

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

June 6, 2023

Before the meeting started two people passed their Technician License exam, and one Technician, did the paperwork to upgrade from Technician Plus to General License.

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Ken, WA8LLM. Introductions were held. There were 21 members and guests present.

A motion to accept the May 2, 2023, minutes as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Roger, KE8LCM, and seconded by Bill, N8JXO. Motion carried. There were extra copies of the April minutes available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read. A motion to accept the Treasures Report was made by Bill, N8JXO, and seconded by Matt, KD8GWP. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater. Ken said the Elizabeth Remote Receiver is still off the air. Joe, N8MEV, is trying to change the receiver part of the Remote Receivers to keep from using the Baofeng UV5R Transceivers, and using the Baofeng BF888S Transceivers. From time-to-time there seems to be a problem that when identifications are made on the GMRS 462.55 MHz repeater, the 147.255 MHz repeater is keyed up like there is a transceiver in a crossband mode, but it doesn't happen very often. We are getting ready to upgrade the City View Water Tank location by putting a 100 Watt Solar Panel and adding more batteries. The upgrade will allow the installation of a Remote Receiver for the 147.255 MHz Repeater. That will allow for better Hand Held coverage in downtown Parkersburg. Plans are also in process of adding a Remote Receiver at the Miller Communications tower site at Summit. That will help with the coverage in Vienna. Ken reminded everyone to allow for a couple seconds after keying the PTT before talking due to the scanning of the Link Frequency Receiver.

Bill, N8JXO, said the websites of [www.wc8ec.org](http://www.wc8ec.org) and [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com) are up and working okay. He's running a little behind because of the work being done at his work location.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Communications Trailer is still at the site where we hold Field Day. He said it looks like there may be a little leak in the roof, and he will check it out. The trailer can still be used to store some of the equipment for Field Day. The trailer can still be used in an emergency if needed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 443.175 MHz repeater is still in operation. He is planning to hang a UHF transmit antenna on the Hendershot Farm Tower to be used for the repeater when it becomes a split site repeater.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 800/900 MHz equipment is still on hold for a little while. He needs to find crystals so the equipment can be put on the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN) project. When we get the radios on the AREDN system, we want to use them to make an RF path into Jackson County.

Bill, N8JXO, said a copy of the ARES Registration form is available on the websites of [www.wc8ec.org](http://www.wc8ec.org) and [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com) If anyone wants to change the list of any of their communications, or other equipment, they can download the form and turn it in to Ken, WA8LLM. A short discussion followed.

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](http://www.wc8ec.org) and [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com)

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership activity hours up-to-date. Just keep track of any Amateur Radio rated activities.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said there are no fund raising activities being planned yet. A short discussion followed.

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. Ken said there should be a donation check coming again soon.

Rick, WV8DOC, gave a report on the Everbridge system. Rick said the system is up to date. There was a short discussion about the new E-911 building.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he replaced the guy wire clamps, and tightened the lower guy wires on the Hendershot Farm tower. He said that with the help of Sammy, N8SVX, and Ben, KE8STE, they spent about four hours moving the GMRS 462.55 MHz repeater antenna to the top of the tower, removing the AREDN node that got hit by lightening, removing other old antennas, and correcting the positions of the J-Pole antennas that were moved by the wind storm in June of last year. The AREDN node mounting bracket is still in place to re-install another node. They removed the 25 watt solar panel that was hanging on the tower. Judy, N8UFQ, and Ken raised the solar panels, that were laying on the ground, up higher so the grass could be cut under and around them. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he received the last donations from Smile.Amazon project. We need to keep a eye on Amazon to see what kind of project they may start. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the AREDN project. Ken said that he and Sammy, N8SVX, took several AREDN nodes to the Jackson County Hamfest for demonstration of the system. Ken said that he, Joe, N8MEV, Bobbie, KC8RSJ, Max, KC8JHI, and his friend went to the Miller Communications tower site in St Marys, and cleaned up the site, While they were there they used a portable AREDN test set up to check out the system. Ken said that they were able to see the PARK97 AREDN node, located about half way between Belpre and Marietta. Ken said he needs to talk to Tim Miller, WB8OMI, who owns the site about installing a AREDN node at that site. With a node at that site there may be a path to the Sand Hill tower site. He is hoping to install a node at Sand Hill this summer. With a node at Sand Hill, we may have a path back into the Red Hill tower site. A lengthy discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the basic electronic class is still on hold for awhile, until we can get one scheduled

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 he hasn't heard anything about the old Waverly School building.

