



## WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC.

### Minutes of May 4, 2021

The monthly WCEC business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken, WA8LLM. There were only 9 members and guests present.

A motion to accept the April 6, 2021, minutes as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Alan, N8POB, and seconded by Cathy, KC8DJJ. Motion carried. Additional copies of the minutes were available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read. A motion to accept the Treasures Report was made by Alan, N8POB, and seconded by Cathy KC8DJJ. Motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater. Ken said the day after last months meeting he went to the Williamstown tower site to put a new lock on the fence gate and check the antennas with an analyzer. All of the antennas look good with an SWR of less than 1.3 to 1. He said there four antennas, two 2 Meter and two UHF antennas on the tower. He was able to get the power back into the cabinet, which has been off for several years. He did notice the cord has a nick in it. He will replace the cord as soon as he can. He hasn't had time, and the weather hasn't been good enough to make a trip to the repeater transmitter site to install the Motorola M-1225 UHF transceiver, as a scanning remote link frequency receiver, on the repeater.

Since Bill, N8JXO, wasn't at the meeting there was no report on the websites of [www.wc8ec.org](http://www.wc8ec.org) and [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com)

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he stopped by the Communications Trailer after the meeting last month. He says the trailer needs to be cleaned up, and there are still several pieces of radio equipment that was used for Field Day last yet.

Alan, N8POB, said that he keyed up the 443.175 MHz voice repeater from his house in North End. He has trouble getting into the repeater from his mobile, but from his base antenna, he doesn't have any problem. It still seems to be working okay.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the 800/900 MHz equipment from Jackson County is still on hold. Alan, N8POB, said that if you look on the AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network) website there are some 900 MHz systems. Ken said that as soon as he can find a place to order crystals, and find out what frequencies AREDN uses, he will try to order crystals for the equipment. A short discussion followed.



Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their ARES Registration up-to-date. He said the ARES Applications forms can be found on the [www.wc8ec.org](http://www.wc8ec.org) and [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com) websites.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone, to try and complete the Federal Emergency Management System NIMS ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses. All of the courses are accessible through the training link on the [www.wc8ec.org](http://www.wc8ec.org) and [www.wc8ec.com](http://www.wc8ec.com) websites. Cathy, KC8DJJ, reminded everyone that you must apply for a Student ID number, and use it, when taking the courses. Your Social Security Number can not be used. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership hours up-to-date. If we try for another grant, he may ask for the membership records. Since we provided the safety communication for the Challenge at Mountwood Mountain Bike Race, on April 11th, several people should have several hours to claim.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, said there was nothing to report fund raising activities yet. There was ideas about holding BINGO games at another event that happens about three times a year. A lengthy discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to have their friends and relatives to register their Kroger Card, using WCEC as the charitable recipient of the Kroger donations.

Since Rick, WV8DOC, wasn't at the meeting there was no report on the Everbridge system.

Judy, N8UFQ, and Kendale, KD8QAK, said the Hendershot Farm tower is still standing, even after the bad lightening storm that went through the area. Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has built, and is testing one outrigger that will be used for one of the wind generators. If it works like he hopes, he will build another one. He's planning to have the two 600 watt generators mounted on the tower before Field Day. He is also planning to change out homemade antenna for the AREDN system with a commercial antenna. Ken said that Harbor Freight is now selling a new type of solar panel. It is a one piece panel. The new solar panel is about half the size as the four piece panels, and generates the same amount of power (100 watts). The cost of the single panel is about \$100. Ken purchased two of the new panels and has been testing them. If they work like he thinks, he said he may purchase a couple more. Ken said Bill, N8JXO, told him that he has about 180 concrete blocks left over from a project at his house. He said the that WCEC could have them, if they want them. Ken said he would purchase the concrete for a floor for the transmitter building, if he can get help pouring the floor and laying the block. Alan, N8POB, said the auto store that his wife Lisa, N8POC, works at, will sale the group used, trade-in batteries, that are still good, at a very reduced price to place in the building. A very lengthy discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone who orders anything from Amazon, they should do it through [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com). Anyone ordering items from Amazon, he would like for them to associate their account to contribute to Wood County



