

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC
December 3, 2024

Before the meeting started the group enjoyed a great Christmas Dinner. Ken, WA8LLM, wanted to thank everyone who participated in the event.

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at about 6:48 pm by Ken, WA8LLM. There were 20 members and guests present at the meeting. Introductions were held.

A motion to accept the November 5, 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 November 5th 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 George, KE8CAF. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater system. Ken said he is getting the remote receiver equipment ready to take to the Sand Hill and Summit tower sites. He's not for sure if he is going to get to work on Rockport and Williamstown remote receivers before winter sets in. Max, KC8JHI, said that Don Williams, N8NUS, got the official go ahead to use the old tower that was used by the cable company since they are no longer using it. The tower just needs to be cleaned of all the vines and remove the microwave dish. Max said that he and Don have a temporary cabinet and antenna there right now for a remote receiver for the 146.745 MHz repeater.

Bill, N8JXO, said the www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com web sites, are still up and working fine. Bill said he received an E-Mail about the payment for the website names. He said they are scam since the payment for the names is auto pay from him. Bill will let us know when we need to reimburse him for the payments. Ken said that he still needs to get copies of the 2023 ARES Bulletins to Bill so he can get them on the websites.

Judy, N8UFQ, says the communications trailer is still setting at the Field Day site. No one has been up to check on it, but it's locked up.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he hasn't checked the 443.175 MHz repeater any time this past month. He is hoping to get the new repeater in operation and it should have more coverage, and maybe start to be used. Unless the weather gets better, he won't get the eight bay UHF antenna installed on the 90 foot tower at his house which will be used as a receive antenna for several UHF receivers.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone that we still need to keep our equipment list up-to-date as a resource. An ARES Form can be found, and used, on the websites of www.wc8ec.org

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone who hasn't completed the 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. Bob, KC8RSJ, turned in copies of his 100, 200, 700, and 800 certificates. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership activity hours up-to-date. Any meetings that are attended, and other activities, such as the dinner and meeting tonight should also be kept track of. We don't need to turn them in just keep track of the hours in case WCEC applies for any other grants so we can show hours of activity the group does.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to have the friends and relatives register their Kroger card. Just go on Kroger.com community activity site, and follow the instructions. Show Wood County Emergency Communications as the recipient.

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

Ken, WA8LLM, wants to thank Joe, N8MEV, and Bob, KC8RSJ, for putting the shingles on the transmitter building at the Hendershot Farm tower site. Ken said he put some Plexiglas on the ends of the building so there will be some natural light inside. Joe, N8MEV, brought some tin to cover the rest of the ends, and under the eaves, of the building, but they won't be put on there until the weather gets a little better. Ken says he just needs two pieces of 1/2 inch plywood, 18 inches by 30 inches to finish the shelves. Ken said that he wants to put a panel with at least six volt/amp meters to monitor the solar panels, and a camera that can be connected to the AREDN system on 2.4GHz. We should be able to the solar panels remotely. Now that the shingles are on the roof, we can now move the solar panels from the tables and mount them on the roof. There will be a total of six 100 watt solar panels to power the equipment in the building. A lengthy discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Digital Network) 2.4 GHz system seems to be working fine. We haven't installed any new nodes lately. 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.

Max, KC8JHI, said he has been keeping track of any new GMRS repeaters that are going on the air. He said the 462.600 MHz repeater in Ravenswood is in operation, but it is just a low profile repeater for now. It has a few problems that he is working out. Max and Kelly, KF8CCI says that Meigs County, Ohio, is acquiring four new GMRS repeaters for their area. They are not for sure what all the frequencies are, or how they are going to be used. A lengthy discussion followed.

George, KE8CAF, said that he hasn't got the tower sections for the Orr Farm tower painted yet. We don't think we are going to get the tower up before winter gets here.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he received a telephone call from Aaron, N8NVQ, about how to connect up one of the new 2 Meter transceivers at the new E-911 Center for Packet Radio. Ken said that he is going to make up a cable to connect the TNC and radio together. Aaron said there in no tables in the Ham Radio Room yet, and the tower has not been installed yet either.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that Kenny, KB8YAV, is wanting to hold another emergency communications exercise in the spring. But nothing else has been told about it yet.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there will be a one day Technician Class Amateur Radio class to be held on Saturday, March 1st, at the Vienna Baptist Church in Vienna,

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought up.

Joe, N8MEV, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill, N8JXO. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Cathy Orr KC8DJJ/Unit 257, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit 289, Pam Lott KE8RSZ, Joe Thomas N8MEV/Unit 291, Nina Yoho KC8PPS, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Bob Marlow KC8RSJ/Unit 292, Steve Campbell KL8T/Unit 288, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, Jim Peterson, Kevin Harris Unit 253/KC8OXY, Addie Harris Unit 359/KD8LLA, Brianna Harris Unit 289/KE8WUN, Brian Harris Unit 290/KE8YSY, Quin, Gabby, Leann, Kelly McGill, KF8CCI, Max Barker, KC8JHI

ACTIVITIES COMING IN 2025 FOR WCEC

ONE DAY AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES

FIELD DAY

CHALLENGE AT MOUNTWOOD MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

CHIC-FIL-A ROAD RUN

CHIC-FIL-A CROSS COUNTRY RACES

CANOPIES FOR;

EASTWOOD VFD

DEERWALK VFD

MINERAL WELLS VFD

DEERWALK HOMECOMING

WAVERLY CHURCH GIVE AWAY (TWICE)

CHURCH OF NAZARINE (TWICE)

HAMFEST

ANNUAL GROUP PICNIC

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY