

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 6 July 2016

On 6 July 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:

One county project being worked on is a severe warning map assisted by GIS (Geographic Information Systems). Application of such a map can include Skywarn severe weather events, floods, siren testing, civil unrest, chemical leaks, etc. One example of this geographic map showed the use of small red, yellow, and green circles at specific locations which indicated problems of various magnitude; for example - where minor injuries occurred, or structures destroyed, or vehicles overturned, etc. This creates a sheet that can be sent out over a restricted website to essential operatives. The purpose is to quickly accumulate data that can be shared with others and can be submitted for assistance, assessment, and funding at higher levels such as the State.

If the event is widespread, the map could be used to send personnel to do damage assessments. The State requires damage assessments to be completed within a certain limited timespan. Currently, only certain county officials and perhaps one or two approved ARPSC staff may view this. The map won't be available for public access and to other ARPSC members.

Kevin showed members a video "Seven Signs of Terrorism" produced by the Michigan State Police. This video requests citizens to look for persons who don't belong, who are spotted doing unusual surveillance, making solicitations for information, testing security for soft spots, acquiring suspicious supplies, sighted making test or trial runs, and suspicious deployment of assets and people to some site or location.

The UASI/GAC grant funding proposals for 2016 are due this September and those for 2017 are due the following month - November 2016. Our primary focus will be on developing a replacement plan to replace equipment nearing its end of life cycle. The ARPSC does not want to find itself in a position of having old equipment not working well. Consideration is being given to improve our equipment with the county mobile command/communication truck which has DMR equipment.

Coming up is the County Health Open POD (Point of Dispensing) Exercise on 9 September 2016 (Friday). If a chemical attack occurs, the county basically has 48 hours to get medicines to everyone. The exercise goes through all the steps needed with activation. At the first meeting, Kevin Scheid – Homeland Security recommended this would be a good time for this group to become acquainted with ham radio. Also, this POD will need a good number of volunteers to be victims and is a good way to find out what goes on in the POD. More information will be forthcoming at future meetings.

(II). Report from the Emergency Coordinator (EC), Jim Richards - AB8JR and Ron Mioke – WD8MNX:

During the meeting, Ron Mioke – WD8MNX tested member’s ham radio transceivers with a Rigol DSA 1030A Spectrum Analyzer. Ron got the idea from the ARRL who were testing radios at the Dayton Hamvention. Ron’s setup was similar to the ARRL and he filled out a form giving the results on each tested radio. His tests checked for strange oscillations, spurs, harmonics, etc. which were not within FCC specs. The age of the radio was also noted. Results will be passed on the ARRL. Of interest, were a few inexpensive Chinese radios which had been approved under Part 90, whereas previous ham radios had been approved under Part 97. Jim Richards – AB8JR mentioned that one inexpensive Baofeng radio tested perfectly. A Leixen radio had a noisy receive, but transmitted very clean.

Ron also reported on our repeater status. The Davisburg receive site has been doing good duty. The Addison site needs a new antenna, but its replacement will have to wait until the work can be combined with other repairs on the tower. The Southfield site is not working well. The problem is found not to be at the Southfield site, but on it’s water tower receive. Current plans are to take the Southfield radio and reprogram it so that it will work at the Novi site. The new Vertex Standard Radios have been a challenge. Changing from the Motorola radios to the new Vertex Standard radios poses some new problems; i.e. switching to a “CW” identification from the old “pi” tone. After these are resolved, attention will focus on watertower problems.

DMR Support Group Meeting: There will be no meeting in July, and the next will be held Saturday 10-12 am, 13 August 2016 at the same Troy Fire Department Training Center. The focus will be preparation of the DMR radios for the Woodward Dream Cruise. Please bring in your DMR so that it can be setup correctly.

Dave Roberts – K8RDG discussed the Troy “Move Across Troy 5K/1K” event, not yet scheduled for a Saturday morning sometime in October. This race would be around the city municipal complex near Big Beaver and I-75. Course monitors will be needed; i.e. ARPSC members. More information will be coming at future ARPSC meetings.

Jim also reported that the July 2016 issue of QST (page 13) has an article on one of our members, Marsha Fleming – N8FE which details her ham radio and public services. Congratulations, Marsha!

(III). AEC-Management Team Reports:

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

Woodward Dream Cruise is the 3rd Saturday of August (20 August 2016). Friday night before is the City of Berkley CruiseFest. Plans are to use both FM and DMR radio communications. Ham radio volunteers are needed and please volunteer. Please indicate which session(s) – Berkley, or Woodward Cruise in AM or PM, and add your cell phone number. At least 20-25 members are needed for the Woodward Cruise on Saturday. Jim Richards adds the Berkley CruiseFest is fun to watch cars coming by one by one. At the Dream Cruise, watching people is most fun.

On 6 August 2016, the 2nd annual Sno*Drift Summer Rally will be held at Montmorency County, Michigan. Atlanta is a three hour drive from Detroit. Ham volunteers are needed and should contact Barb Steencken (head of volunteers) at www.sno-drift.org. Pete will be net control.

Brooksie Way Run is Sunday morning, 25 September 2016 . Volunteers will be needed and there will be more on this at future meetings.

(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. With the complexity of emergency situations, additional net control operators are needed at the EOC.

(IV). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

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

Last weekend, 46 sirens were checked, of which 40 were first-timers. That leaves only 54/274 sirens to be checked for the first time this year. An updated list of unchecked sirens is already posted on our website.

(2). Report from Mark Shaw – K8ED, NTS

Southeastern Michigan Traffic Net (SEMTN) meets every night at 22:15 on 146.760 MHz. Listening and then using the National Traffic System is a good way to get started. For more information, please contact Mark.

(3). Report from Morrie Davidson – K8SJD, National Weather Service

The month of June 2016 was two degrees above normal and very dry.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 7 July 2016