

Oakland County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp (ARPSC)
W8OAK Repeaters – 146.900 MHz/100pl & 444.325 MHz/107.2pl
Weekly 2 meter net 8 pm every Thursday
Hospital Radio Net – 7:30 pm last Thursday of Month
Packet 144.950 MHz/1200 baud, connects made with Oakxxx or
Callsign-# to OAKBBS (W8OAK-3) with nodes at
OAKNOD (N8NM-1 Pontiac – most coverage),
OAKEOC (W8OAK-7 at EOC) or K8DTX-7 (White Lake)
APRS – 144.390 MHz
Web Site: <http://www.arpesc.com>; coming: <https://www.arpesc.com>

Meeting Minutes for 7 January 2015

On 7 January 2015 at 7 pm, Jim Richards - AB8JR, Emergency Coordinator (EC) for the Oakland County ARPSC, called the meeting to order in the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The order of business included:

(I). Report from Steve Iannucci, Homeland Security Division – Oakland County:

RACES and Oakland County ARPSC identification cards are being handed out. Some RACES cards still need lamination and will be available later. Repair and replacement of the amateur radio system is now complete except for hardline cable connectors in the backroom.

(II). Report from the Emergency Coordinator (EC), Jim Richards - AB8JR:

Our 4 March 2015 meeting will be a Skywarn training session. The next annual dinner meeting will be held Wednesday, 1 April 2015.

Upon requesting ideas for future meetings, members suggested the following:

- (1). Oakland County, Michigan uses Harris' OpenSky Network for communications. What is it and how does it work?
- (2). What is Michigan Citizen Corps and what do they have for interagency communications?
- (3). Update the Michigan National Guard and its communications.
- (4). How do recent changes in MARS affect the ARPSC and ARES in Michigan?
- (5). Possible speakers: ARRL Section Manager, Wayne or Washtenaw County EC – to explain how Michigan or their own counties handle emergency services.
- (6). Update amateur radio digital modes - VHF, UHF and possibly HF.
- (7). When Oakland County ARPSC activates for some emergency, besides bringing one's self and a HT, one could use refreshing on details and/or further training. Jim added that he is working with Wayne County for activation and that such emergency notices must be consistent.

(8). Report on the simplex band plan between county EOC's and at district level. Jim added such plans are being worked on and will be finalized over the next few months.

Several questions were raised by members:

- (1). Will Oakland County be putting out new calendar for 2015? Answer from Steve Iannucci: No.
- (2). When will a new county siren map be made? Jim replied that he is waiting for new 2015 siren information before doing this.

SB493 (also known as PRB-1) has now passed the Michigan Senate and House and has gone to the governor to sign. If he doesn't sign within the first 14 days of this year, the whole process begins again back with the legislature. Members were sent an email on 2 January 2015 recommending they send a message to the governor "respectfully encouraging him to sign Senate Bill 493." It should be addressed to <https://sombgovweb.state.mi.us/GovRelations/ShareOpinion.aspx>. This web site takes one to a form to be filled out. Also, a telephone call to 517-335-7858 can be done by leaving a message encouraging Governor Snyder to sign Senate Bill 0493." Jim will send this original email out again to members.

(III). Presentation – Website Update from Ron Miotke - WD8MNX

Our new website has taken a long time to complete. Hopes are to release it next month. Ron showed some items which will appear on the website. The setup is a complex interactive format which permits a few officers to internally run and control it. Being exposed to the internet, protective security will be used. The emergency communications (ECOM) section is still being developed. Website address will be slightly changed to <https://arpsc.com> where http becomes https. The website platform is based on Joomla programs.

The front or administrative page will have "Who we are – Oakland County ARPSC" and will have entry points for Skywarn, Hospital Nets, Siren Testing and log-in. Secretarial minutes and other information will be available. Ron is considering whether to give each member a different default password to enter. Once logged in, members would receive emails from the system.

Website security will alert Ron and website trustees if some malware or a misinformation problem is present. These people will have access to the internal site and means more than one person can run the site.

Ron mentioned some tips for public service communicators, with his source being <http://stlares.org/trn-emcom-notebook.html>. These include avoid using "Okay, I'll do it, but it's not actually my job," use tactical call signs (i.e. Net Control and EOC),

never alter a message, never use VOX, safely set up and operate your station, don't get over-tired and do eat, listen to Net Controller's instructions, keep communications brief, follow procedures, check periodically your transceiver for problems, take part in training and exercises, mark your equipment, have headphones available, and think about what could be better done next time.

On another topic, Ron pointed out that a geomagnetic storm is currently happening which could disturb certain frequencies. For instance there may be openings in 6 meter band while HF frequencies degrade.

(IV). AEC-Management Team Reports:

(1). Report from Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ, Operations

2015 Sno*Drift Rally will be held 30-31 January at Atlanta, Michigan. Volunteers should contact Barb Steencken (head of volunteers) at www.sno-drift.org. So far, 70 ham radio volunteers are coming.

Pete will be operating a Cayman Island station on Saturday, 17 January 2015 with call letters ZF2PG. Last year in the Caymans, he was handling 120 QSO's per hour. At a future time, hopes are that Pete will make a presentation of his latest new equipment and operations.

(2). Report from Fred Czubak – WE8P, Administration

Fred reports that a 5 year old passed a tech licensing exam in Colorado on 5 January 2015.

(4). Report from Mike Vander Veer – KD8ATK, Net Operations:

W8OAK nets are held weekly on Thursday evening at 8 pm. More net control operators are needed and Mike will help you get started. Currently, Al Clawson – KC8KJF is training. If something happens, multiple nets may be needed to run at the same time. If interested, please contact or email Mike Vander Veer at kd8atk@wowway.com.

(V). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

(1). Report on Sirens:

Steve Iannucci mentioned that Macomb County holds tests sirens in December 2014 and January 2015. Oakland County doesn't test these months because the county sirens are for tornados. More new sirens are planned for this year. Some may go into play ground areas and will be paid for by grants. The cost for a new siren is

about \$22,000, of which 75% is assumed by a municipality or township and 25% is from the county. After installation, additional maintenance, periodic new batteries, and electricity can be expensive.

Bill Nebel – N3BEL asked if our sirens would be better tested twice in April rather than once. The second April test is for schools during Severe Weather Awareness Week, 12-18 April 2015.

(2). Report from Al Clawson – KC8KJF, Hospital Communication Teams:

Al is the new Hospital Coordinator. The December 2014 Hospital Net had 8 check-ins. More volunteers are needed, and please, if you can help, email to kc8kjf@arrl.net. Al will be doing a physical audit of the hospitals and will check for radios which don't work. Several hospitals have opted out of emergency care. So far no official statement has been made on whether to keep these radios. A report mentions the radio at Providence Hospital – Southfield (in the ER) does not work, and needs to be checked.

(3). Report from Mark Shaw – K8ED, National Traffic System (NTS)

The Menominee & Marinette D.A.R. Boys and Girls Club has been into ham radio for 8 years. Their call letters are K8DAR. Recently, they have been connecting into Echolink. Mark wants to contact this club for possible NTS traffic.

(4). Report from Jim Richards – AB8JR for Maurice Davidson – K8SJD, National Weather Service Liaison:

Maurie emailed that December's low temperature was 14 degrees and December was the 2nd driest on record (for a December).

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 8 January 2015