

WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INC

April 7, 2026

The monthly WCEC Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ken, WA8LLM. There were 13 members and guests present at the meeting.

A motion to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2026 meeting, as they were E-Mailed, and after they were corrected, was made by George, KE8CAF, seconded by Joe, N8MEV. Motion carried. There were extra copies of March 3, 2026 minutes available at the meeting.

The Treasures Report was read, Bill, N8JXO, made a motion to accept the Treasures Report, seconded by George, KE8CAF. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken, WA8LLM, gave a report on the 147.255 MHz voice repeater system. Ken said he needs to build a new power supply that will fit into a 19 inch equipment rack at the Rockport tower site. The new power supply will get the Rockport Remote Receiver back on the air. Max, KC8JHI, said we may need to change out the Receiver/Transmitter combination of the Rockport Remote Receiver due to possible water damage. We still need to work on the Williamstown Remote Receiver. Ken said he needs to get Sand Hill Repeater Transmitter changed out so the time out timer will be changed from about one minute to three minutes. He also needs to put a cooling fan on the transmitter so that it won't get hot and lose the transmit audio. Ken said the repeater seems to be working pretty good with the noise detector on it. Ken wants to get the Remote Receiver working again at the Hendershot Farm tower site. He said he doesn't have any idea about the St Marys Remote Receiver.

Bill, N8JXO, said the websites of www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com are up and running. Ken, WA8LLM, told Bill if there is any information that he needs, to let him know.

Judy, N8UFQ, said the communications trailer is still at her house. She said she looks it over from time to time.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he hasn't checked out the 443.175 MHz repeater lately. Ken said he will check it out before the next meeting. Ken said that since the weather is getting better, he wants to finish hanging the UHF antenna on the 90 foot tower at his house. The UHF antenna will be used as a receive antenna for the new 443.175 MHz repeater and the Receivers on the GMRS Cross Over system.

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. A short discussion followed.

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. A link to the training site can be found on the www.wc8ec.org and www.wc8ec.com sites. A short discussion followed.

Ken, WA8LLM, reminded everyone to keep their membership activity hours up-to-date.

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. Ken said he received an E-Mail from Kroger saying there would be a donation check coming. Since then he received the check and deposited it in the bank.

Judy, N8UFQ, says she can see the Hendrshot Farm tower from her house, and the fans on the wind generators are still going around, but they aren't generating any electricity. Ken still wants to replace one of the wind generators.

Ken, WA8LLM, talked about the AREDN system. He said there have been no new nodes added to the system.

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

Max, KC8JHI, gave a report on the GMRS repeaters in the area, and GMRS in general. Max said we have permission to use the Rockport/Limestone building. The roof needed some repair which is being worked on. The building needs to be cleaned up. Ken, WA8LLM, is still working on the GMRS Cross Over system. He is building UHF Beam antennas that are needed for the system. He needs to reduce the re-transmit power down to about one watt and use the UHF Beam antennas. A lengthy discussion followed.

George, KE8CAF, said the tower that will be going up at the Orr Farm is still on hold until the weather gets better.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he hasn't heard anything from Emergency Services about the 911 Center Amateur Radio room. Ken said that he was told that the OES officials don't want anyone to use the radio room for meetings, but we can take Amateurs to the room for Show-N-Tell.

JR, KD8PYH, said that as soon as the weather gets better, he would like to start to work on the tower on Man Of War Road.

Ken, WA8LLM, said there has been nothing done at the Williamstown tower site lately.

Ken, WA8LLM, said he has three Meshtastic nodes that he wants to use for testing. He wants to see if his 9db homemade antennas will do as good as the commercial antennas that is being used. Ken said that Conard, WV8JCR, has programmed the nodes as WC8EC-TEST1, 2, and 3. A short discussion followed.

Since Kenny, who has changed his call sign from KB8YAV to KE2NNY, wasn't at the meeting, there was no report about the State Wide SKYWARN system. A short discussion followed.

Dave, N8WZ, gave a report on the association between his new vending business and WCEC. A short discussion followed.

Due to another Hamfest just a couple weeks before the Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest, a drop in participation attendance, the lack of workers to help setup, operate, and tear down the Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest, Joe, N8MEV, made a motion to not hold the Hamfest, seconded by Bill, N8JXO. Motion carried. Ken, WA8LLM, said he would contact the West Virginia University Extension office, and have them cancel the 4-H Building reservation in October. Judy, N8UFQ, said she would contact Lisa, KB8UER, and make sure she doesn't ask for a Hamfest donation from Waste Management.

There was a discussion on the setting up of the canopies at different events for donations. Ken said that is one of our major fund incomes.

The Challenge at Mountwood Mountain Bike Race will be held on Sunday, April 26th. There will be additional radios available for those who don't have one that will operate on the frequencies that will be used. The race will start at 12:00 noon. We should be at the park by about 9:00 or 10:00am to get our assigned areas, and get on location before the race starts.

NEW BUSINESS

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub will be holding a Special Event Station at the Williamstown Welcome Center celebrating World Amateur Radio Day on April 18th. The event will be held from 10:00 am to 3:00pm.

The Athens, Ohio, Hamfest will be held on Sunday, April 26th.

JR, KD8PYH, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Judy, N8UFQ. The meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

Ken Harris WA8LLM/Unit 251, Dave Vance N8WZ, Cathy Orr KC8DJJ/Unit 257, George Orr, KE8CAF/Unit 288, Bob Marlow KC8RSJ/Unit 292, Joe Thomas N8MEV/Unit 291, Pam Lott KE8RSZ/Unit 293, Bill Davidson N8JXO/Unit 283, Jeff Scott KC8EEQ/Unit 282, Judy Peterson N8UFQ/Unit 255, JR Morton KD8PYH, Kelly McGill KF8CCI, Max Barker KC8JHI,