

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC
March 7, 2023

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Ken, WA8LLM. There were only 11 members and guests present.

A motion to accept the February 7, 2023, minutes as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Roger, KE8LCM, and seconded by Brent, KD8DLX. Motion carried. There were extra copies of the March minutes available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read. A motion to accept the Treasures Report was made by Roger, KE8LCM, and seconded by Brent, KD8DLX. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater. Ken explained how he has been trying to track down the re-broadcasting Parkersburg Police and Ambulance service transmissions on the repeater. He said he changed the subaudible tones on the UHF link frequencies, which stopped the problem. While he was at the repeater transmitter site he reconnected the 100 watt RF power amp. The repeater is now putting out about 75 watts. He realigned the link antenna on the Hendershot Farm Remote Receiver, so that receiver is back on line. Since there is was only a few solar panels at Hendershot Farm, and there hasn't been much sun, the voltage on the batteries went down low enough to allow the link transmitter to cause trouble. Ken installed several new panels and cured the problem. On Saturday, Ken is planning to go to the Limestone Remote Receiver site and reinstall that station, and then check on the Williamstown Remote Receiver.

Since Bill, N8JXO, wasn't going to be at the meeting, he called Ken, WA8LLM, on the phone and let he know the websites of www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com are up and working okay. He also said he thinks he found out why he hasn't been able to receive E-Mails from some of the members, and it has been corrected.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Communications Trailer is still sitting at Hendershot Farm. Judy, N8UFQ, said she looked up on the hill on the way to the meeting, and it still there.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he checked the 443.175 MHz voice repeater with a hand held from Fort Borman Park on the way to the meeting. A short discussion followed.

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

Ken, WA8LLM, said that ARES Registration forms are available on the websites of www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com if anyone wants to change any of the communications, or other equipment.

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 link to the FEMA Training Center is on the websites of www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com. Ken said there is a West Virginia AUXCOM class being held on March 11th and 12th in Ripley. To take the class you must be an Amateur Radio Operator with a Technician or higher class license, and have completed NIMS ICS Courses 100, 200, 700, and 800.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership activity hours up-to-date. With the starting of the new year, activities events are starting to get scheduled. Just keep track of any Amateur rated activities.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, had to leave the meeting early, but she said no fund raising activities are being planned yet.

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.

Since Rick, WV8DOC, wasn't at the meeting there was no report on the Everbridge system. Ken, WA8LLM, had a paper list of E-Mail addresses to give to Rick so he could upgrade the Everbridge call list. Before the meeting, Ken had E-Mailed Rick a copy of the list.

Ken WA8LLM, said the Hendershot Farm tower is still there. He still needs to replace a couple anchor couplings. Ken said he removed the boards that were used to form the concrete pad for the building. He used the boards to lay the extra solar panels on. As soon as the weather gets better, he wants to start laying the blocks for the building. When the roof gets on the building, he will start installing solar panels on it. The batteries that will be used in the building are already there, and are being used for the radios systems that are already in operation.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he received another E-Mail from Amazon about the canceling the Smile.Amazon project. It looks like we might get one more donation, we'll just have to wait and see. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the AREDN system. Ken said the system is still up and running, but doesn't know of any new stations. Ken suggested Amateurs should get on the system and see how it works. Ken is hoping to get to the Sand Hill tower site and install a Node on top of the 147.255 MHz transmitter antenna. He's also planning to start building some more 2.4 GHz antennas. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the basic electronic class is on hold for awhile, because of the uncertainty of the weather.

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.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the General Class Radio class hasn't been scheduled yet. There are at least four people who want to take the class.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he talked to Conard, WV8JCR, about the old Waverly School building being turned into a community center. The woman who owns the building would like to have more people start using it. She held an open house about a week before the WCEC meeting.

Since Bill, N8JXO, wasn't at the meeting he did tell Ken, WA8LLM, that he got approval to purchase coax for the radios that have been moved from the fourth floor to the first floor of the Health Department. We need to help measure how much coax is needed. Roger, KE8LCM, suggested that we locate the Yeasu FT-450D High Frequency Amateur radio to the elevator control room, on the roof, and remote control it from the EOC. A lengthy discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone that help is needed at the Mountwood Mountain Bike Race. The race will be held on April 16th.

Charleston Hamfest will be held on March 18th.

The Chic-Fil-A Road Run will be held on Saturday, June 24th at 8:00 am.

Field Day will be held on June 24th and 25th. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reserved the building for the Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest. The price of the building went up to \$300, from \$280. The Hamfest will be held on October 14 at the Wood County 4-H Camp Ground on Butcher Bend Road, Mineral Wells.

Parkersburg Homecoming BINGO will be held August 18th and 19th. The BINGO license needs to be ordered.

Volcano Days BINGO will be held September 22nd through September 24th. BINGO license needs to be ordered.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, said he has got his GMRS (General Mobile Radio Services) repeater back on the air after the wind storm in June 2022. The frequency is 462.55 MHz with a PL Tone of 146.2 Hz. A length discussion followed.

The 501c3 tax report needs to be reported.

The WCEC Business License needs to renewed.

Ripley Hamfest is Sunday, May 7th.

Athens Hamfest is Sunday, April 30th.

Nothing has been heard about the Parkersburg Half Marathon.

Kendale, KD8QAK, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Roger, KE8LCM. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit 289, Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit 257, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 272, Tim Dooley N8WO/Unit 273, Roger Radcliff KE8LCM/Unit 281, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Kendale Kendale Peterson KD8QAK/Unit 369, Anna Hendershot KC8JWW/Unit 263, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Steve Campbell KL8T/Unit 288,