

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

August 6, 2024

Before the meeting started the group held their annual picnic. Ken, WA8LLM, wanted to thank all of those who attended and brought all of the good food.

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken, WA8LLM. There were 19 members and guests present at the meeting and picnic. Introductions were held.

A motion to accept the July 2, 2024 minutes, as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Bill, N8JXO, and seconded by George, KE8CAF. Motion carried. There were extra copies of the July 2nd 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 Kendale, KD8QAK. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater system. Ken said the repeater does have some Remote Receiver problems. He and Bill, N8JXO, went to a meeting in Ripley, and on the way back they tried to get into the repeater through the Rockport receiver, but it didn't seem to be working. Judy, N8UFQ, and Ken went to Grantsville, and on the way they tried to get into the repeater by the Elizabeth Remote Receiver, but it didn't seem to be working until they were close enough to see the tower, so it doesn't seem to be working properly. Ken, KB8QPW, had confirmed last month the Remote Receiver at St Marys tower site is not working. After thinking about it, there is a broadcast transmitter about a mile away that may be causing the problem like the trouble we had with the Dutch Ridge Remote Receiver. Plans are to go to St. Marys and place a Motorola filter on the receiver, like he one thqat corrected the problem at Dutch Ridge. The Williamstown Remote Receiver needs to be checked out and try to figure why it isn't working. Ken said he is still working on the noise detector circuit that will be put on each of the Remote Receivers. Ken is still wanting to put a Remote Receiver at the Sand Hill, Mountwood Park site, and the Summit tower site in Vienna. A short discussion followed.

Bill, N8JXO, said the www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com web sites, are still up and working fine. Ken, WA8LLM, said he still needs to get the ARES bulletins placed on the sites because Terry, KC8TUE, is sending out E-Mails to different companies asking for donations as door prizes at the Hamfest, and they may check out the web sites.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the Communications Trailer is still sitting on the top of the hill at the Hendershot Farm tower site. The trailer can be used if needed. Since Covid hit, there has been no county exercises requiring additional communications.

Ken, WA8LLM, said 443.175 MHz repeater is still working, but doesn't get much use. Ken said he still needs to get his big tower back in working conditions so he can put the 443 repeater, and other systems on it.

Ken, WA8LLM, said we still need to keep our equipment list up-to-date as a resource. The ARES Forms can be found, and used, on the websites of www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com A short discussion followed.

Ken, KB8YAV, said there are some new National Incident Management System (NIMS), courses available. Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone who hasn't completed NIMS, ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses, and any other NIMS communications courses, they should try to get them completed. If anyone

completes any of the courses he would like to have a copy of their certificates to be placed in the WCEC files. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership activity hours up-to-date. Any meetings that are attended should also be kept track of. Just keep track of the hours in case WCEC applies for any other grants so we can show hours of activity the group does. A short discussion followed.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, gave a short report on how many tickets are still out for the raffle of the 22" Blackstone Grill, and how much money she has made so far. She wants to make sure everyone brings their tickets to the September 3rd meeting, since that will be the day of the drawing.

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. A short discussion followed.

Since Rick, WV8DOC, wasn't at the meeting there was no report of the Everbridge system. Ken, WA8LLM, explained how the system works.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the Hendershot Farm tower is still there. Ken, WA8LLM, said he still wants to remove the two wind generators and modify one of them with a different generator, and then put it back on the tower. Ken gave a report on the batteries and solar panels that are being used at the tower site.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there is a problem with the two 2.397 GHz nodes of the AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Digital Network) system at the Red Hill tower site. They don't seem to be receiving very well. We don't know if they may have taken a near by lightning hit or what. We are planning to go work on the units shortly. Joe, N8MEV, suggested that we install a third node on the tower. The node names are REDHILL-30 (30 feet), and REDHILL-80 (80 feet). We may install REDHILL-60 (60 feet). Each leg of the tower will have a node on them. Ken wants to mount the node at the Sand Hill tower on the top of the 147.255 MHz transmitter antenna which is up about 90 feet. The AREDN node at this time is only up about 40 or 50 feet. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Basic Electronic Class is still on hold until we can find a place to hold the classes. The class will be one day held weekly for five or six weeks. We are hoping to be able to use the training room at the new E-911 building.

Ken, WA8LM, says the GMRS repeater on 462.675 MHz is still in operation. He says Randy, K8KHW, and Bret, N8FXC, talk on the repeater a couple times a week. Ken is still working on linking the 462.675 MHz repeater. at Sand Hill, and the 462.575 MHz repeater, at Summit in Vienna together. If things work out, he may try to link 4 or 5 repeaters together. Max, KC8JHI, has taken the St Marys 462.700 MHz repeater to Miller Communications to get it repaired. In the mean time Max has placed his 462.650 MHz repeater in its place. A short discussion followed.

Talk is still on going on about placing a self supporting tower at the farm owned by George, KD8CAF's aunt. We would like to get the tower in operation before winter gets here. The tower should be up about 30 foot, and will have Remote Receiver for the 147.255 MHz repeater, an AREDN mesh node, and a DAREN Packet Radio system on it. The tower site will be solar powered.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone the Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest will be held on October 12th. Ken says he has acquired some more door prizes. He has also submitted the Hamfest to the ARRL for publication in the QST magazine. Terry, KC8TUE, is E-Mailing several companies for door prizes, and they may look in QST for the Hamfest. We are waiting to see if there will be a 811, "Call before you dig" Pipe Line class that is usually held a

short time before the Hamfest. At the class we usually pike up several items that will be used for door prizes. A short discussion followed.

Deerwalk Homecoming wants to use one of our 24 foot by 40 foot canopies for their Homecoming event which will be held on August 24th.

Mineral Wells VFD needs one of our canopies for their Pig Roast on September 14th.

Mother Earth Foods may be wanting one of our canopies, tables, and chairs in August, again this year.

Belpre will be holding their Hamfest on September 21st.

There will be a one day Technician Class radio class on August 31. The class will be held at the Concealed Carry class building on Love Hill Road.

NEW BUSINESS

Taylor Trash Service wanted to use one of the 24 foot by 40 foot canopies, tables, and chairs for a wedding on July 27th.

We think the 811 "Call before you dig" Pipe Line class will be held on Oct 1.

A Ham Radio room has been completed in the new E-911 building. There is supposed to be a 30 foot outside of the Ham Radio room. Two VHF radios, one UHF radio, an HF radio, and the antennas for each of the radios have been ordered. Most of the equipment is on location.

Ken, KB8YAV, talked about a Echolink network system that several Amateurs are trying to get started. A lengthy discussion followed.

Lisa, KB8UER, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cathy, KC8DJJ. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Bob Marlow KC8RSJ/Unit 292, Cathy Orr KC8DJJ/Unit 257, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit 289, Steve Campbell KL8T/Unit 288, Nina Yoho KC8PPS/Unit 280, Pam Lott KE8RSZ, Joe Thomas N8MEV/Unit 291, Susan Dale K8SUZ, Larry Dale KF8NW, Lisa Hendershot KB8UER/Unit 270, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 272, Tim Dooley N8WO/Unit 273, Kenny Cline KB8YAV, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Kendale Peterson KD8QAK/Unit 369, James Peterson, Tim Pierce WSDT835