

Oakland County Amateur Radio Public Service Corp (ARPSC)

W8OAK Repeaters – 146.900 MHz/100pl & coming - 444.325 MHz DMR.

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.arpdc.com>

Next meeting: No meeting 1 March 2017 - instead is a Skywarn class. Next meeting is the annual dinner meeting, 5 April 2017. Location – White Lake Oaks Golf Course – see details below.

Meeting Minutes for 1 February 2017

On 1 February 2017 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 Kevin Scheid, Homeland Security Division – Oakland County, KD8ZVO:

Oakland County Homeland Security recently had a campus evaluation exercise in which a lot of good things came out of it. Kevin emailed to ARPSC members information about IS 100, 200, 700, 800 classes which are now scheduled. Whether you attend these classes or do them online, be sure to go to FEMA for your certificate once you pass the class.

Recently, test exercises using normal communications were held with Birmingham, Southfield, and other municipalities. The purpose was to make certain standard means of communications could be done with a minimum of problems. On 12 April 2017, there will be another functional exercise. Kelvin will be going out of town in the next few days. When he gets back, he will review what FEMA certificates each member has on record at our EOC.

Please Note: Wednesday, 1 March 2017, there will be a Skywarn class at 7 pm instead of a regular ARPSC meeting.

Please Note: Wednesday, 5 April 2017, the Annual ARPSC Dinner Meeting will be held at White Lakes Oaks Golf Course, 991 Williams Lake Road, White Lake, Michigan. This dinner will be graciously provided by L. Brooks Patterson to honor Oakland County ARPSC. White Lakes Oaks is just south of M-59 at approximately Pontiac Lake Road and North Williams Lake Road. More information and where to make reservations will be emailed to members later.

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

Our new DMR repeater was delivered last Friday (27 February 2017) and has already been programmed. Its installation will have to wait until the main site gets its new antenna. In the meantime, the DMR repeater will be used in the EOC and will connect to the highest antenna on the tower behind Sheriff's dispatch.

Our VHF repeater is still awaiting a new antenna on the Addison receive site tower. Hopefully when better weather comes, tower climbers can get to the work, possibly within the next week or two. Recently, Ron Miotke - WD8MNX went to the site and found the power amplifier dead and had to replace it. Cabling reconnections still need to be finished.

Please Note: Saturday 4 March 2017 is our first siren net of the year, 1 pm.

(III). Presentation –“Overview and Report from Michigan State Police – EMHSD Lt. Tim Ketvirtis, Region 2 North Coordinator, EMHSD (Emergency Management Homeland Security Division): (Any errors below are the fault of the secretary)

Lt. Tim Ketvirtis is the District #2N (2 North) Coordinator for the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division Michigan State Police (EMHSD). (In District 2 South, Lt. Nathaniel McQueen is their coordinator.) District 2 North comprises Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair Counties and District 2 South has Monroe Wayne and Washtenaw Counties. EMHSD has 8 district coordinators, but keep in mind, there is no longer a District 4.

EMHSD is based on Michigan Emergency Management Act (Act 390 of 1976) which provides for planning, mitigation, response, and recovery from natural and human-made disaster within and outside this state; and has been amended. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, as amended, gives authority for most Federal disaster response activities especially to FEMA and Department of Homeland Security. In Michigan, this means every county is required to have an emergency management program; every municipality of 25,000+ population, and colleges or universities over 25,000. Municipalities of 10,000 to 24,999 may have one. Municipalities in Oakland County with emergency programs include Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, and Southfield. EMHSD cannot do this all alone. Help from many sectors is needed to mitigate disasters. A current District 2N EMHSD activity is the Macomb County Sink Hole.

Lt. Ketvirtis concentrated on EOC operations at State level. State EOC and EMHSD activities help to coordinate county and municipal emergencies if requested and add the assistance of State resources. They come in and ask what they can do to assist. EMHSD uses NIMS/ICS so that every group can respond in similar fashion. The State

Police use Mi-Train programs for training. The next State test exercise coming up will be an electrical utility grid problem which includes cyber security issues. EMHSD also uses Mi-CIMS (Critical Incident Management System) data as documentation to track what happened and what was done. This log documentation is usable and reviewable by other counties. MiCims also provides an easy to access point of information dissemination to enhance situational awareness to all involved in an incident.

Jim Richards added that he would like to see more exercises where our amateur radio volunteers can contribute. This also helps us to train and be better prepared. When the nearby counties agree on common training program requirements, county volunteers would be better and equally prepared and more capable of assisting in other counties which have similar requirements.

Query? Is there a "common" ID that could be used for ARPSC volunteers? Could the back of the badge ID be used to show FEMA certificates? Answer: No to both. For example, during an emergency, there is no time to check someone's state of readiness. He/she has to be ready for deployment.

Query? Do all counties do a background check on ARPSC volunteers? Answer: Some do a very basic review and others better.

Query? What about non-affiliated volunteers being used during an emergency? Answer: That's a problem. This is left to each county on what to do about these people.

(IV). Presentation – Does Everyone Have A Go Kit?" by Kevin Scheid – KD8ZVPO, Homeland Security and Jim Richards – AB8JR, EC:

What is in your "Go Kit?" A competition on "Go Kits" is planned, probably for the August meeting. "Go Kits" are prepackaged items ready to go for an emergency situation. An emergency volunteer needs to be self-sufficient at least during the early part of activation. What you have in the Go Kit will depend on whether you are on a field radio operation, public safety "shadow operator," mobile command post operation, command post, EOC radio operation, packet or digital operation, or terrorism related activity.

Conditions of the event will influence the Go Kit; whether it is a widespread power outage, tornado, storm damage, epidemic or pandemic outbreak, or terrorism related activities. One must consider what would be the most probable event.

Important to the Go Kit plans should be the duration of the assignment. Will it be 0-3 hours, 3-6 hours, 6-12 hours, 12-24 hours, or 12-72 hours? You may want to build your go kit in modules, based on the expected duration. Seasonal consideration

is important when planning clothing appropriate to summer or winter, protection from the sun, hydration, and dietary issues.

(V). Preview Presentation: Coming - New Oakland County ARPSC Website by Steve Walbrun – KD8WAA:

Steve gave members a preview on the nearly completed improved Oakland County ARPSC website. The website will be laid out into two sections; one for visitors and one for members who will be required to enter a password. Members will need the password for meeting minutes. The new website will show a clean design which communicates what we have with announcements, an explanation about “who we are,” our activities, and when meetings are scheduled.

The website will be divided into sections: (1) nets, (2) Skywarn, (3) meeting minutes (requires member password), (4) siren tests, and (5) activations. There will be a “join ARPSC” with description of membership requirements and “My Information Page” with call sign, “My Training,” “My Activities, and “My Schedule.” Also planned is a “Weekly Net Report” naming who is net control, net stats with total check-ins, net time in minutes, when net started and when net ended. Jim Richards – AB8JR is considering expanding this website database so that it can be utilized towards requested ARRL volunteer hour stats. The new site will include a password protected “Members Only” page. This section will allow members to update their personal data and will include items of interest available only to ARPSC members.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 2 February 2017