

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 4 February 2015

On 4 February 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:

Government disaster assistance for the August 2014 Michigan floods will amount to 200 million dollars. Of this, very few individuals will get this in the form of cash money.

Oakland County Skywarn 2015 classes begin next month and one can register by (1) going to oakgov.com/homelandsecurity and clicking on the Skywarn logo to register, or (2) calling to the EOC at 248-858-5300. The following are the Skywarn classes for Oakland County:

Wednesday, 4 March 2015, 7 - 8:30 pm Oakland County Homeland Security Division at Executive Office Bldg., 41W, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford (abbreviated EOB)
Monday, 9 March 2015, 7 – 8:30 pm at Orion Center, 1335 Joslyn Rd., Lake Orion
Saturday, 21 March 2015, 10-11:30 am, EOB
Saturday, 21 March 2015, 1 – 2:30 pm, EOB
Monday, 23 March 2015, 7 – 8:30 pm, Groveland Township Fire Department, Station #1, 14645 Dixie Highway, Holly.
Wednesday, 1 April 2015, 6 – 7:30 pm, Southfield Civic Center Library, 26300 Evergreen Road, Southfield.
Tuesday, 21 April 2015, 7 – 8:30 pm, Farmington Hills City Hall, Council Chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills
Thursday, 30 April 2015, 7 – 8:30 pm, Charter Township of Commerce, 2009 Township Dr. Commerce, Michigan.

Those members who haven't received their new yellow ARPSC card, please check with Steve. The new RACES cards are currently being redone to include space for local emergency management identification and an amateur radio call sign.

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

The new ARES cards have been printed and are available from Mike Vander Veer – KD8ATK. Please help us with our first siren test of the year on Saturday 7 March 2015 at 1 pm.

A Skywarn training session will be held in place of the monthly ARPSC meeting on Wednesday, 4 March 2015 from 7-9 pm in the EOB (Bldg 41W) on Pontiac Lake Road. Please register to attend. The next annual dinner meeting will be held Wednesday, 1 April 2015, also at EOB with a reservation.

Dave Metz – KC8OBH, of Wayne County ARPSC, needs 2 to 3 volunteers from Oakland County for his Doctoral paper at Baker College. Subject is "A Case Study of Amateur Radio Operation in Michigan Emergency Management Operations." This will be an interview and questionnaire which takes about one hour. If interested, please contact him at kc8obh@sbcglobal.net.

On Sunday, 15 February 2015 from 8 am to noon will be Livonia Swap-n-Shop at Civic Park Seniors Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Grand prize is \$100. Admission is \$5 except for public school students who are free.

Randy Love – WF5X reported cable connections to the radio room were not finished because there was no access to one of the rooms. Steve Iannucci added someone from county radio may be needed to get the connectors hooked up.

Query: Do we have a standard check sheet for reporting when there is an SET or actual emergency? Answer from Jim Richards – AB8JR: This varies depending what the incident may be. For Skywarn, we have "T-E-L (Time – Event – Location) ." Jim will review the subject.

**(III). Presentation: Alert Systems and When They Are To Be Used
by Steve Iannucci, Homeland Security Division – Oakland County**

Oakland County includes the following alert systems (any errors are from secretary):

1. Oakland County has 274 sirens. These are only activated when there is (1) a Tornado Warning or (2) Severe Thunderstorm and/or damaging winds in excess of 70 mph. The county policy is that they are not activated for anything else. Our computer system tells us when sirens are activated or accidentally activated, and whether it's a single siren or

all. This permits us to analyze phone calls claiming a siren is sounding off. Sometimes, it is a siren just outside the county border or something else. The National Weather Service alerts the county about tornado warnings and severe weather.

2. Emergency Alert System (EAS)* is a national public warning system through TV, radio, and cable, satellite service and provides for direct Presidential communications, or for state and local authorities to deliver emergency information. It can include AMBER alerts and emergency weather information targeted to a specific area. Currently, EAS funds are not funding local “390” communities such as Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, so that their systems may not be in use. Oakland County, for instance, can send emergency notifications to many agencies within the State such as WJR and WWJ.

3. Oak Alert powered by GovDelivery. ** From OakAlert website: “This is an emergency notification system enabling and empowering interested parties to be aware of extreme incidents in Oakland County.” This may include serious chemical spills, disaster notification, evacuation notices, public health and safety emergencies. “It is a voluntary service and is no cost to receive. Alerts will be mostly likely sent via text and email so standard messaging rates may apply.” Such emergency alerts cost the county \$0.06 per call so that it is expensive. Another secondary system is a non-emergency county alert system for anyone interested signing up. These can be passed on through emails and through other communications.

4. IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System). IPAWS is an added ability of EAS. Federal, state, county, and local alerting authorities can use IPAWS to integrate local systems and alert the public about serious emergencies using EAS, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), and NOAA radio and other public alerting systems. This is for emergency situations and its purpose is to enable everybody to get message alerts, such as evacuations.

To use IPAWS, a government agency has to be a COG (Collaborative Operating Group). COG is used by IPAWS “to designate an organization responsible for coordinating emergency management or incident response activities.” *** NWS is a COG. Oakland County Homeland Security is one of the first in the state to have this.

5. For individuals wanting to communicate emergencies, don’t forget the Sheriff or Police at 9-1-1. Oakland County Homeland Security is 248-858-5300 and their website is www.oakgov.com/homelandsecurity.

Jim Richards – AB8JR added that the Oakland County ARPSC is looking into possible systems to send out text messages; i.e. Smart Messaging System to be used by Wayne County ARPSC from grant money.

Query: Does the county send out Amber Alerts? No, only the State can issue Amber Alerts.

Sources:

* EAS from www.fcc.gov/guides/emergency-alert-system-eas

** From OakAlert Emergency Notification System,
www.oakgov.com/homelandsecurity/oakalert. Also, from govdelivery.com.

*** From FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System

(IV). Presentation by Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ on (1) 2015 Cayman Island Wrap-up, (2) 2015 Sno*Drift Wrap-up, and (3) Upcoming Bora Bora Operation:

Grand Cayman Island - ZF2PG – mid January 2015: Pete did an island style amateur radio dx operation using a friend's extensive antenna farm on Grand Cayman. He brought in his K-3 and had 2574 total contacts with 33 states and 52 countries on six bands. Contacts peaked at 98/hour. During the contest, Peter came in 1st on the 15 meter band. Florida contacts, 160 meters, and 80 meters were his worse.

The 2015 Sno*Drift Rally took place January 30-31 in Montmorency County, Michigan. Roads were icy and temperatures hovered between 5 and 20 degrees Fahrenheit. The rally took place over 298 miles in multiple stages. There were 250 volunteers, of which 81 were hams, who came as far away as Germany. Amateur communications included two repeaters and a cross-band operation for simplex. This year, communications used 20-30 watts of power, down from a previous high of 300 watts. There were no major crashes.

The Bora-Bora - FO/K8PGJ Operation will take place 15-21 February 2015. Pete will be taking his Electracraft K3 – 100 watt radio and, a modified Buddipole antenna package broken down into 2 foot strips for travel. He will follow the "grey line" for propagation.

(V). AEC-Management Team Reports:

(1). 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. 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.

(2). Report from Ron Miotke – WD8MNX, Technology Systems/Membership:

Ron reports more back-end progress on the new website. He recently contested in Winter Field Day, but ran into very poor reception.

(VI). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

(1). Report from Jim Richards for Al Clawson – KC8KJF, Hospital Communication Teams:

All but one hospital radio is functioning. Volunteers are needed for Crittenton Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 5 February 2015
Minutes read and approved by Jim Richards, AB8JR, EC