

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.arpdc.com>

Meeting Minutes for 4 June 2014

On 4 June 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:

The next Siren Test is 7 June 2014 with several new sirens to be checked. The hot siren list has been passed out and Steve hopes for a large turnout of volunteers.

Query: Is a map of the sirens available? Answer: No, because of security issues.

There are complaints of weak repeater transmissions. Things are looking positive that county radios will review this for improvements, such as radio cables and antennas. Hopes are this could happen before the end of July. Steve reminds us that every request for assistance must go first through him. This is important.

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

Two weeks ago, Jim had a heart attack which was quickly caught and treated at Henry Ford – West Bloomfield. He's here tonight directing the meeting because he paid attention to the sudden symptoms and had quick responses by everyone involved – EMS, E.R. staff, cardiologist, and cath lab. Two stents were inserted. At one point in the EMS vehicle, his blood pressure was 48/26. He was discharged from the hospital only 42 hours later. His point: if you see the signs, don't delay.

Our next siren test is Saturday, 7 June 2014 at 1 pm. Since there was no test last month due to high winds, it is important we have a good show of volunteers. At this point in the year, we are about 1/3 through the season and have checked 1/3 of the sirens. Volunteers - be sure to check in with your local subnet operator for an assignment.

Query: One member doesn't have a radio in his truck yet. Is there a phone number where one can call in? Answer: Yes, one will be given out to the member.

Query: Do website siren updates give the filing date? Jim Richards – AB8JR will check on this.

Our repeater has a number of issues to consider – what is happening on the water tower and at the EOC; i.e., with the repeater controller. One antenna is more than twenty years old and already has a SWR of 3.0 on 144 MHz. Antennas needing review include a packet antenna and two VHF antennas. Hardline cable replacement will be considered.

There are seven receiving sites in the county and the two northern sites are not working at this time. Our repeater is on top of one of buildings in downtown Pontiac. For those who are experiencing problems, check the CW letter ID which tells you which receive site is accepting your transmission. This information could help. When we need a back-up repeater, the Clarkston repeater is now fully functional (if not better than ever.)

Query: What is happening with the two northern county receive sites? Answer: Steve Iannucci replied that these two will be investigated and checked as part of the review program.

Jim was at the recent Dayton Hamvention and notes that Gordon West is encouraging ham radio groups to take on more activities with communities, i.e., public service events. His reasoning: With public services events, we do get in the public eye more. It is also a good opportunity to practice radio communications; i.e. Woodward Dream Cruise.

The membership was asked to look for new community opportunities since emergency situations are so few. Of possible consideration: Three day festival at Orchard Lake St. Marys; Arts, Beats, and Eats at Royal Oak; Libraries where the young are exposed to amateur radio by talking to someone in Japan or Africa; or some event where the young can talk to the International Space Station. Steve Iannucci added that ham volunteers shouldn't forget about liability insurance which covers them. County sponsored events such as the Brooksie Way Run have this when the volunteer is properly registered. Beware that liability insurance with other events may or may not exist with the sponsor or ham club.

Woodward Dream Cruise – 16 August 2014: No request for our assistance has yet arrived. In the past, it usually comes a week before.

(III). Presentation – Latest Cyber Security News and Membership Data Update and by Ron Miotke, WD8MNX:

Ron is now an AEC – ARPSC, as well as in charge of the membership data and the Oakland County ARPSC website. The website will soon have a new URL (uniform resource locator or internet address) – “http or https:www.oc-arpdc.org.” Either http or https will get you there. If one uses the non-secure “http” method, the site will auto redirect you to the “https.” The new website features:

1 - Side channel updates: A lot of previous data will be uploaded or updated on the new website. Certain members will be able to directly contribute information as needed.

2 - Basic Content: The whole system uses the Linux operating system.

3 - Email addresses: The setup permits grouping of members so that emails can be directly sent out from the website. Members will need to keep their email addresses up-to-date.

4 - Fixes and changes along the way: How safe is the website? This is what Ron does for a living. Ron had the new website tested by Qualys’ SSL Labs and received an overall rating of “A-.”

Ron is a member of several cyber security groups and mentions several recent cyber security problems. (1). From the Associated Press on 3 June 2014 - An indictment was made of a Russian and his co-conspirators running the Game Over Zeus botnet and Cryptolocker malware. These infected millions of computers and were used to steal \$100 million. (2). From the Register (International), 3 June 2014 – Global mobile roaming networks expose users to security compromises.

Do not miss the FBI sponsored cyber security website at <https://www.ic3.gov>. This has an internet crime complaint center, description of crime schemes and their prevention. Ron advises not to use VPN services (Virtual Private Networks), i.e., hotels and restaurants. VPN enables a computer to send and receive data across shared or public networks.

Ron also teaches amateur radio extra classes. Currently, he notes the FCC is cracking down of transmissions where individuals do not correctly identify themselves. Always remember to properly ID. One can start a conversation without ID but must do so by 10 minutes of transmission and at the end of your conversation. This applies to both repeaters and simplex. Pete Gladysz - K8PJG added that an annual Sno*Drift Rally had such a problem when the repeater owner was notified that individuals were not properly signing off. A member mentioned that there is now a mobile phone app available to remind you to ID every 10 minutes.

(IV). AEC-Management Team Reports:

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

The 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 and possibly can get you started as early as this month. If interested, please contact or email Mike Vander Veer at wd8atk@wowway.com. He will help with your training.

Three new members have volunteered to be net control operators: (1) Jansen Lancaster – N0MDL, (2) Paul Stewart – KD8WGQ and (3) Barbara Steencken – KC8SWF.

(V). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

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

Anyone interested in NTS, please make use of the nightly nets on 146.760/100hz at 10:15 pm. Also, tomorrow night, our weekly ARPSC net is on 146.900/100hz at 8 pm. Mark would like to see a record number of check-ins to this net.

(2). Report from Maurice Davidson – K8SJD, National Weather Service Liaison:

May 27, 2014 had a record rainfall for this date.

(VI). Other Business:

(1). The “Museum Ships on the Air” is the weekend of 7-8 June 2014 on 40, 20 and possibly 15 meters HF. There will be over 100 boats participating.

(2). Amateur Radio Field Day is 28-29 June 2014. Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will be at the Hazelwood Properties east of Holly again this year. Everyone is invited.

(3). 70th anniversary of D-Day is 6 June 2014. Amateur radio event stations can be found this day.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 5 June 2014
Minutes read, corrected, and approved by Jim Richards, AB8JR, EC,