

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 August 2015

On 5 August 2015 at 7 pm, Jim Richards - AB8JR, Emergency Coordinator (EC) for the Oakland County ARPSC, called the meeting to order in the County's Executive Office Building Conference Center (EOBCC). The order of business included:

(I). Report from Kevin Scheid, KD8ZVO, Homeland Security Division – Oakland County:

Renovations continue at the EOC with drywall now finished.

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

The next ARPSC meeting will be Wednesday, 2 September 2015 from 7-9 pm at the Executive Office Building (41W). Please note the location.

Repeater operations for the last 2-3 weeks have gone more smoothly with fewer problems encountered by the nets. With the main transmitter's amplifier out of service down, our signals still don't reach the corners of the county. Conversely, incoming signals are sometimes hard to copy in our temporary radio room. Neither Jim nor Kevin, have not recently heard from Steve Murphy on repeater repairs.

Sirens tested for the first time this year are now 266 out of 274 total. That's outstanding and the fastest ever!

Woodward Dream Cruise weekend is coming up 14-15 August 2015. Friday night is the City of Berkley Cruisefest and Saturday is the Woodward Dream Cruise. Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ is coordinator this year and has a list of volunteers. To volunteer for this, please contact Pete who can always use additional help. 146.46 simplex will be the primary frequency with the W8OAK repeater as backup. There will be two receive antennas; one at the Berkley Fire Station and the other at a school near Woodward. Volunteers will need to understand their antenna range for best transmissions. Check in at the Berkley Fire House in order to get your name badge. It is not known whether the

ARPS will be used. Net control will be Handled by Randy Love – WF5X who is not here at tonight's meeting.

(III). Presentation by Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ on Museum Ships Weekend

On 5-7 June 2015, "Museum Ships Weekend" was held. This event is sponsored by the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station – NJ2BB. Certificates are issued to amateurs who work at least 15 of the 102 participating ships. The event utilized many ham bands, with 40, 20, and 15 meters being the most popular.

Five of the stations ran from ships or museums on all five of the Great Lakes: (1) K8H – LS Huron Lightship at Port Huron Michigan, (2) K8O – USAT LT-5 Tugboat/Cargo Transport at Oswego, New York, (3) K8M – SS Milwaukee Clipper Passenger ship at Muskegon, Michigan, (4). K8E – SS. Col. James M. Schoonmaker at Toledo, Ohio. The fifth Great Lakes station was K8S – Edmond Fitzgerald Memorial at Whitefish Point Lighthouse on Lake Superior and run by Mark Shaw – K8ED (20 meters), Jim Richards – AB8JR (40 meters), and Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ (15 & 17 meters).

Portable towers for K8S were a 17 meter beam, a 20 meter beam, a 40 meter dipole, a 20 meter dipole, a 15 meter dipole. Despite using 500 watts on two of the stations, Pete encountered no interference except from area mosquitoes. Notable contacts were made with the SS Missouri on 17 meters and from Japan on 20 meters. A total of 34 of the 102 participating ships were contacted with total contacts of 2542 stations over 23 hours of operation. All four bands had good success.

When questioned about plans for next year, Pete noted the long distance to Lake Superior might be a factor in choosing a closer location, such as a freighter on Saginaw Bay.

(IV). Presentation by Steve Walbrun – KD8WAA, Webmaster for W8OAK:

Steve is rebuilding the W8OAK website and is finding it a challenge because he is fairly new to the ARPSC organization. Problems include how to communicate all the activities going on with the Oakland County ARPSC and how to encourage participation. Events such the Woodward Dream Cruise, announcements, a database for sirens, Skywarn activities, Skywarn condition definitions, and photos will be included. Continuous efforts will be needed to keep the website current and to eliminate older items.

Information to visitors will be one kind, and to logged-in members much more detailed. Members would be able update their own information for the ARPSC and see what activities are coming up on a "My Schedule." An administrators-only section will exist to add or delete information, send email's to members, etc. The evolving website

changes are not ready for finalization, but the website email address is expected to continue as arpsc.com.

