

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC
September 3, 2024

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken, WA8LLM. There were 17 members and guests present at the meeting. Introductions were held.

A motion to accept the August 6, 2024 minutes, as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Steve, KL8T, and seconded by Bill, N8JXO. Motion carried. There were extra copies of the August 3rd 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 Roger, KE8LCM. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater system. Ken said that Joe, N8MEV, Bob, KC8RSJ, Max, KC8JHI, Kelly, KF8CCI, and himself went to the Kings Ridge tower site in St Marys to change out the Remote Receiver and add a receive filter. Only time will tell if those changes will help the Remote Receiver. We still have the Elizabeth, Williamstown, and Rockport Remote Receivers to work on. The rest of the Remote Receivers seem to be working fine. Ken said he still needs to work on the noise detector circuit for the Remote Receivers. Steve, KL8T, is planning to put up a tower in Cario, and plans to put a Remote Receiver at that location. Ken said he is still planning to install a Remote Receiver at the Sand Hill tower site and the Summit tower site. The curiosity beep has quit working on the repeater, and that needs to be fixed. Other than those items, the repeater seems to be okay. Ken wanted to remind everyone that the repeater has a scanning receiver for the link frequencies, and that you need to delay talking for a couple seconds to allow the scanner to find a Remote Receiver.

Bill, N8JXO, said the www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com web sites, are still up and working fine. He said that he has put all of the WCEC minutes on the sites, and that Ken, WA8LLM, has given him an updated 2024 ARES bulletins, which he will put on the sites. Bill said he has put a note on the ARES area the site is still under construction.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the Communications Trailer is still sitting on the top of the hill at the Hendershot Farm tower site. She said the deer are still walking around it. The trailer can be used if needed.

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 receivers on it.

Ken, WA8LLM, said we still need to keep our equipment list up-to-date as a resource. An ARES Forms can be found, and used, on the websites of www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com Even though he is no longer the ARES District Emergency Coordinator, we can still use the modified ARES form for our recourse list. Ken suggested that GMRS equipment to be placed on the form. Some have said that GMRS isn't Amateur Radio, but it is another form of emergency communications. A lengthy discussion followed.

Kenny, KB8YAV, said there are some new National Incident Management System (NIMS), courses available. He talked about one in particular that takes 4 to 6 hours to complete. The course is NIMS G251 Workshop-in Emergency-Management-Amateur-Radio. The course will provide state and local Elected Officials, Emergency Mangers, and other public officials with an understanding of how volunteer communication groups can help in supplementing telecommunication and warning systems. The course is more of a hands-on workshop other than just a class. A lengthy discussion followed.

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.

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, held the drawing for the raffle of the 22" Blackstone Grill. The winner of the grill was Steve Spencer. Cathy will contact Steve, and get the grill to him. Ken, WA8LLM, said he will deposit the money from the raffle in the bank the next day.

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. We should be getting an E-Mail from Kroger in a few weeks. A short discussion followed.

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

Judy, N8UFQ, said the Hendershot Farm tower is still there. Ken, WA8LLM, said that since the weather is getting a little better, he wants to cut the grass around the site. He would also like to start laying the block for the building, and getting the radios placed in it. He also wants to remove the two wind generators and modify one of them with a different generator, and then put it back on the tower. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there was a problem with the two 2.397 GHz nodes of the AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Digital Network) system at the Red Hill tower site. Joe, N8MEV, Bob, KC8RSJ, Earl, KB8HRG, Jerry, KA8NJW, and himself went to the tower site. They replaced the 30 foot, and 80 foot nodes. They also installed a new node at about 60 foot. The node names are REDHILL-30 (30 feet), REDHILL-60 (60 feet), REDHILL-80 (80 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. He's wanting to talk to the Emergency Services Director about holding the classes in the training room in the new E-911 Center when it opens soon.

Ken, WA8LLM, says the GMRS repeater on 462.675 MHz is still in operation. There were reports on other GMRS repeaters. When the group went to Red Hill to work on the ARDEN nodes, they installed a GMRS antenna at about 80 feet for Bob, KC8RSJ's, GMRS repeater that operates on 462.625 MHz. Ken said as of the last meeting, another GMRS repeater went on the air in Wirt County. The Wirt County repeater is on 462.600 MHz. A lengthy discussion followed.

Talk is still on going on about placing a self supporting tower at the farm owned by George, KD8CAF's, aunt. George said he will get three sections of tower and get them painted. We're hoping to get the tower up before winter. The tower will have a Remote Receiver for the 147.255 MHz repeater, an AREDN mesh node, and a DAREN Packet Radio system on it. Ken is thinking about putting a low profile GMRS repeater on 462.550 MHz with a different PL Tone. The site already has an ARDEN node on a 20 foot mast pipe. The system is powered by solar.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone the Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest will be held on October 12th. Ken says he has acquired some more door prizes. Ken said that Terry, KC8TUE, hasn't been receiving very many responses to his door prize requests, and he is going to resent some of them. Ken said he has received some door prize packages from Terry's request. Bill, N8JXO,

will be needing help at the hamfest. inputting the information in his registration system.

Ken, WA8LLM, wanted to remind everyone about the Belpre Hamfest that will be held on September 21st.

The group got a donation for the use of a canopy, tables, and chairs for a wedding on July 21st.

Ken, WA8LLM, wants to stop at the new E-911 Center to talk to them about the Ham Radio room, and the training room.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the one day Technician Radio class that was held on August 31st. There were 13 people in the class, and 9 of them passed the test for their Technician license.

Mineral Wells VFD needs one of our 24 foot by 40 foot canopies for their Pig Roast on September 14th.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chic-Fil-A Cross County races will be held on September 7th. They will be wanting one of the 24 foot by 40 foot canopies for a medical tent. Help will be needed for the race communications. There may be a couple other smaller cross county races in September and October.

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) will be holding a Parks On The Air (POTA) Amateur station on the Blennerhassett Island on September 7th.

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) will be operating a Special Event Station at the Volcano Days event on Saturday, September 28th.

Don, N8NUS, said the National Weather Service we be holding an online class on October 23rd. The class will be how to set up a Skywarn group.

Don, N8NUS, also wanted let everyone about a World War 2 troop transport ship (LST) that will be in Marietta from September 12th through the 15th. You can tour the ship for \$15. The ship will have an Amateur Radio on it. The callsign of the Amateur Radio on the ship is WW2LST.

Max, KC8JHI, said the Mid-Ohio Valley GMRS Group will be holding a picnic in stead of a regular meeting. The picnic will be held on Monday, September 16th at the Lubeck Park on the hill behind the Lubeck Fire station. The picnic will start at about 6:00 pm. It is a covered dish picnic. The October 21st MOV GMRS meeting will be held back at the North End Library. Max will be bring a repeater for show-in-tell.

Brent, KD8DLX, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Roger, KE8LCM. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Cathy Orr KC8DJJ/Unit 257, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit 289, Steve Campbell KL8T/Unit 288, Joe Thomas N8MEV/Unit 291, Tim Dooley N8WO/Unit 273, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 272, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Roger Radcliff KE8LCM/ Unit 281, Don Williams N8NUS/Unit 279, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Kelly M McGill WRQW793, Max Barker KC8JHI, Dave Vance AD8NZ, Bob Marlow KC8RSJ/Unit 292, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Kenny Cline KB8YAV