

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>

Meeting Minutes for 5 February 2014

On 5 February 2014 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:

Because of the ice, snow, and cold, Homeland Security is pushing to make sure warming centers are not only available, but up and running. The two meter repeater at the antenna site was turned off a few days ago for general building maintenance. It didn't reboot and county radio will look into this when the piled up snow improves. Progress can be reported on acquiring a county notification system which sends out emails and/or text message alerts. The notification system has been approved and a contract signed with the county. Once installed, this would be followed by instructions on its use and with sign-ups.

Query: With the 2 meter repeater down, what repeater do we use for emergencies? Answer from Jim Richards - AB8JR: First, listen to the repeater's input for messages. Then go to the Clarkston. For those who can't get into the Clarkston, go to the DART. Flood repairs at the Clarkston repeater (146.840/100pl) are being done and it is expected to be working soon.

Query: Does to County have anything to do with the CERT Training taking place 12 April 2014? Answer: No, the county supports CERT, but the communities have their own CERT programs. Southfield Emergency Management is sponsoring this class, and according to their website for those interested, call 248-796-5990 and leave a voice message including your name, address, and phone number. The class is free. Southfield CERT classes come in 2, 8, and 20 hour courses.

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

Our next monthly meeting is cancelled, which is scheduled for 5 March 2014 at 7 pm. Instead, there will be a Skywarn Spotter Training Class from 7 – 9 pm at the Oakland County Homeland Security Division Executive Office Building, 41 W, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, Michigan (EOB Bldg 41W). For reservations, call 248-858-5300.

Other Skywarn 2014 Classes:

Monday, 24 Feb 2014, 7-9 pm, Groveland Township Fire Department Station #1, 14645 Dixie Highway at Grange Hall Road, Holly.

Monday, 3 March 2014, 6-8 pm, Southfield Civic Center Library, 26300 Evergreen Rd. Southfield.

Saturday, 22 March 2014, 10am to noon, Oakland County Homeland Security Division, EOB Bldg., 41W.

Saturday, 22 March 2014, 1-3 pm, Oakland County Homeland Security Division, EOC Bldg., 41 W.

Wednesday, 26 March 2014, 7-9 pm. Rochester Hills Fire Dept. Station #1, 1111 Horizon, Rochester Hills.

Monday, 7 April 2014, 7-9 pm. Novi Civic Center, 45175 Q. 10 Mile Road, Novi.

Our first Siren Test will be Saturday, 1 March 2014 at 1 pm. The Saturday, 5 April 2014 Siren Test is cancelled and will be held Wednesday, 9 April 2014 at 1 pm. This special test is in recognition of Severe Weather Awareness Week. During the months May through November, siren tests will be on the first Saturday of every month at 1 pm. Steve Iannucci added Oakland County currently has 262 sirens, with another 5 to be installed in the future.

(III). Presentation: Sno Drift Rally 24-25 January 2014 by Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ

This Sno Drift Rally in Montmorency County, Michigan took place several weeks ago in exceptionally cold temperatures and snow banks 2-3 feet high. The rally covered 345 total miles in a series of stages with 58 competitors on Friday and 52 on Saturday. There were 250 volunteers, with 79 being hams from the US and Canada. Radio communications were by hams with two local repeaters and two meter simplex to fill coverage gaps. APRS was used. Antennas included two four element yagis separated by 15 yards and a vertical 2 meter antenna for simplex about 0.5 miles away at a higher location. Net control had to handle 3 to 4 race stages simultaneously and do everything very quickly. Future efforts need to tighten road closures. This rally serves as a great training ground for amateur radio emergency communications. Photos and video playbacks were shown to members. On 5 April 2014, this Sno Drift Rally will be shown on NBC Sports TV at 2 pm EST.

(IV). Presentation: Grand Cayman DX Expedition by Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ

Pete Gladysz – K8GPGJ recently came back from his Grand Cayman Dx ham radio expedition on 11 – 19 January, 2014. He used the ZF2PG Grand Cayman call sign. His island style operation included golf, beach, and included NAQP (North American QSO Party) ham radio contesting. His site had multiple antennas, the best of which was a rotatable 17 element log periodic (6 – 40 meters) up 100 feet. He brought his own Elecraft K3 and ran 100 watts. One purpose of his contesting was the use of antenna predication modeling. This program would predict the time, frequency band(s), and signal strength for geographic areas. The program would increase the possibility of finding the strongest band(s) at the right time and increase contacts.

Results were 1265 contacts, mostly on 15, 20 and 40 meters which included 50 states and 49 countries. Lack of short range contacts on 10 meters was a problem. Pete's conclusions were that the dx predictive modeling was very successful based on the contacts he made. Local Michigan hams who contacted Pete during this time included AB8JR, K8ED, KJ8O, KD8RDG, K8GT, W8RLS, K8YYL, KC8P, KG8BA, K8NWP, K8AQM, W8KIM, K8CMR, KD8UGA. On 10 meters locally, there were W8KRS, W8UZZ, K8IKF, WB8INW.

(V). AEC-Management Team Reports:

(1). Report on Net Operations by Jim Richards – AB8JR:

Our W8OAK nets are held weekly on Thursday evening at 8 pm. More net control operators are needed. If something happens, multiple nets may be needed to run at the same time. Net control is a lot of fun. If interested, please contact Mike Vander Veer. Email to Mike is wd8atk@wowway.com. He will help with your training.

(VI). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

(1). Report from Dave Roberts – KD8RDG , Sirens

The 2014 Siren Test Calendar is out and has been sent to both members and subnet operators. Help us on our first siren test of the year – 1 March 2014.

(2). Report from Mark Schurig – KC8WPS, Hospital Communication Teams:

Additional volunteer help is needed for (1) Doctors Hospital of Michigan of Pontiac (has only one volunteer), (2) St. John Providence Park, Novi, and (3) Huron Valley Sinai Hospital (has only one volunteer).

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

January was 9.2 degrees below normal average and had 55.8 inches of new snow which is a record.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 6 February 2014