Query: A siren subnet controller is worried that a direct-to-website siren sign-up will by-pass subnet's control. Steve replied that this problem will be considered in the final website make-up.

(V). FEMA Address to ARRL at the 2014 Centennial Conference – Ron Miotke – WD8MNX:

Ron showed the members a 20 minutes video by Mike Lisenco – N2YBB (introduction) and (William) Craig Fugate – KK4INZ (speaker). Craig Fugate became an Administrator of FEMA in May 2009 and has encouraged “whole community” approach to emergency management. He has an amateur radio license of KK4INZ. Previous to that, he was a volunteer firefighter, paramedic, emergency manager for Alachua County in Gainesville, Florida, and a Chief of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT).

His message summed up briefly: No matter how ready government operations are in emergency situations, communications and other things break down. Amateur radio may be the last communication back-up, but they have repeatedly helped. In order to be effective, hams have to train and practice their skills in order to be at their best. A number of examples were cited and his message was most inspiring.

(VI). AEC-Management Team Reports:

(1). Report from Jim Richards – AB8JR for Jim Richards – W8JJR, SkyWarn:

There has already been a Skywarn activation and the net was able to function despite temporary quarters.

(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 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.

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

Oakland County ARPSC has three new members (possibly miss-spelled) - Michael Elly, Mike Bantyes, and Greg Rinker.

The FCC recently proposed to fine a Georgia ham \$1000 for failing to identify during a transmission(s). This ham has 30 days to pay or file for a reduction or cancellation of the fine. To the members, do properly identify your call.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 – H.R. 1301 in the US House of Representative and more recently now S 1685 in the US Senate. According to the ARRL, this directs the FCC to extend rules for reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. Details can be found on the ARRL website.

(VII). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

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

There are only 8 sirens left to check this year. Dave thanks everyone for their efforts and this is a good time for others to enter. Subnets are:

Southeast – N8FE – Marsha, Dart, n8fe@arl.net. Has 6 sirens left.

Southwest – WA8UMT – Rick, Novi, rredoutey@twmi.rr.com

Northeast – KD8QPF – Brad, USECA, bmaney61@yahoo.com. Has 2 sirens left.

Northwest – KB8POD – Larry, Clarkston, kb8pod@arrl.net

Marsha Fleming – N8FE mentioned Jeff Graff – KA8PHP recently took net control for the Southeast Net. Jeff also runs a Southfield Net on the DART Tuesday nights at 8 pm. This net will take traffic.

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

The Southeastern Michigan Traffic Net (SEMTN) is held nightly at 10:15 pm on 146.760/100hz. Mark Shaw, K8ED is Section Traffic Manager. One can learn about handling information by listening to this nightly net.

(3). Report from Al Clawson – KC8KJF, Hospital Communication Teams:

The July 2015 Hospital Net had 12 check-ins. Two sites, in particular, need volunteer help: (1) Pontiac McClaren and (2) Providence Park - Novi. Also, Crittenton Hospital in Rochester Hills needs help. State of the equipment is pretty good, but some hospitals need to review their locations for better placement. Al will also review volunteer data to make sure he has up-to-date contact information. Doctor's Hospital in Pontiac has failed and a question came up on what to do with the radio. Answer - This radio is owned by Region 2 North and they must be asked if it should be removed.

Query: Is there a new update to the Radio Procedure Manual? No. Changes must be first coordinated with Region 2 North group.

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

First half of July was cool and last half hot and humid. Rainfall varied greatly on location.

(VIII). Miscellaneous Information:

(1). A member reported the vanity call fee will end as of next month. According to the ARRL, the FCC has found multiple applications (with enclosed fee) were received for the same vanity call sign. Since only one applicant gets the call sign, the FCC decided their refund cost to unsuccessful applicants was too expensive to continue.

(2). Query: Michigan license plates are supposed to last 20 or so years. What happens if one really needs a new replacement? Answer – call the state and they probably will reissue one.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 6 August 2015