

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 August 2014

On 6 August 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 Dale Williams – WA8EFK, Vice Director Great Lakes Division, ARRL:

The ARRL is working to get the Amateur Radio Parity Act HR-4969 passed through the House of Representatives. When enacted, this act would permit greater use of amateur radio antennas with restrictive home owner associations and land use covenants. The bill needs 30 cosigners and so far there are eighteen. Amateurs supporting this bill need to write their congressman to support this act. Jim Richards – AB8JR, EC also mentioned that more information will be given at the next meeting. This will include a list of members in the House of Representatives.

The ARRL Board is looking for ways to help club and ARPSC members to become better trained with the National Traffic System (NTS). Amateur communicators need this system to transmit emergency traffic.

(II). Report from Steve Iannucci, Homeland Security Division – Oakland County:

During the last thirty days, sirens were turned on twice. First was for 70+ mph winds with little time to put out the warning. The second time, same date, trained spotters reported a tornado in the area.

Steve was at the Dream Cruise meeting this morning and (parking) passes were given out. Both Berkley and Royal Oak have officially requested ARPSC assistance.

JCC Maccabi Games will be held 17-22 August 2014 in about 14 Oakland County locations. Sponsors are not looking for communication assistance, but for “eyes and ears” during the events. If interested, contact Jim Richards – AB8JR and he will pass on the information.

Repeater status: Four cables need repair running from the console to under the building and up the tower. The expensive problem is a protective or rescue trench required for cable installation beneath the building. Costs will probably be split between two fiscal years ending September-October.

Steve polled how many ARPSC members registered for the OakAlert system. This was recently offered to anyone interested in receiving an email and/or text messages about emergency warnings and updates in Oakland County. So far, 2000 citizens have signed up. To sign up, go to www.oakgov.com and then to Homeland Security. Sign-up can be found there. Currently, text messages are estimated to run about 5 per month. Severe weather watches probably won't be included.

Query: Can an URL source site be included in OakAlert? Answer: text messages are limited to 160 characters.

A cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) class may be available. Jim passed a sign-up sheet to members.

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

The repeater amplifier has been taken out of service. Oddly enough, the transmission – reception is better. Price for a new amplifier is not yet known. In response to a question about the northern receive sites, Jim answered that there was nothing new to report.

Last Saturday, 2 August 2014, 59 sirens were checked with 48 being the first time this year. Total count this year is now 219 with 53 more to cover. Marsha Fleming – N8FE noted that the Dart Repeater failed on last Saturday's siren test, so that she had to use relays, texts, phone calls, and simplex transmissions. Should the DART fail again, her subnet will go to Phil Ross' WB8NXP's repeater at 442.500/107.2pl.

(IV). Presentation of the ARRL Bill Leonard Professional Media Award to Rich Luterman of Fox 2 TV by Dale Williams – WA8EFK .

Dale Williams – WA8EFK. Vice Director Great Lakes Division, ARRL presented the ARRL Bill Leonard Professional Media Award to Rich Luterman, Fox News Reporter. This was for his television coverage of the Skywarn Recognition Day activities at the White Lake's National Weather Service. Jim Richards – AB8JR also thanked Rich Pullman, Coordination Meteorologist at White Lake for making all this possible.

(V). Presentation: 2014 IARU/WRTC* Contest Wrap Up by Pete Gladysz - K8PGJ

This IARU contest was held July 12-13, 2014 for both single and multi-operators. This was for contacts with other IARU contesters and paired WRTC team operators. A four person team from our ARSPC entered this contest which included AB8JR – Jim Richards, Mark Shaw - K8ED, Peter Gladysz – K8PGJ, and ___ running with m/s low power. Results were 839 contacts including all 59 WRTC stations. This currently places them 5th overall.

Gerry Tres – K8GT, an Oakland County ARPSC member contested as a single operator, and made 620 contacts including all 59 WRTC stations. He is currently 6th overall in his category.

* IARU stands for International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and WRTC for World Radiosport Team Championship.

(VI). Presentation of Two Amateur Radio Contests Coming Up by Pete Gladysz –K8PGJ

(1). W1AW/8 Anniversary Operation coming to Michigan:

In the W1AW/8 ARRL Centennial Operation, Dennis Ward – KT8X has agreed to assume the coordinator role for this contest. This will be held 15-21 October 2014 using modes of CW, SSB, RTTY, and PSK 31. Operators can sign up for a two hours slot by emailing to dward8@gmail.com. Pete plans to run 4 stations at his home and is looking for station operators with good Dx and pile-up capability.

(2). An Upcoming DX Expedition to Tonga and Fiji:

Pete also mentions that there will be Dx Expedition to Tonga (16-23 August 2014) and Fiji (24 August to 1 September 2014). He plans to participate and is looking for help.

(VII). AEC-Management Team Reports:

(1). Report from Jim Richards – AB8JR for Mike Vander Veer – KD8ATK, Net Operations:

The W8OAK nets are held weekly on Thursday evening at 8 pm. At least 6 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. If interested, please contact or email Mike Vander Veer at kd8atk@wowway.com. He will help with your training.

(VIII). AEC-Management Team Reports:

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

Friday, 15 August 2014 is the Berkley CruiseFest Classic Car Parade. Dinner for volunteers is 5pm at the Berkley Fire House. The parade lasts to about 8:30 pm and is along 12 Mile Road.

Saturday, 16 August 2014, the Woodward Dream Cruise will have two shifts: (1) 9 am to 3 pm and (2) 3 pm to 9 pm. Information to volunteers will be emailed Tuesday 12 August 2014. Please, verify your request time and personal information with Pete.

(VIII). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

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

To siren volunteers, please look at our website and find which sirens have not been checked. The newest siren update is not usually posted until about 2 weeks before the test.

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

High for the month of July was 94 and low 57. July was colder than June. Total rainfall for the year is 21.1 inches. Yesterday, Maury measured 2.3 inches at his house.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 7 August 2014
Minutes approved by Jim Richards – AB8JR, EC