

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC
February 4, 2025

Before the meeting started two people took and passed their Amateur Radio exams. One was an upgrade to General, the other was a new Technician.

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at about 7:00 pm by Ken, WA8LLM. There were 18 members and guests present at the meeting. Introductions were held.

A motion to accept the December 3, 2024 minutes, as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, since there was no January meeting due to cancellation because of bad weather and road conditions, was made by Joe, N8MEV, and seconded by Pam, KE8RSZ. Motion carried. There were extra copies of the December 3, 2024, minutes available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read. Ken, WA8LLM, gave a lengthy explanation about clearing out the Special account, and the Raffle account. He also explained about the two VISA credit cards, that he is having a problem paying on. Ken talked about opening a checking account in another bank, and depositing the working cash in that account. Cathy, KC8DJJ, made a motion to accept the Treasures Report, and open a new checking account in another bank, which was seconded by Brent, KD8DLX. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater system. Ken said the system seems to be working okay with a few little glitches. Ken said that he was going to put a noise detecting circuit on each of the remote receivers, but Joe, N8MEV, suggested that we should only need one noise detecting circuit on the UHF link scanning receiver, located at the transmitter site. When the scanning receiver hears noise it will cause the receiver to block the incoming UHF signal, and it will start scanning again until it finds a quiet UHF signal. Ken wants to talk to Earl, KB8HRG, about designing an active noise detecting circuit. Joe is wanting to put a remote receiver on the county Red Hill fire tower site. He has all the equipment ready to go, we just need to wait for better weather. We may have an idea what is wrong with the Rockport Remote Receiver, but we need to wait for better weather. Bob, KC8RSJ, says he thinks the Elizabeth Remote Receiver is working okay. We know the Williamstown Remote Receiver has a problem. Don, N8NUS, has permission to use the old abandoned cable company tower for emergency communications use. Don and Max, KC8JHI, have been working and cleaning up the Williamstown site. A short discussion followed.

Bill, N8JXO, said the www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com web sites, are still up and working fine. He says he has them up-to-date. 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, WA8LLM, said 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. It may be a problem getting it off the hill right now until the snow goes away, and the ground dries out some. A short discussion followed.

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. Ken is hoping to get the eight bay UHF antenna installed on his 90 foot tower as soon as the weather is better. The eight bay UHF antenna 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 and www.wc8ec.com Even though Ken is no longer the ARRL DEC and Wood County EC, he still keeps the ARES Forms on file. He picked up three new applications forms.

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. Kendale, KD8QAK, has completed his ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses, and has sent Ken a copy of them. All of the courses are available on line, Ken said that anyone who hasn't completed the ICS courses, that we might be able to set up a classroom for some of the courses. 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, 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. For information, Don, N8NUS, said the government says that volunteer hours are worth \$32.49 an hour. Since our work is volunteer we don't really get any money, it is used as a reference.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to have their 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.

Now that the radio equipment building at Hendershot Farm tower site is complete, it will become the transmit site for several repeater systems. Ken, WA8LLM, will be installing six solar panels on the roof when the weather get better. Right now there are four 100 watt panels, and seven 25 watt panels laying on tables powering up the batteries. Ken re-wired the batteries, changing them from a 12 volt system to an 18 volt system. It was done that way so the solar panels could be connected directly to the batteries without having to have regulation. A short 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. The Broad Street Water Tank node is operating on a 12 volt system. In the next few days we are hoping to convert the power for the node with three 6 volt batteries making it 18 volts. Bob, KC8RSJ, has been working with cameras to be able to see any meters that we well use to monitor the battery voltages at Hendershot Farm tower. 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.

Ken, WA8LLM, talked about conversations on social media about the fighting between Amateur Radio and General Mobile Radio Service. Ken said there is no fighting or war between the two groups. It is just something some people are wanting to start trouble. If you hear anything about fighting, just ignore it. Ken talked about a crossover system that you go in on one repeater frequency, and come out on three other repeater frequencies. The system will be demonstrated at the MOV GMRS meeting on February 17th. Max, KC8JHI, talked about some other GMRS repeaters that are being installed in the area. Kelly, KF8CCI, said the MOV GMRS group now has their Tax Exempt 501c3 determination letter. A lengthy discussion followed.

George, KE8CAF, said as soon as the weather gets better, work will be started on the tower sections for the Orr Farm tower. We hope to get it put up this spring or summer.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that while he was at the Wood County LEPC meeting, he talked to Aaron, N8NVQ, about the Amateur Radio room. The county is trying to figure out what kind of tables are going to be put in the room. The tower hasn't been installed yet. The county has purchased 2 VHF Radios, a UHF Radio, an HF Radio, and the antennas for each of them. Ken said he needs to talk to the 911 Director and the Emergency Services about using one of the meeting rooms for the WCEC meeting, and for training.

Kenny, KB8YAV, says he is looking at holding a communications exercise some time in April. Kenny said there will be a presentation by the State Office of Emergency Services about state Auxiliary Communications. The presentation will be held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, February 20th at the Lubeck VFD.

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

The regular Field Day will be held on June 28th and 29th.

There was a lengthy discussion about holding a Hamfest. It was discussed about holding the Hamfest at a different date and location. Ben, KE8STE, made a motion to hold the Hamfest, seconded by Bill. N8JXO. Motion carried. Everyone needs to think about a location and a date.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he has re-certified the 147.255 MHz, the 443.175 MHz, and the 444.150 MHz repeater in Ripley. He has also paid the SERA repeater membership dues.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, suggested that we talk to Junior, KE8WOX, about getting another gun to raffle off. She suggested we only charge \$10.00 for each ticket, and only sale 150 tickets.

Bill, N8JXO said there will be a SIRN (State Interoperability Radio Network) meeting at 10:00 am, on February 27th, at the Ripley VFD in Jackson County.

Roger, KE8LCM, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brent, KD8DLX. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Cathy Orr KC8DJJ/Unit 257, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit 289, Joe Thomas N8MEV/Unit 291, Pam Lott KE8RSZ, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Tim Dooley N8WO/Unit 273, Brent Rice KD8DLX/Unit 272, Roger Radcliff KE8LCM/Unit 281, Don Williams N8NUS/Unit 279, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Max Barker KC8JHI, Kenny Cline KB8YAV, Kelly McGill, KF8CCI, Jay Foresta KF8CCJ, Ben Sargent KE8STE, Steve Campbell KL8T/Unit 288, Bob Marlow KC8RSJ/Unit 292

ACTIVITIES COMING IN 2025 FOR WCEC

ONE DAY AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES

A POSSIBLE ONE DAY GENERAL CLASS

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 CHRISTMS PARTY