



WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS Inc.

Minutes of January 5, 2016

The January business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, President. There were 17 members and guests present.

A motion to accept the December 1, 2015 minutes, as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Matt, KD8WHN, and seconded by Matt, KD8GWP. 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 Dave, N8NWV, and seconded by Matt, KD8GWP. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz Repeater system. He said that the repeater seems to be working fine. He hasn't had but one report about not being able to get into the repeater, because the Wirt County Remote Receiver may have been having problems. But, the next day, everything seemed to be working okay.

Terry, KC8TUE, said he wants to hold off on any grant work for a couple of grant cycles.

Terry, KC8TUE, said that he and Joe, KD8YVB, are going to start working in the donation letters now that the Post Box 3328 has been closed, and it's the beginning of the new year.

Bill, N8JXO, said the www.wc8ec.org / www.wc8ec.com website is up to date, except for a couple of the DAREN News and ARES Bulletins. Ken, WA8LLM, said he would be sure and get them to Bill.

There was nothing to report on the building at the airport.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he took the identification sign off of the front of the Communications Trailer to be used on the trailer at the Christmas Parades. He also removed some of the radios so they could be used at the Disaster Drill held on December 10th. Ken said that he took the batteries out of trailer and put them on charge. The batteries don't want to hold a charge. He said that he was going to hold off putting new batteries in the trailer until Spring, and when he gets the solar panels mounted on the top of the trailer. The only battery that is good, is the one that Tyler, KD8RKE, found along the road, and donated to the organization. Ken also wants to get the tinting put on the windows. A short discussion followed.

Matt, KD8WHN, said that he checked out the 443.175 MHz repeater, a couple weeks ago, and that it seemed to be working just fine. Bill, N8JXO, said that he is able to get into the repeater from his house in Davisville.



The Jackson County 444.150 MHz repeater is still on hold until the 443.175 MHz repeater has been changed out.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Microwave equipment from Jackson County Office of Emergency Services is still in the planning stage, and may get to work on it in the next few weeks.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he picked up some old Motorola mobile radio that can be programmed to go onto the Amateur frequencies. He is looking at using one of them for the CW Practice transmitter. When it goes back on the air, it may only be on the air for two or three hours at a time in the evenings.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he talked Rick Woodard, the 911 Director, when he went up to the 911 Center to pick up some radios they were doing away with, but forgot to talk to Rick about the Hamshack at the 911 Center. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone about the ARES Registration Forms. If anyone hasn't filled out a Registration Form, or has any changes or additions to their equipment, they should fill out a new ARES Form and turn it into Terry, KC8TUE, or himself. The group was reminded that the ARES Form is also on the www.wc8ec.com website.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep track of their volunteer hours and turn them into one of the WCEC officers. The fundraising hours will be used toward their membership dues, and the non-fundraising hours will be used as in-kind on future grants that we apply for. The members will be responsible for keeping track of their own hours.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has already received some of the WCEC equipment back from members who have decided to drop out of the organization.

Reassigning membership unit numbers will be done for those who wants a lower unit number. As soon as some more of the lower numbers become available they can be reassigned.

It was decided the cleaning up of the Miller Communications tower site will be held off until Spring.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Hospital Region 5 exercise that was held at the Mid Ohio Valley Health Department, on Thursday, December 10th. The evaluator of the communications was very impressed on the ability of the WCEC communications group. A lengthy discussion followed.

Matt, KD8WHN, gave a report on the Vienna and Parkersburg Christmas parades that were held on December 5th. He said that everyone who helped, enjoyed the parades. He wanted to thank everyone who helped. He also wants to thank Bill, N8JXO, for the use of his vehicle and trailer for the parades. He had some suggestions about the parades for this year, if the groups decides to participate. He is also thinking about participating in the Williamstown Christmas parade, which is held in the evening, the same day as the Parkersburg, and Vienna parades.

There was a reminder that W5YI VE testing will be held on Saturday, December 12th. The testing will be held at the Parkersburg Library, at 12 noon.



Ken, WA8LLM, said the group was able to keep the (304) 481-0611 telephone number when the Verizon Cell service discontinued. The telephone number was transferred to the Tracfone cell service. Ken gave a report on the cost of the Tracfone service as opposed to Verizon service. The Verizon cell service cost about \$540 a year for one cell phone, and the Tracfone service will cost about \$360 a year for four cell phones. The four cell phones can be tied into the portable PBX telephone system. The portable PBX telephone is used several times a year for exercises, drills, training, and actual emergencies.

NEW BUSINESS

There a discussion about holding a Technician Class Radio License class since there have been some people that are interested. If there are any classes held, the cost of the class will be \$20, which includes the W5YI VE Test administration and food, since it is an all-day class.

Ken, WA8LLM, said a Metro 911 Director gave the group 15 old Motorola Maratrac, 100 Watt, 99 Channel radios. Out of the 15 radios, 13 of them were VHF 144.000 to 174.000 MHz, and two of them were UHF 450.000 to 470.000 MHz. The radios are supposed to be used on the DAREN (Digital Amateur Radio Emergency Network). The VHF radios have already been with programmed with 73 Repeater, Simplex, and Packet frequencies. Since the two UHF radios wouldn't operate on the Amateur frequencies, they were programmed to be operated on GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) and may be used to build another GMRS voice repeater.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said the fund raising group is going to hold a Soup Bean Supper on January 16th at the Mineral Wells Community Building.

Brad, KC8TYU, made a motion to hold Field Day this year, seconded by Matt, KD8WHN. Motion passed.

Terry, KC8TUE, said that since there are some many activities to vote on, that should just vote on all of the activities that we usually do during the year. Rick, WV8DOC, made a motion to participate in all of the normal activities for the year, seconded by Dave, N8NWV. Motion carries.

Matt, KD8GWP, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe, KD8YVB.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Brad Carabine KC8TYU/Unit 287, Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit 257, Dave Wright N8NWV/Unit 285, Kristie Lamp KD8WHM/Unit 382, Matt Lamp KD8WHN/Unit 381, Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268, Tammy Smith Unit 299M, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Rick Sawyer WV8DOC/Unit 364, Matt Wright KD8GWP/Unit 354, Tricia Magyarosi KC8VLI/Unit 294, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 289, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 352, Joseph Rice KD8YVB/Unit 385, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282.