

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 7 August 2013**

On 7 August 2013 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). There was no July 2013 meeting. The order of business included:

#### **(I). Report from Steve Iannucci, Homeland Security Division – Oakland County:**

Thanks go to Jim Richards – AB8JR, Jim Richards – W8JJR, Ron Miotke – WD8MNX, Brad Maney – KD8QPF, Fred Czubak – WE8P, Randy Love – WF5X, and Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ who made needed repairs to the W8OAK repeater. The 3 August 2013 siren test went off successfully and demonstrated previous issues had been resolved. So far this year, Oakland County has not encountered much in really bad weather.

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

Our two meter repeater machine is now repaired and seems to work well. It now sits in the back room rack attached to our lower EOC two meter antenna. The repeater was tentatively scheduled to be put back on the water tower next Saturday. This will be delayed this until Randy Love – WF5X can add a receive site ID code to it.

Everyone should be aware that when a ham operator keys up, there is a short lag before it transmits. Give the repeater a chance so it doesn't clip off the beginning of your conversation. Count to 1, 2, 3, before talking. The repeater controller needs time to select which of several receive sites has the best signal. Also, notice that the repeater now has an "anti-kerchunking" feature.

Jim notes that the Southfield receive site seems to be a big workhorse, possibly because its antenna is up high. The northwest and northeast receive sites still don't work well and Jim has asked Oakland County Radios to look into the problem.

Query: Is there a receive site in Davisburg? Answer – yes, it is one of the two receive sites with problems. It may be its yagi antenna is too low at about ten feet off the

ground and a higher site may be needed. Also, keep in mind that our main antenna is still not up on the higher water tower site.

Regarding siren test issues, our latest test was a success. A prior monthly test had failures when many sirens failed to go off. One exception was the Holly Township siren. The problem proved to be an activation box had lost its activation code. Should this occur again, the EOC still can activate the sirens directly, possibly within five minutes.

**(IV). Presentation: Cyber Security (Part 2) by Ron Miotke – WD8MNX:**

(Any errors in this summary is my fault – J. Murphy, Secretary)

Part Two covers what we can do as individuals and as an ARPSC organization to improve our cyber security. Cyber attacks include (1) “watering hole attack” which is where an attacker lures potential victims to a website which infects visiting computers, and (2) “doxing” where information is gathered using internet sources about someone and then use this information to find security flaws and make an attack.

Modems and cable providers offer little or nothing to protect one’s self. Security includes one’s own firewall; using and making better this firewall as instrument of protection. Problem is even the best of firewalls can be invaded. This happens with game playing, use of free internet access in public areas, not understanding how well “the cloud” is protected, etc. All computer systems including MAC OS and Linux are at risk. Even using “land lines” for credit cards become a risk when such information is finally converted digitally. Yes, using some approved apps can give increased privacy of your information; i.e., banking is often encrypted between you and the bank.

What can you do at the level of your software application end?

1. When any software or appliance is first put in operation, change access credentials and do not use obvious passwords such as “password” or “123456.”
2. Make up passwords with upper and lower case letters and use numbers; i.e. Eat@Joes2Day.” Do NOT write or paste your password to the computer or keyboard.
3. To help against accessing a “nasty” website, do not use the ISP DNS (Internet Service Provider Domain Name Service). Use instead DynDNS (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol DNS) or something similar because they do not allow lookups for known malware/Trojan sites. This can be downloaded to your computer.
4. For PCs/MACs/Linus systems, make sure a fully updated antivirus program is active. Better antivirus programs use a “heuristic” approach (detection program) for “zero day” (wipeout) encounters.
5. Use your access logon to use your system.
6. Do not run PC sessions with administrative mode default or ROOT mode. ROOT mode describes a generalized permission which gives increased computer privileges. Generate a “mortal” (a defined -?) account for everyday usage.
7. Make sure your PC/MAC is currently up to date with protection patches.

8. Always have a regular BACKUP of your complete system or at least your data files.
9. When storing “critical data,” use a “whole drive” encryption program. For Windows there is BitLocker. For other systems including Windows, TrueCrypt. Ron favors “TrueCrypt because it encrypts the whole hard drive and BitLocker is more crackable.
10. If at all possible when web browsing and accessing banking, utilities, and like services, use the https:// prefix in contrast to the http://. Newer formats usually use this form of URL.
11. Beware of emails recommending web sites to visit. Don’t click them blindly. Something that sounds too good to be true probably isn’t.
12. Do not use “pirated” software.
13. Be careful what sites you store your data. Example: Several drop-box services, some of which are free, do not handle your confidential information as well as private ones.
14. Advice for ARPSC organization: Do not leave info out for others; be mindful where you keep your backup; if asked for information, ask permission before handing it over.