Bill, N8JXO, gave a report on the Health Department Emergency Operation Center. He said the project is on hold for awhile, as there is some re-construction of the building and putting in new furniture, and a lot of other things going on.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he hasn't talked to Chip, the race official, but he thinks they will want us to do the communications, race clocks, and the spotting for the Chic-Fil-A Road Run which will be held on June 24th at 8:00 am. Help will be needed with the race. A short Discussion followed.

Field Day will be held on June 24th and 25th. The canopy, tables, antennas will be set up starting on Monday before Field Day. We are planning to operate all of the radios, and computers from solar power. We are planning to put a 700 watt inverter on the batteries at the Hendershot Farm tower and send the 110 volt ac current over to the Field Day site. We are hoping to build some tower out of 3/4 inch conduit, and put up the six meter beam. A lengthy discussion of all the things to get extra points followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he got confirmation back from the ARRL, about being a sanctioned ARRL Hamfest. The Hamfest will be held on Saturday, October 14th at the 4-H Camp Fairgrounds on Butcher Bent Road, Mineral Wells Road. We have already got confirmation from a couple dealers who said they will be there. Set up of the tables will be held on Friday evening, October 13th, at about 5:00 pm. We need to either make or buy a larger ticket tumbler for the tickets. He said that we need to start contacting different companies about getting door prizes.

Parkersburg Homecoming BINGO will be held August 18th and 19th. The BINGO license still needs to be ordered. Ken, WA8LLM, said he found the forth 24 foot by 40 foot canopy frame. It's needs a little repair, and a new canopy, if we need to use it for anything.

Volcano Days BINGO will be held September 22nd through September 24th. Ken, WA8LLM, said we need to make up signs to make sure people can find us. The BINGO license still needs to be ordered.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the GMRS (General Mobile Radio Services) 462.55 MHz repeater. He says he still does a manual identification about every hour. He still needs to put an electronic identifier on it. He said the repeater is operating split site. The receiver antenna is now up about 90 feet located at Hendershot Farm. Testing some of the locations that were dead before, are now good. Max Barker, KC8JHI, has started up a GRMS Users Group. Their meeting is the same evening as the WCEC MEETING. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the General Class Amateur Radio class that was held on May 21st. He said that 14 people took the class and all but two of them upgraded to General.

As a reminder, there will be an outside Tailgate/Hamfest at Leavitt's Funeral Home in Belpre on September 16th. There will be a drawing for an FT-891 Radio.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the basic Amateur Radio Packet class that was held on Saturday, May 27th. There was about ten people there, but not all of them participated in the class.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the canopy that was set up at the church in Waverly for their free give away. The next free give away will be held on the Saturday after the Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest in October.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Eastwood VFD used one of the WCEC canopies for their Ice Cream Social on Saturday, June 3rd.

The Church of Nazarene used two of the WCEC canopies for their church picnic on June 4th.

Deerwalk VFD used one of the WCEC canopies for their Ice Cream Social on Saturday, June 10th.

Mother Earth Foods wants one of the WCEC canopies for their event on Saturday, August 26th.

Steve, KL8T, says that Ritchie County has a new county Emergency Services Director, but doesn't know his name yet.

Matt, KD8GWP, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill, N8JXO. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

#### THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Cathy Orr KC8DJJ/Unit 257, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit 289, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Dave Wright N8NWV/Unit 286, Matt Wright KD8GWP/Unit 354, Jeannie Wright, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Rick Sawyer WV8DOC?Unit 262, Ben Sargent KE8SE, Bill Hardman KA8WJP, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Terry Place K3TWP, Cindy Hillen KE8YNV, Joe Thomas N8MEV, Bob Marlow KC8RSJ, Steve Campbell KL8T/Unit 288 Dan Betts WV8X, Roger Radcliff KE8LCM/Unit 281, Tom Breen KE8YGH, Chase Breen KE8YGG