



WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS Inc.

Minutes of January 2, 2018

The monthly WCEC Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken Harris, WA8LLM/Unit 251, Director. Due to the very cold snowy weather, there were only 14 members and guests present. Ken wanted to thank all of those who braved the weather to make the meeting.

A motion to accept the December 5, 2017 minutes, as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Matt, KD8WHN, and seconded by Bill, N8JXO. 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, and seconded by Bill, N8JXO. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, said the group purchased a DR-135 Transceiver from Brent, KD8DLX. He said that with the transceiver, he may be able to get the Laurel Creek Remote Receiver for the 147.255 MHz Repeater back on line within a week or two. He just needs to find or build the interface cable that goes between the VHF Receiver, and the UHF Transmitter. Ken said that he found the code for the repeater controller to turn off the annoying "Initial ID" message.

Terry, KC8TUE, said that he has been sending out Donation letters, but nothing has been returned.

Bill, N8JXO, said the www.wc8ec.org / www.wc8ec.com website is as up to date as it can be.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that with the lack of sun and the cold snowy weather, the solar panels are not keeping the batteries charged. He took the batteries to his house and put them on charge. One of the batteries doesn't want to hold a charge. He said the batteries may have to be replaced this year. Ken said that he has been thinking about using a one wire circuit to run from his house to the trailer. A ground rod can be driven into the ground to pick up the ground side of the circuit. He talked about using a wind generator with the solar panels to keep the batteries up. The only way to keep the batteries charged is to keep them at his house and on charge for now. Ken said that he inspected the flat tire on the Communications Trailer. He said the tire is dry rotted. He has loosened up the lug nuts to remove the wheel. He just needs to jack it up and take the wheel in to get it fixed. He said that if we need the trailer before the tire can get fixed, he can take one off of his trailers to use. A lengthy discussion on how the trailer can be used as administration with the fire departments followed.

Matt, KD8WHN, said that he keyed up the Mountwood Park 443.175 MHz repeater. So it is still on the air. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has been working with some old UHF and VHF Beam antennas, and wants to install one of the antennas, and start monitoring the



repeater on a regular basis.

The Jackson County 444.150 MHz repeater is still on hold. Since the Jackson County Amateur Radio Club has purchased two new dual band repeaters, and are planning to install them, Ken, WA8LLM, said that he may try to re-coordinate the 444.150 MHz frequency to Pleasants County. He just needs to find a location in Pleasant County to install it.

The Digital Microwave equipment from the Jackson County Office of Emergency Services is still on hold.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that nothing has been done with the CW Practice Transmitter.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded those at the meeting they should keep their ARES information up-to-date. ARES Forms are available on the www.wc8ec.org / www.wc8ec.com website and at the meetings. Ken said that upgrades can be equipment other than just communications equipment. Anything such as trailers, 4 Wheelers, Generators, etc. Ken said the ARRL is making changes in the ARES Program. Starting the first of the year, ARES Groups are supposed to apply for a group number through the ARRL. They are talking about having some kind of nationally recognized training, possibly the FEMA NIMS courses for Amateur to become, or remain as being registered in ARES. Ken will keep the group updated.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep track of their volunteer hours. The hours can be turned into either Terry, KC8TUE, or himself.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said there have been no unit number changes requested.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said the fund raising committee is planning to hold some kind of dinner at the Mineral Wells Community Building, possibly in July.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that if anyone wants to keep their FCC Password in his database to let him know.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded the members that hasn't completed the basic NIMS courses of 100, 200, 700, and 800, they can use the training link on the www.wc8ec.org / www.wc8ec.com website. Rick, WV8DOC, said that IS-242 would also be a good class to take.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he received an E-Mail from Kroger saying that a check in the amount of \$69.92 should be delivered within 30 days. Ken reminded everyone to get their family and friends to register their Kroger Cards. Kroger fliers are at the sign-in table at the meeting.

Rick, WV8DOC, said the Everbridge system is current with the information that he has.

The filling out of the WV Surplus application is still a work in progress. Nothing has been done with it lately.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he still needs to talk to Mark Hendershot about placing the Tyler County tower at the place that we use for Field Day. It was suggested to place the



tower between the main canopy location and PJ2H. That area can't be used for much of anything else. The site will have to be looked over. A short discussion followed.

There was no report on the updating of the Emergency Operations Plan. The plan can be found on the www.wc8ec.org / www.wc8ec.com website. Everyone should look at the plan and bring back any ideas or changes they have to the next meeting. A lengthy discussion about emergencies and disasters followed.

There was a discussion on a class on how to use a digital multimeter. Bill, N8JXO, suggested that at the same time we hold a multimeter class, we might be able to hold a soldering class. Bill said that his garage would be available to hold the classes. It was suggested that we hold the classes when the weather get a little better.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 156 folding chairs that are being repaired, reinforced, and painted. He said that since the weather is too cold to paint, it's still possible to wire brush the chairs to get them ready to paint. He now has 20 chairs wire brushed and ready to be painted and the logo put on them.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone that if they want to get a new picture for their ID Card to let him know. Also any medical information, for the back of the ID Card, can be upgraded. Medical Forms are at the sign-in table at the meeting.

Matt, KD8WHN, gave a report on the changing of the Public Safety frequencies. Nothing has been done yet, but he will keep us updated. A short discussion followed.

A short discussion was held about One Day Technician classes. Matt, KD8WHN, said that Sheriff Steve Stevens may want to hold a class for any of his Deputies that would be interested in getting their Amateur Radio License.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he received an E-Mail from someone in the Wheeling area wanting to get a copy of the WCEC Constitution and By-Laws. Ken said that he looked for a computer copy of the Constitution, but couldn't find any. The WCEC Constitution was put on an old computer back in 1996 when the group was applying for the 501c3 Tax Exempt status. Ken found a printed copy of the Constitution. He typed up the Constitution on a computer. We now have an electronic version of the Constitution. Copies of the Constitution and By-Laws were sent to Wheeling. It was discussed about having copies of the Constitution and By-Laws placed on the www.wc8ec.org / www.wc8ec.com website. Bill, N8JXO, said that if it is put on the website, it should be placed in a password protected area. A short discussion followed.

It was discussed about getting more involved with the Wood County Fire Fighters, and be able to help them with some of their clerical activities such as accountability at large disaster events. A lengthy discussion followed.

Matt, KD8GWP, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Matt, KD8WHN. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.



THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Dot Harris KC8HAI/Unit 258, Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit 257, Terry Mills KC8TUE/Unit 254, Brad Carabine KC8TYU/Unit 259, Dave Wright N8NWV/Unit 285, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 272, Matthew Doyle KC8FSI, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Rick Sawyer WV8DOC/Unit 262, Matt Wright KD8GWP/Unit 354, Matt Lamp KD8WHN/Unit 265, Kristie Lamp KD8WHM/Unit 264, Gabriella Lamp Unit 299G,