One method to help in your defense is to “BE AWARE.” Several internet web sites exist that can help, i.e. <http://www.ic3.gov> has consumer alerts from the FBI.

#### **(V). AEC-Management Team Reports:**

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

The Berkley Cruisefest is coming up Friday evening, 16 August 2013. Woodward Dream Cruise follows on Saturday 17 August 2013. Ham volunteers are needed. Sign-up sheets are available at the meetings.

Times for Berkley Cruisefest are 5 to 8 pm, and the Berkley Firehouse will offer dinner at 5 pm to volunteers.

Query: Last year, some volunteers left Berkley before covering down town at its end. What about this year? Jim will check into this. A member commented that last year’s coverage was optional for members.

There will be two shifts for the Woodward Dream Cruise (1st) from 9 am to 3 pm and (2nd) from 3 pm to 9 pm. Both Berkley and Royal Oak will offer lunch at their command posts and several restaurants may offer dinner to volunteers. Parking passes to volunteers will be handed out Friday night. Communications will be from a 440 machine with the frequency to be determined later.

The Brooksie Way Half Marathon 10K and 5K Race will take place Sunday, 29 September 2013. Ham volunteers are needed and should be in place between 6:30 - 6:45 am. A sign-up sheet is available at meetings.

The 2014 Sno\*Drift Rally will be held 24-25 January at Atlanta, Michigan. See Pete to volunteer.

Pete notes an interesting website – “Amateur-Radio.Net.” It has a database for all transmitters within a certain distance of a certain location, i.e., 20 miles of Boston, Massachusetts. This could be useful to amateurs want to use their radios when they travel.

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

Our W8OAK nets are held weekly on Thursday evening at 8 pm. Additional net control operators are needed. If interested, please contact Mike or Jim –AB8JR, EC.

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

**(1). Report from Ron Miotke – WD8MNX, Membership:**

Ron plans to have a membership list ready for the next meeting, so that members can check their information for accuracy. Also, if someone is known to be inactive or even left the area, please let him know.

**(2). Report from Dave Roberts – KD8RDG, Siren Coordinator:**

Last siren test on 3 August 2013 had 49 hams check in and 7 additional persons assisting. Currently, there are a total of 262 sirens to cover, and so far 175-180 have been checked this year.

Query: When do we follow up those sirens found non-functioning? Answer: After someone from the county can be sent out first.

Comment: One member covered a siren on Wattles Road and noted traffic came to a stop because it was so loud.

**(3) Report from Mark Shaw – K8ED, National Traffic System (NTS) Communications:**

Mark reminds members that the NTS has a net every night at 10:15 pm on the 146.760/100hz repeater system. This is an excellent time to learn how to handle passing information/traffic. Brad Maney – KD8QPF is now in charge of the Southeast Traffic Net. Congratulations to Brad!

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

Rain for our area is 25 inches this year (January 1 to July 31<sup>st</sup>). This is 5 inches above normal.

**(VI). New and Other Items of Interest:**

(1). "Cruise in Shoes" will be at the Woodward Dream Cruise, 17 August 2013 and will begin at Shrine Catholic High School. Times are 6 am to 9 am. Part of the 5k race/walk will be along Woodward Avenue. Ham volunteers and the use of the 440 machine are requested. If interested, please contact Kevin Gilday at [kd8gvm@arrl.net](mailto:kd8gvm@arrl.net). Please note that the Cruise in Shoes is not included in then ARPSC activation for Dream Cruise.

(2). "Detroit Free Press/Talmer Bank Marathon" is Sunday, 20 October 2013. Ham volunteers are needed. This year the route has issues where the race crosses the Woodward Rail construction four times. If interested contact Kevin Gilday at [kd8gv@arrl.net](mailto:kd8gv@arrl.net) or register directly on the Detroit Free Press Marathon website.

Respectfully submitted,  
James R. Murphy, N8SML  
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC  
8 August 2013