

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 May 2016**

On 4 May 2016 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:**

The staff is working together with fire, police, road, and other county personnel to keep current and streamline technology to our best usage. Four new ARPSC ID cards were issued to new members.

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

W8OAK Repeater system: The Davisburg site now is up, working well, and with reception reported from wide areas in the county.

DMR classes: The Saturday 14 May 2016 DMR class is cancelled and is rescheduled for Saturday 11 June 2016. The topic will be the M-5 – DMR Michigan network system and plans for our forthcoming DMR 440 repeater.

Sirens: Next siren test is Saturday 7 May 2016 at 1 pm. So far, a total of 98 sirens checked have been checked for the first time this year. Please volunteer for this important activity. Currently, the USECA repeater used for the Northeast Net is not in operation and volunteers will probably need to use the Clarkston repeater.

Oak Apple Run (4 June 2016): Volunteers are needed and should contact Mike Van Buren at [wd8s@comcast.com](mailto:wd8s@comcast.com). All three races will be run at the same time. 4th Street is partly closed for construction and changes in the race route require additional volunteer help. A pre-meeting will be held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Church in Royal Oak which is on 7<sup>th</sup> Street between Layette and Washington.

### **(III). Presentation: What's On My Plate by Jim Richards – AB8JR - EC**

Our ARPSC is an organization which needs all our members to help be effective. The following are ARPSC tasks, training, and projects which need organization and volunteer assistance.

- (1). Write revised or new guides for:
  - (a). Orientation guide for new members, new
  - (b). Net Control Procedure Manual, revised
  - (c). Hospital Net Procedure Manual, revised
  - (d). Skywarn Net Procedure Manual, revised
  - (e). ARPSC bylaws, revised. Old ones are outdated.
- (2). Repeater and communication equipment:
  - (a). Complete receive site survey and continue repairs.
  - (b). Document settings on VHF repeater and receive sites and what exists.
  - (c). Setup DMR repeater
  - (d). Finish radio room setup; i.e. coax switch panel, coax runs, etc.
- (3). Plan training classes for:
  - (a). EOC Operations training – OakWIN radio system.
  - (b). Damage Assessment Classes
  - (c). Plan new training exercises (SET = Stimulated Exercise Tests).
  - (d). IMT-CST interoperability training by county and support (IMT = Incident Management Team; CST = Communications Support Team).
- (4). Develop training standards and membership requirements for RACES. Promote RACES requirements to be State-wide.
- (5). Website re-write; consider new “clean approach” for front page presentation and for instructions; Seek recommendations from a daughter of Jim Richards – AB8JR who actively designs website presentations.
- (6). Michigan Section EC Meeting on 9 July 2016.
- (7). 2016 GAC (Grant Allocation Committee) requests now must be planned to cover two years; i.e. 2016 and 2017. For example, determine replacement needs and costs for worn-out Addison site equipment. Determine and plan multiyear equipment needs in advance for funding.
- (8). Seek new alternate APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) tracking program in which every volunteer shows up on one central map at one time.
- (9). GIS Mapping Project (GIS = Geographic Information Systems). County uses this to improve services and understanding where problems exist.

**(IV). Presentation: “What’s Happening With The Repeater System” presented by Ron Miotke – WD8MNX with assistance of Jim Richards – AB8JR, EC and Kevin Scheid – KD8ZVO, OC-EOC Homeland Security:**

The two meter W8OAK (146.900/100hz PL) machine and its receive sites are being assessed and reviewed for maintenance and improvements. Remote receive sites are (1) northeast county – Addison, (2) northwest – Davisburg, (3) southwest – Novi, (4) southeast – Southfield, (5 & 6) central – Commerce and Waterford.

Currently, our communication equipment is not working well. For instance, the old radios at the Addison receive site put out 2 watts (maybe) for a brief interval before dropping to one watt. That's something a transmitter shouldn't do. A new transmitter has been installed however a scan of the antenna indicates an SWR of 6:1 with an impedance of roughly 400 ohms. The Addison site has been shut down until a tower climb can be completed. Other receive sites have problems which need evaluating for possible adjustment or repair.

All these receive sites have to be checked and documented, followed by adjusting the voter, controller, and transmitter link. After this happens, they need to be coordinated with the central receive site. The Davisburg site is running 20 watts output while most others are running about 5 watts. This disparity affects the voter which will probably require the Davisburg output to be changed.

Another issue was identified while working on the county wide system. The Oakland County siren polling system would "desense" the receive radio on water tower. County Radio helped us by placing two spare "tuned" cavities in the front end of the W8OAK radio receiver. So far, it looks like the problem has been solved.

Not to be forgotten is the transmitter site, which hasn't yet been visited. Documentation of its specs is needed. There may be possible maintenance. Plans are to move quickly on the whole system so that the whole system is working reliably for emergency and other operations. We need to be prepared for bad weather.

**(V). Presentation: "Contesting From The Caymans" by Peter Gladysz – K8PGJ:**

Last January 2016, Pete competed in the NAQP SSB Contest from the Cayman Islands. While there, he had access to a 17 element log periodic antenna on a tower up 100 feet. He had access to other antennas mounted on two other towers. He used his own Elecraft K3 which ran 100 watts and used a Heil Elite Headset with footswitch.

His best contacts were on 15 and 40 meters, with poor results on 160, 80 and 10 meters. Contest results were 1075 QSOs with 49 States (missed Hawaii) for 9<sup>th</sup> place. Total QSOs worked during and beyond the contest were 1766 contacts in all 50 States. Over 20 hams from Michigan contacted him.

In January 2017, he plans to work the same contest from the Caymans and will bring a package to improve 160 and 80 meter band. He also plans to enter the WPX contest from a volcano on Big Island, Hawaii, up 2000 feet.

**(VI). AEC-Management Team Reports:**

**(1). Report from Pete Gladysz - K8PGJ, Operations**

On 6 August 2016, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Sno\*Drift Summer Rally will be held at Montmorency County, Michigan. Ham volunteers are needed and should contact Barb Steencken (head of volunteers) at [www.sno-drift.org](http://www.sno-drift.org). Pete will be running communications for the race. A question was raised whether HT's would be enough? Answer - It depends on the position on the course location.

**(2). 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 interested, please contact or email Mike Vander Veer at [kd8atk@wowway.com](mailto:kd8atk@wowway.com). Jim Richards – AB8JR added that when emergency operations are running, more net controls are needed to help.

**(VII). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:**

**(1). Report from Dave Roberts \_ KD8RDG, Sirens**

Siren testing is starting off well this year. If a volunteer can't communicate with a subnet controller, do contact Dave and he will help. Question was raised on why a siren test might be cancelled as it happened once last year? Answer: If a powerful storm is coming in, the county doesn't want the public to be confused on whether it is a real siren alert or a test. Marsha Fleming, subnet controller mentioned if you are assigned a siren and you don't know if a storm will cancel the sirens, go to your site and check in. We are given credit for this even if it is cancelled and total volunteer hours are passed on to the ARRL. They use these volunteer hours to show Congress how much ham radio volunteers assist.

**(2). Report from Jim Richards – AB8JR for Morrie Davidson – K8SJD, National Weather Service:**

Weather is expected to above normal from May through August.

**(VIII). Other Information:**

OCARS has a Monday evening net at 8 pm on the Clarkston Repeater.

Respectfully submitted,  
James R. Murphy, N8SML  
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 5 May 2016