



## **WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS Inc.**

### **Minutes of April 4, 2017**

The business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, and President. There were 14 members and guests present.

A motion to accept the March 7, 2017 minutes, as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Matt, KD8WHN, and seconded by Brent, KD8DLX. Motion carried. Printed copies of the minutes and agenda were also available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read. A motion to accept the Treasures Report was made by Matt, KD8WHN, seconded by Brent, KD8DLX. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he, Dot, KC8HAI, and Sammy, N8SVX, stopped by the Rockport Remote Receiver site for the 147.255 MHz Repeater system on the way home from the Charleston Hamfest. He said the system checked out okay, but didn't think about looking to see if the VHF Receive antenna was okay. On Saturday, before the meeting, Sammy said that while he was listening to the link frequency, of the Rockport site, he heard someone off in the distance coming through it, so it must be okay. Ken and Dot went by the E-911 Remote Receiver site and did some quick checks, and that site seems to be working okay too. Ken said that he is going to replace the Wirt County DAREN Packet station, and while he is there will climb the tower for the Wirt County Remote Receiver and make measurements for a new antenna outrigger. The new outrigger will be designed to hold two J-Pole and one UHF Beam antenna. The two J-Pole antennas will replace the VHF antennas, one for DAREN Packet, and one for 147.255 Repeater.

Terry, KC8TUE, said that he hasn't heard back from any of the donation letters that he has sent out.

Bill, N8JXO, said the [www.wc8ec.org](http://www.wc8ec.org) / [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com) website was up-to-date except for the DAREN News, and ARES Bulletins that he has received from Ken, WA8LLM. Ken suggested that Bill add a note to the DAREN News and ARES Bulletin that they are only updated once a month. That way anybody checking out the website won't think it's not being kept up. Ken said that Bill does a great job keeping the website up-to-date.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he stopped by the Communications Trailer, on Monday and checked out a couple of the radios to make sure the batteries are still charge up. The solar panels seem to be keeping the batteries charged. Ken said that if the trailer is needed for any emergencies, it would be ready to be put into operation.

The 443.175 MHz Repeater got a workout on the Sunday before the meeting. It was used for several hours during the Challenge at Mountwood Mountain Bike Race. The system



worked great.

The Jackson County 444.150 MHz repeater is still on hold, waiting to get the Motorola 443.175 MHz repeater working and placed at Mountwood Park.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Digital Microwave equipment from the Jackson County Office of Emergency Services is on hold waiting to see if the equipment can be used on the Amateur Bands.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he forgot to get in contact with Randy Thomas, K8KHW, about the temporary Packet Radio NODE on 145.090 MHz. The Packet Node is using the antenna that should be used for the CW Practice Transmitter.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that if anyone needs to upgrade their equipment or privileges, there were ARES Forms on the sign-in table. There was a lengthy discussion about Amateurs in West Virginia having to complete the NIMS Courses IS-100, 200, 700, and 800, before being allowed to be registered as ARES members.

There was a reminder the members should keep track of their volunteer hours and turn them into either Terry KC8TUE, or Ken WA8LLM. A couple people turned in their hours at the meeting.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said there has been no change in unit numbers.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said that she has been busy studying for her national medical exam, and in the process of moving. She said that she was happy that she passed her test and can now concentrate on fund raising activities. Cathy had the RADA Knives Catalog at the meeting. Anyone wanting knives or selling knives should have their orders and money at the May Business meeting. She will send the orders in on Wednesday after the May meeting.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has got several of the members passwords set up in the FCC Database. He has just a couple more to set up. Ken said that if anyone wants their passwords kept on file in the database, so they don't forget them, they are more than welcome. It may be as long as ten years before they need them again and may forget what they are. If that happens, they will have to go through the process of having them reset. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone that if they take any of the NIMS IC Courses to send him copy of their certificate, or the link to get a copy of the certificate. He will bring a list of all of the member's certificates to the meeting next month so they can see if he needs some that he doesn't have.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he received an E-Mail from Kroger saying the group will be receiving a donation check in the amount of \$87.85. Ken said that he checked the mailbox before coming to the meeting, but it wasn't there yet. The money we get from Kroger can be used to pay for the TRACFONE Cards for the four TRACFONES that are used with the PBX Telephone system during drills, exercises, or actual emergencies. Ken said that if anyone wants Kroger fliers to pass out, they are available. The more people that are registered with Kroger, the more donation money we can get. So try to get your friends and relatives registered. Go to Kroger.com, and follow the instructions. Remember the



