little bit about membership dues. He said that nothing has been set in stone yet, but it is still being discussed. Since we have lost a few fund raising activities, and only about 10 percent of the members are working to make 90 percent of the needed income to keep WCEC operational, there needs to be some way to make it work. It was suggested to the make the dues \$15, prorated for the amount of hours the members work on Fund Raising activities, not communications activities. The hourly rate may change each year due to the mount of activities and the hours. Anyone who has ideas about the dues needs to speak up.

There was a reminder there will be a Hamfest on October 12th. Ken, WA8LLM, still needs to stop by the Court House to pay the rent for the building. Terry, KC-TUE, still has a list of companies and businesses that donated to past Hamfests. It was suggested that when we ask for donations for the Hamfest this year, that we thank them for past support, even though they may not have supported last year.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, gave a report on the Spaghetti Supper. She said that it is still on for April 6th. Her group is still putting things together. She said that she still needs to get more fliers printed. Cathy said that she would like to have the members bring, or send, some kind of dessert.

Tammy Smith, Unit 299M, said they have set a date for a dance their committee is planning to hold. Due to some miscommunications they scheduled the dance for the same date as the Spaghetti Dinner, April 6. The dance will be from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. It was suggested the dance be held at the same location as the dinner, but follow it. Ken, WA8LLM, will check with the St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church on Dudley Avenue to see if the Community Activity Center (old YWCA) is available after the dinner. It was suggested there would be no cost for the dance to those attending the dinner, and wanted to stay for the dance. Those just attending just the dance would pay \$6 for singles and \$10 for couples. If it works out it could be a great activity, but there would need to be plenty of WCEC workers to help.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Road Race that was held in Vienna on February 17th. There were five communicators who helped with the race.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the group's tax exempt 501(c)(3) IRS Tax Return has been completed for the 2012 tax year. He gave a brief description of what needed to be done to complete the return.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Packet Radio interface project that he and Sam, N8SVX, have been working on. As soon as they get things ready, Ken will schedule a work party for those who are interested in building a packet radio interface for their use. The interface can be used for any of the radio/computer soundcard programs.

New Business

There will be a Road Race held on March 10th starting and finishing at the Parkersburg City Park. Those wanting to help should be at the park pavilion at about 1:30pm. We need to be on the assigned locations by 2:00pm. The race will start at 2:30pm and should be over by about 3:30pm.

There will be a Bluestone Dam exercise held on March 21. There will be several groups doing different things during the drill. It was suggested those wanting to be involved in the exercise monitor their radios and join in. The drill is supposed to start at about 12 noon, but some events may start before that time. A short discussion followed.

The annual Vienna Fun Run will be held on April 20th. The race will start and end at the Jackson Middle School football field. The race will start at 8:00am. Those wanting to help with the race should meet at Hardee's in Vienna at 7:00am. We need to be on location by 7:30am. This is a six mile race and should be over by about 10:30am. Ken, WA8LLM, said we are going to use Matt, N8MDG's, repeater on 444.925 MHz. A short discussion followed.

The Chic-Fil-A Road Run will be held on May 18th. The race will start at the PHS Field House, and end at the PHS Football Field. The race will start at 8:00am. Those wanting to help should meet at the PHS Field House at about 7:00am. We need to be on location by 7:30am. The race should be over by 10:30am.

There will be a General Class Amateur Radio License class held on April 13th. The class will be held at the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, 211 6th Street. The class will start at 12:00 noon, with W5YI VE Testing after the class. This is the regular W5YI VE Testing date, which will be held at 6:00pm.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Polar Plunge held on February 10th. WCEC was contacted at the last minute. The Cancer Society needed some enclosed tents to be used as warming tents where the participants of the event could get warmed up, and change out of their wet clothes. WCEC provided the activity with their two inflatable tents and heaters. There were 41 people who took the plunge. The race officials are thinking about making this an annual event. Ken explained the work that needs to be done to the tents if they are going to be used more often. A short discussion followed.

Daylight Savings Time will be March 10th. You need to set your clock ahead.

Artsbridge at WVU-Parkersburg will be held on Wednesday, March 27th. Those wanting to help should be at WVU-P at about 8:00am. The event should be over by 3:00pm.

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

Attendees

Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258
Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251
Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit 257
Brad Carabine KC8TYU/Unit 287
Krista Mills KC8VLJ/Unit 295
Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289
Dave Wright N8NWV/Unit 285
Jeff Newton N8WQO/Unit 298
Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268
Tammy Smith Unit 299M
Barbra Nohe KD8SQY/Unit 375
Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283
Ray Bodie N8TWV/Unit 278
Rick Sawyer WV8DOC/Unit 364
Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282
Tim Dooley N8WO/Unit 273
Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 352