

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

March 4, 2025

Before the meeting started one person took and passed his Technician Class Amateur Radio exam.

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at about 7:00 pm by Ken, WA8LLM. There were 10 members and guests present at the meeting.

A motion to accept the February 4, 2025 minutes, as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by Cathy, KC8DJJ, and seconded by Bill, N8JXO. Motion carried. There were extra copies of the February 4, 2025, minutes available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read, Bill, N8JXO, made a motion to accept the Treasures Report, seconded by Bob, KC8RSJ. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater system. Ken said that he purchased two 100 watt solar panels. One is going to be placed on the Broad Street Water Tank site, the other one will be placed at the City View Water Tank site so he will be able to install and power a Remote Receiver on the 147.255 MHz Repeater System. The City View Drive site will be converted to an 18 volt power system. He has been experimenting, at his house, with the new solar panel, the 18 volt battery, a MESH Node, and a Remote Receiver, to see how they work. Ken said that he stopped at the Limestone/Rockport Remote Receiver site with intentions of bring the equipment home to check it out. He was unable to get the door unlocked. Bob, KC8RSJ, said the last time he was at the site he had trouble getting the lock open. He said he has to beat on the lock to get it open. Ken said he assumes the Elizabeth Remote Receiver is still working. He said he wants to get up to the Summit and the Sand Hill tower sites to install Remote Receivers at those locations, then work on the Williamstown Remote Receiver.

Bill, N8JXO, said the www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com web sites, are still up and working fine. Ken, WA8LLM, said he needs to set some small thumb drives and get all of the 2023, 2024, and the latest 2025 ARES Bulletins to Bill, so he can get them on the websites. Ken said he has two computers that are bad, but the hard drives are okay, and that is where all the old ARES Bulletins are at.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the communications trailer is still setting at the Field Day site. With the snow and rain this winter, it made the ground soft, and would be hard to move the trailer, but it can be done with a tractor.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that as soon as the weather gets better he wants to install the 8 bay UHF antenna on his 90 foot tower, that will allow him to get the receiver for the new 443.175 MHz repeater in operation. He can then install the repeater transmitter at the Hendershot farm tower site. That will allow the repeater to have better coverage.

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 on the websites of www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com

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.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership activity hours up-to-date. Any meetings and other activities that are attended, should also be kept track of.

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.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, suggested we put the Everbridge system reports on hold until we get a hold of Rick, WV8DOC, to find out about any updates of the system.

Ken, WA8LLM, said last month that he converted to battery system from 12 volts to 18 volts at the Hendershot Farm site, that would allow the batteries and solar panels to work together better. He now has one six volt battery left over that isn't doing anything. Ken said that he has two more six volt batteries at his house and will try to get them taken to the tower site and get them connected in parallel with the other batteries. As soon as he can, he plans on getting the solar panels mounted on the roof. The power system seems to be working fine with the panels laying on the tables outside the building. Ken said he still needs to put the metal sheeting that Joe, N8MEV, provided, on the ends of the building. When the rest of the batteries are installed, the site will be ready to be used as a transmitter site. The receive site will be at Kens tower site.

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. Ken said that one of the new 100 watt solar panel that he purchased will be placed at the Broad Street Water Tank site as soon as he can get the mounting bracket built, and the weather gets better. The site is working with three 25 watt panels, but Earl, KB8HRG, thinks that one or two of them isn't working properly.

Ken, WA8LLM, said the Basic Electronic Class is still on hold until we can find a place to hold the classes.

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) activities in the area. Ken said he has the new transmitter for the 462.55 MHz repeater ready to be taken to the Hendershot Farm tower site. Right now the Receiver for the repeater is located at the Hendershot Farm tower site and the transmitter is located on the 84 foot tower at Kens tower site. Max, KC8JHI, is trying to keep up-to-date on all of the GMRS Repeaters in the area. There will be a MOV GMRS group meeting on March 17th at 6:00 pm at the Wood County Library on Emerson AVE, Parkersburg, north end.

George, KE8CAF, said as soon as the weather gets better, he will get the tower sections painted so we can get the tower installed at the Orr Farm.

Ken, WA8LLM, said that he hasn't talked to the E-911 director, or the Wood County Emergency Services Director about using one of the meeting rooms for the WCEC Meetings yet.

Kenny, KB8YAV, has been talking about holding a communications exercise some time in April. But, with the way the government is doing away with jobs, Kenny is not for sure he will have a training job shortly. He is hoping to have an know by the next months meeting. He would like to hold an exercise before Field Day.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, gave a report on the one day Technician Class Amateur Radio class that was held on Saturday, March 1st. Very few people showed up for the class, but she did have some people that upgraded their license. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said we should set up for regular Field Day like before. Even though we don't make a lot of contacts, it is a time to learn how to set up for emergency communications. Field Day will be June 28th and 29th.

There was a discussion about holding the Hamfest in October. It was decided to hold the Hamfest at the same location and date. The Hamfest will be held at the 4-H Camp Ground on Butcher Bend Road, Mineral Wells, on October 11th. Ken, WA8LLM, will contact the 4-H officials and start the paper work. Ken will also contact the ARRL. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he talked to Junior, KE8WOX, about getting a pistol to be used in a raffle. Junior said that we can talk to Carl's Pawn Shop and maybe get a used pistol which they clean up and look like new. Ken said when he gets a chance he will talk to them. Cathy, KC8DJJ, made a motion to get a gun to raffle off, seconded by Judy, N8UFQ. Motion carried. A short discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought up.

Cathy, KC8DJJ, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill, N8JXO. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255,
Joe Thomas N8MEV/Unit 291, Pam Lott KE8RSZ, George Orr KE8CAF/Unit
289, Cathy Orr KC8DJJ/Unit 257, Bob Marlow KC8RSJ/Unit 292, Bill
Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Kenny Cline KB8YAV, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit
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ACTIVITIES COMING IN 2025 FOR WCEC

ONE DAY TECHNICIAN AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES
POSSIBLE ONE DAY GENERAL AMATEUR RADIO 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 CHRISTMAS PARTY
RAFFLE FUND RAISER