Emergency Communications. The group gets .05% of what is actually spent. It doesn't cost anything, but we get some of the money that is actually spend.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave an update on the HSMM (High Speed Multi Media) AREDN system. He said that when he made the trip to the Williamstown tower site that he installed a node on a temporary pole. He needs to make a mounting bracket that will attach to the side of the radio cabinet, the next time he goes to the site. The node has a path into the AREDN system going through the PARK79 node. It's not the best signal, but it does work. The next time he goes to Williamstown he is going to install a beam antenna that should make the path a lot better. Ken said that Don, N8NUS, wants to test for a path from the Marietta Memorial Hospital to the Williamstown site. He and Ken will set up a date to do the testing. Ken said he is looking for more high locations to add nodes to the system. He is wanting to get a path into the Lubeck area, since Roger, KE8LCM, is wanting to connect in. Ken is also looking for locations in Vienna to cover that area. A few new terminal stations have been added to the system. Ken said that when he changed out the AREDN station at the Broad Street Tanks and City View Tanks, he also installed a coax antenna that will be used as a receive antenna for remote receivers for the 147.255 MHz and the 146.97 MHz voice repeaters. A lengthy discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the Challenge at Mountwood Mountain Bike race. He said that he was worried about having enough communicators to provide the service at the bad locations. But, he said 14 Amateur Radio operators showed up for the race. WCEC provided the race officials with radios that operated on the Mountwood Park business repeater. One of those who helped with the race also brought his own mountain bike and was used as a sweep bike when one of the regular sweeps had bike problems. After the race was over the race officials said they were very happy with our service. There was a few problems with the Amateur Repeater, but the problems were overcome. After the race, it was talked about the problems, and how they could have been avoided, but that is what these activities are for, to find problems and overcome them.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest is still in the planning stage. He said that he needs to contact the ARRL to let them know the Hamfest will be held on October 9th. Ken said that we need to start getting door prizes ready for the Hamfest.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he received an E-Mail from the Half Marathon officials. He said the Half Marathon has been cancelled for this year again. The E-Mail gave the names of at least four race officials who have resigned from the race committee. It may be hard to find a new race committee, if they try to hold a Half Marathon in August 2022. A short discussion followed.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, gave report on the one day Technician Class radio class that was held on Saturday, April 17th. She said that 12 people had pre-registered for the class, and four more showed up. Out of the 16 people who took the



class and testing, 11 of them passed their tests and should be getting their licenses.

Nothing more has been planned on having a basic electronic class. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Chic-Fil-A Road run will be held on Saturday, June 26. June 26th is also the first day of Field Day. The races will start at 8:00am and we should be done by 10:00am. We need about 10 communicators to cover the Mile Markers, the Data input, and Spotter. As soon as the race is over we can then head back to the Field Day site. A short discussion followed.

Field Day will be held on June 26th and 27th. We should start setting up the canopy and some of the power equipment and solar panels on Monday of the week before Field Day weekend.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) meeting that he attended on April 12th. Ken was able to talk to Don Brown, KE8GLJ, with the Wood County School Board about installing an AREDN node at Parkersburg South High School. Don said we need to write up a letter about the AREDN system, and how it will help Public Service. The letter needs to go to the Wood County School Board. Ken was also able to talk with Mike Pifer, the Vienna Police Chief, about the AREDN system. He said that we need to talk to the Public Works Director about installing AREDN nodes at the Vienna water tanks. Each representative at the meeting talked about what their organization is doing. Ken described the AREDN system.

From all indications, there will be a Parkersburg Homecoming. No BINGO license will be ordered until about a week before the homecoming. Alan, N8POB, will be attending a homecoming meeting on Thursday. He will be advising the committee that WCEC wants to operate the BINGO games as in the past. A short discussion followed.

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

## NEW BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, said that it took a little time to work through the IRS, but he has the annual IRS Report completed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the WV Business License has been reported and paid.

Ken, WA8LLM, wants to talk to a person who runs an auction house Progress Ridge Road about holding BINGO games on a regular basis. If we get it set up, we will need workers.

A picnic at the August business meeting was discussed. Those at the meeting thought it would be a good idea.



Ken, WA8LLM, said that he purchased five TRACFONE minute cards. He said the TRACFONE cellphones are used with the portable PBX telephone system that can be used during drills exercises, and real emergencies.

Kendale, KD8QAK, said that from all indications, it looks like the Volcano Days Festival, in September has been cancelled for this year.

Kendale, KD8QAK, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brent, KD8DLX. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

## THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Mike Nugent KE8QOO, Cathy Wotring KC8DJJ/Unit 257, Alan Currence N8POB/Unit 290, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Anna Hendershot KC8JWW/Unit 263, Kendale Peterson KD8QAK/Unit 369, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 272,