

## WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

December 5, 2023

Before the meeting, the annual Christmas dinner was held. Ken, WA8LLM, wanted to thank Cathy, KC8DJJ, since she did a lot of the cooking. He also wanted to thank everyone who attended, and brought something to eat or drink.

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at about 7:01 pm by Ken, WA8LLM. Introductions were held. There were only 14 members and guests present at the meeting.

A motion to accept the November 7, 2023, minutes as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Bill, N8JXO, and seconded by Steve, KL8T. Motion carried. There were extra copies of the November minutes available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read. A motion to accept the Treasures Report was made by Rick, WV8DOC, and seconded by George, KE8CAF. Motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater system. Ken said that a group made a trip to the Miller Communications tower site in St. Marys. They hung two J-Pole antennas, one for a Remote Receiver for the repeater system, and one for the DAREN Packet system. A UHF Beam antenna for the Remote Receiver link transmitter was also installed. They also installed a 2.397 GHz node for the AREDN Mesh system. There was a problem getting a link path back to the 147.255 transmitter on the UHF link since the signal needed to go between the two water tanks. The UHF Beam antenna needs to be relocated. Ken had also made a trip to the Sand Hill tower site to hang a UHF antenna for the GMRS 462.675 MHz repeater and a node for the AREDN Mesh system. He wanted to hang an antenna for a Local/Remote Receiver for the 147.255 KHz repeater, but ran out of time. The audio level needs to be adjusted on the Dutch Ridge Remote Receiver. Ken said he still needs to make trips to the Williamstown, Rockport, and Hendershot Farm Remote Receiver sites to get them back in operation.

Bill, N8JXO, gave a report on the websites of [www.wc8ec.org](http://www.wc8ec.org) and [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com). He said the website is still up and running. Ken, WA8LLM, said he still needs to get the DAREN News and ARES Bulletins caught up so they can be put on the website.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the Communications Trailer is still at the same location and locked up.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he did talk on the 443.175 MHz repeater to test it out.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 800/900 MHz equipment is still on hold for a little while.

Ken, WA8LLM, said if you have made any changes in your equipment, you may want to upgrade your ARES form. Ken said the form can be found on the websites of [www.wc8ec.org](http://www.wc8ec.org) and [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com)

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone if they haven't completed the Federal Emergency Management System (NIMS) ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses, and any other NIMS communications courses, they should try to get them completed. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership activity hours up-to-date. The hours will be down until about March or April of next year since most of the groups activities are done for this year.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said there is no fund raising activity being planned at this time.

Ken, WA8LLM, wanted to remind everyone if they have friends or relatives who haven't registered their Kroger Card, to ask them to register it, and show WCEC as the donation recipient. There should be a donation check coming from Kroger before next month's meeting.

Rick, WV8DOC, said the Everbridge system is still in operation, and working like it should. He hasn't heard anything about it being changed to a new type of system.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he had a couple problems at the Hendershot Farm tower site. He still needs to work on them, but he did work on the power system. He changed out the power cable going from the batteries to the radio cabinet. He replaced the wiring with a heavy duty cable. He described how the power source is connected with the solar panels and batteries.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the AREDN Project. Ken brought, and demoed one of the filters which he has been building. The filter is to block out the interfering signals that are causing problems. He tested the filter at Quincy Hill tower site, and the filter seems to be working good. The filter may correct problems at some of the other locations. Ken said he installed an AREDN node at the Sand Hill tower site, and at the St Marys tower site which allows those two locations into the AREDN Project system. Even though Sand Hill is about 1300 feet, and St Marys is at about 1100 feet, the two stations are unable to see each other. The node at Sand Hill is only up about 50 feet, but next summer it will be raised up to about 90 feet and mounted on the top of the 147.255 MHz transmit antenna. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the basic electronic class has been put on hold until we can find a place and time to hold the classes.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded those at the meeting if they want to make a copy of their COVID-19 Vaccination Card, he will put it in their WCEC records.

Bill, N8JXO, said a new roof at the Health Department has been completed, but there is still a little leak in it. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that while he was at the Sand Hill tower site he worked on the new 462.675 MHz GMRS repeater, but didn't have much luck. He needs to get a couple Motorola transceivers programmed and make sure the UHF duplexers are tuned properly. A lengthy discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, talked about the installing a self standing 30 or 40 foot tower on the property of George, KE8CAF's aunt. The tower will be used to have a Remote Receiver for the 147.255 MHz repeater system, a Packet station on the DAREN system, and a node on the 2.397 GHz AREDN Project system. Since there is no commercial power at the site, the systems will need to be operated with solar power and batteries. The tower can not be worked on until next summer. In the mean time we want to put up a temporary 20 foot mast pipe and a AREDN Project node to see how it works.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Winter Field Day will be held on January 27/28.

Bill, N8JXO, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve KL8T. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

**THOSE IN ATTENDANCE**

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Cathy Orr  
KC8DJJ/Unit 257, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit 289, Judy Peterson  
N8UFQ/Unit 255, Jim Peterson, Kelly McGill, Rick Sawyer WV8DOC/Unit  
262, Max Barker KC8JHI, Kendale Peterson KD8QAK/Unit 369, Isaac  
Knotts KE8YSZ, Steve Campbell KL8T/Unit 288, Kenny Cline KB8YAV,  
Tammy Cline