

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

March 5, 2024

Before the meeting started one person took and passed his exam for the Technician Class license.

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken, WA8LLM, at the new meeting location at the Cedar Grove United Methodist Church on Route 47, across from the WV State Police Barracks. There were 13 members and guests present at the meeting. Even though Kenny, KB8YAV, wasn't at the meeting, Ken wanted to thank Kenny for getting the new meeting location set up. There were introductions since there were a few new people at the meeting.

A motion to accept the February 6, 2024, minutes as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Bill, N8JXO, seconded by Steve, KL8T. Motion carried. There were extra copies of the February minutes available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read. A motion to accept the Treasures Report was made by Brent, KD8DLX, and seconded by Lisa, KB8UER. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater system. Ken said that he is still in the process of building the noise detector circuit for the Remote Receivers to keep the ones with noise from keying up the repeater transmitter. Ken said that he went to the Williamstown Remote Receiver and changed out the receiver and the link transmitter, but the station is still having trouble. He thinks the problem may be either the antenna or the transmission line. He will need to make another trip to the site. Ken says he needs to get the Rockport and Hendershot Farm Remote Receivers back up. He also needs to get the Kings Ridge Road Remote Receiver in St Marys in operation. Even with four Remote Receivers, the system seems to be working pretty good.

Bill, N8JXO, gave a report on the websites of www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com. He said the websites are still up and running. He said there were a few problems which he has worked out. Bill said that he needed the WCEC minutes for year 2023 to put on the websites. Bill said that everything else is okay on the sites.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he needed to go check out some equipment that is being stored in the Communications Trailer. He said that while he was there it looks like there may be another leak in the roof. Ken said there is still a lot of equipment in the trailer. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 443.175 MHz repeater is still up and running. He said the repeater is operational if anyone wants to use it. He said it may not have a lot of coverage, but it does work.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 800/900 MHz equipment is still on hold for a little while until we can get crystals for it and get it on one of the AREDN (Amateur Radio Digital Emergency Network) Project 900 MHz frequencies.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone that if you have any equipment changes that you want to have on resource records, to put them on an ARES form. The ARES Forms can be found on the websites of www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com. Ken said that he put together couple 50 foot strings of lights with sockets every five feet that can be used for emergency power and lighting. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone who hasn't completed the National Emergency Management System (NIMS), ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses, and any other NIMS communications courses, they should try to get them completed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership activity hours up-to-date. The members need to keep track of them in case we ever go for another grant. You don't need to turn them in, just have them available in case we need them.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said she found a 55 inch smart TV that she thought we may be able to raffle off. She suggested that we sell 100 tickets at \$10.00 each. Lisa, KB8UER made a motion to hold the raffle, seconded by Brent, KD8DLX. Motion carries. The drawing will be held at the first WCEC meeting after the 100th ticket is sold.

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 another donation check coming shortly. A short discussion followed.

Since Rick, WV8DOC, wasn't at the meeting, there was no official report on the Everbridge system. Bill, N8JXO, said there isn't supposed to be any changes to the system. A short discussion followed.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the Hendershot Farm tower site is still there. Ken, WA8LLM, said that if the weather says like it is he will start working on the site. He said that he needs to put a voltage regulator on the solar panels to keep from overcharging the batteries. Ken said that he would like to start laying the block for the transmitter building, getting the roof on it, and start placing solar panels on the roof. He also wants to take the two wind generators down that aren't doing anything and replace them with one that he's sure will work. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone about the AREDN Project node that Joe, N8MEV, Bob, KC8RSJ, George, KE8CAF, and himself installed a 20 foot mast pipe at Georges Aunts farm. There are still plans to install a 30 or 40 foot tower at the site that will have an AREDN Project node, a DAREN Packet station, and a Remote Receiver for the 147.255 MHz voice repeater. Ken said that when the weather is warmer, he wants to go to the Sand Hill tower site and move the AREDN Project node up on the tower, and mount it on top of the 147.255 MHz repeater transmitter antenna. The transmitter antenna is about 90 feet up the tower. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he is planning to hold a basic, basic electronic class as soon as possible. There was a short explanation on what will be on the class when it is held.

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. Kenny, KB8QPW, said he heard the COVID-19 card is no longer needed at most locations. Bill, N8JXO, said the Health Department is no longer administering COVID shots. It was decided to drop any further discussion about it, and would be dropped from the WCEC minutes.

Bill, N8JXO, said the Health Department EOC is on hold until further notice.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has installed the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) repeater that operates on 462.675 MHz with a PL Tone of 141.3 Hz on the Sand Hill tower site at Mountwood Park. The repeater does have pretty good coverage, but still needs some work on it. A lengthy discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he still needs to get to the Kings Ridge Road tower site in St Marys to install a DAREN Packet station. He needs to move the Remote Receiver Link Transmitter antenna into the opening to get a path back to the 147.255 MHz transmitter site on Sand Hill. We used to have a DAREN station in St Marys before the tower fell more than 20 years ago. A short discussion followed.

There was a lengthy discussion about the Orr Farm tower site, which was already mentioned earlier in the meeting.

The raffle for the NRA Ammo Box will be held off until the Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest.

Ken, WA8LLM, wanted to remind everyone about the Challenge at Mountwood Mountain Bike Race on April 21st at Mountwood Park. The race starts at 12 noon, but we should be there around 9:00 or 10:00 am to get our assignments and get on location since some operators will need to walk to their locations. Remember to think warm and dry, since we don't know what the weather will be like. The handheld radio will be transmitting on 440.500 MHz with the PL Tone of 146.2 Hz and receiving on 147.255 MHz. Handheld radios will be available, if needed.

There was reminder the Charleston Hamfest will be held on Saturday, March 9th.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he stopped by the court house to make sure that WCEC is on the list for the 4-H Building for the Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest on October 12th. We still need to pay the rent of the building and get the contract.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the race officials hadn't contacted us yet about the Chic-Fil-A Road Run that will be held on June 22nd, the morning before Field Day, but it is on our schedule of events.

Field Day will be held on June 22nd and 23rd. The Field Day will be held at the Hendershot Farm.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe, N8MEV. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Cathy Orr KC8DJJ/Unit 257, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit 289, Joe Thomas N8MEV/Unit 291, Bob Marlow KC8RSJ/Unit 292, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Lisa Hendershot KB8UER/Unit 270, Steve Campbell KL8T/Unit 288, Terry Meadows KC8TAM, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Ken Riffle KB8QPW/Unit 268, Sean Brady KD8ODS, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 272