registration number is: 81343

Rick, WV8DOC, said the database is up-to-date, but he is still waiting for the 911 Center to contact him about having the members who will be taking the training on the EverBridge reverse 911 telephone system. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he went to the Washington County LEPC meeting last month, but neither of the Wood County E-911 officials were there, so he didn't get to talk to them. Ken said that he would contact them and see what we need to do to get the training. Rick said that he can do some things, but is afraid to do them until he get the okay from the 911 officials.

The cleaning of the Miller Communications, Mountwood tower site, is still on hold for a little longer. The weather needs to get a little better.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the one day Technician Class radio class in Marietta at the Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church held on March 18th. He said that ten people took the class and eight of them passed the test and should be getting their licenses soon, if they have not got them already.

A discussion about promotional ink pens is being held off until later in the activity period of the season.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he had 200 flyers for the Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest printed up. He took about 100 of them to the Charleston Hamfest, which was held on March 25th. Ken said that Sammy, N8SVX, purchased several hand tools for door prizes at the Hamfest. Ken said that since the Hamfest is an ARRL sanctioned, we can use their logo on any Hamfest related business. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has ordered the BINGO Licenses for the Parkersburg Homecoming and Volcano Days Festival. He has the licenses in hand and ready for the events. There was a lengthy discussion about the Parkersburg Homecoming being cut back to only two days. The income from the BINGO games from the Homecoming will be a lot lower.

Since it was on the agenda Ken, WA8LLM, checked to see if anyone participated with the Artsbridge VSA activity. No one at the meeting was at the activity, so there was nothing to report.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he is still working on WV Surplus application. It is a lot more complicated than he thought. He still needs to call them and get some of the questions answered.

Ken, WA8LLM, said still needs to file the Tax Exempt 501c3 Tax Report. The IRS Tax Return needs to be completed by May 15th.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Challenge at Mountwood Mountain Bike Race. Ken said that a remote receiver for the 147.255 MHz Repeater was set up at the park. Those helping with the race were able to use either the 443.175 MHz or the 147.255 MHz repeater, which ever one they could get into the best. The race officials were very pleased that we were there, and said that our communications took a big load off of them. Several of the bike riders thanked the Amateurs as they passed their locations. Even though there were a few incidents, there were no major injuries. There was a lengthy discussion. Ken



wanted to thank all of those who helped.

Bill, N8JXO, wanted to know if there has been any more thought about putting up the tower that was taken down in Tyler County. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he needs to talk to Anna, KC8JWW, about putting the tower up at the locations where we hold Field Day.

## NEW BUSINESS

There was reminder that W5YI VE Testing on April 8th at the North End Parkersburg Library.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has be contacted by race officials for the Vienna River Fun Run, and the Chic-Fil-A Road Run. The Vienna Fun Run will be on April 22nd, and the Chic-Fil-A Road Run will be on May 20th. Ken said that he needs to get the race clocks ready for the road runs.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has been contacted by Burt Neswald, W8TL, about getting safety communications for a horse ride on the Rail-to-Trails in Ritchie County. The ride will held on April 22nd, the same as the Vienna Fun Run. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has been contacted by members of the Parkersburg Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They want to hold a one day Technician Class radio class at the church. The date of the class will be May 6th.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has ordered new checks for the three checking accounts with the new communications address. Only one set of checks has arrived. It's possible the bank didn't order checks for two of the accounts.

For Show-N-Tell, Ken, WA8LLM, set up four dual-band, cross band repeat radios in the building. The radios have four different VHF simplex frequencies, and one UHF frequency to link them all together.

Matt, KD8WHN, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barb, KD8SQY. Meeting adjourned. Meeting over at 9:37 pm

## THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 272, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 254, Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit 257, Matt Lamp KD8WHN/Unit 265, Kristie Lamp KD8WHM/Unit 264, Gabriella Lamp Unit 299G, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Dave Wright N8NWV/Unit 285, Joseph Rice KD8YVB/Unit 275, John Riggs WV8DOH/Unit 271, Rick Sawyer WV8DOC/Unit 262, Barb Nohe KD8SQY/Unit 375.