

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 2 September 2015

On 2 September 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, Homeland Security Division – Oakland County:

Renovation work continues in the EOC's common area and one can see everything is slowly coming together. Dry walls are up in the EOC main room.

County Homeland Security is now preparing table top exercises and for local events such as Royal Oak's Arts, Eats and Beats on 4-7 September 2015. Siren testing on Saturday, 5 September 2015 will see one siren shutdown which is next to the Arts, Eats and Beats location.

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

Addison, Davisburg, and probably Waterford receive sites need radio replacements. The Waterford site may be the cause for our repeater dropping out. Since the old transmitter radios are no longer made and we are looking for a new model to replace the bad equipment.

The UHF repeater leaves a lot to be desired. It gets out, but incoming transmissions should be better. One member mentioned that tree foliage reduces UHF signals about 20%. Jim also mentioned that he is looking for an UHF repeater that can send/receive both Digital Mobil Radio (DMR) and analog FM signals.

The next siren test is Saturday, 5 September 2015. Seven sirens remain to be checked for the first time this year along with three sirens on the "hot siren" list. When volunteering, make sure to coordinate beforehand your siren with subnet control. Jim Richards – AB8JR hopes to run the main net control from the refurbished EOC radio room this month, which is about ready to use. As of this meeting, cables coming out of

the floor still need PL-259's to be able to connect with the radios. Our amateur radio space has shrunk a little and gives us very little storage space. Both Jim and Kevin Scheid are going through the ham radio equipment to get rid unnecessary equipment and parts.

The Brooksie Way Run is coming up on Sunday, 27 September 2015. The start and finish begins at the Meadowbrook Music Festival grounds off Walton Blvd. They have early starts so that volunteers need to be at the sign-in location by 6:30 to 7 am in order to have time to get to their posts before roads close down. The Sheriff's Command Post has become harder to visit for sign-in because of Walton Road in front of the Post is closed earlier. Jim is thinking that the sign-in could be done at the Burger King on Walton Blvd., which is slightly east of Adams Road and will let volunteers know later. Jim will check the 2015 race map for changes and problems. Please do volunteer. More volunteers are needed.

Query: What equipment does one need when volunteering for the Brooksie Way Run? Answer: A HT should be enough. There is one point in Rochester about ½ mile north of Walton Blvd which is hard to hear. Past experience is to walk around until one can hear the frequency better.

(III). Presentation by Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ, Operations – Three Reports:

1 - City of Berkley Cruisefest and Woodward Dream Cruise was held 14-15 August 2015. This special event helps us train for real activation emergencies. It gives us practice setting up and dealing with problems. As a result, new equipment can be evaluated and old equipment tested for maintenance. This gives our volunteers new experiences which help improve knowledge, reaction time, and readiness. For example, occasionally a volunteer will show up with his/her radio not programmed or need to be shown how to program it.

This year, the Southfield repeater was not available for use. A privately owned DMR repeater and analog 2 meter FM simplex were used for communications. The DMR repeater was mounted at the top of Beaumont – Royal Oak Hospital. The 2 meter simplex used antennas set up at the Berkley Fire House and at Royal Oak's Upton School. The DMR was evaluated with three types of equipment and seemed to work well. Reception was good.

2 - On 8 June 2015, the First Annual Sno*Drift Summer Rally took place at Atlanta, Montmorency County, Michigan. There were 32 ham volunteers for the shortened 7 stage event. One repeater was used and simplex operations utilized two vertical beams allowing continuous coverage over a 15 miles area. Fifteen cars participated in the seven hour event and there were no special issues or problems.

3 – Pete recently visited the impressive 18 acre ham radio station of Tim Duffy – K3LR, which is just inside the western border of Pennsylvania near I-80. Tim Duffy is the Chief Operating Office of DX Engineering, a member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, on Team USA for the World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) four times, founder of Contest University (CTU), and current ARRL Section Manager for Western Pennsylvania. He has won many awards for contesting including RCA's Goldwater Award in 2010.

Duffy's amateur station is composed of multiple towers, one of which may be the tallest amateur antenna tower in the world. He uses 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 12, and 10 meter antennas which represent some of the finest engineering. Some antennas are individually rotatable on the tower. Peter spent some time explaining the antennas. Hardline cables connect to the ham station and are run by ICOM 7500s or newer transceivers with single band amplifiers. The station comes apart fairly often for maintenance between contests which requires quite a bit of manpower. Further details can be found on his website www.k3lr.com.

(IV). AEC-Management Team Reports:

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

W8OAK nets are held weekly on Thursday evening at 8 pm. Please do check in this Thursday night 3 September 2015. 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. Net Control training this month will take place at the Troy Fire Department because our EOC is not ready.

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

Ron reminds everyone that the FCC Universal Licensing Website is down for maintenance until 28 September 2015. The FCC has proposed levying an \$8000 fine on a Cincinnati, Ohio radio amateur for intentionally causing malicious interference on a number of area repeaters. Also, please support the legislation for Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. There are three new members: Richard Weir – KE8BFF, Patrick White - KD8ZBA, and Edward Wood – KE8AKV.

(VII). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

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

Last month, Al tested how well hospital radio net could be activated (if emergencies occurred) through emails and text messages to volunteers. He found a 60% contact success rate within 2 hours. He believes two hours is a reasonable period to get in touch with volunteers. Emails, for some reason, did not do well. Some were

sent but never arrived. Jim Richards – AB8JR added that once volunteers are aware of a definite emergency, many will tune into the W8OAK net for more information and this would help.

During last month's test, Al began checking D-Star digital transmissions to find if certain stations could hear it. He was able to hit the Rochester Hills D-Star repeater and that D-Star simplex seemed to have a 25 mile range. Since Genesys Hospital in northern Oakland County is 23 miles away, it (in theory) should hear D-Star. Al wants more D-Star testing to determine which hospitals can use it. There is a rumor that the Rochester Hills digital repeater may change from D-Star to DMR.

Next, Al wants to be sure that all the hospitals can hear FM simplex. He is working with Region 2 North to find out what their intentions and goals are for Oakland County hospital radios should everyone be activated. Al has now checked our hospital radio antennas on the roofs and has not found problems.

Query: Has Regional 2 North responded to queries about what to do with the transceiver at the closed Doctor's Hospital in Pontiac? Answer: Have not heard anything.

(V). Other Information:

- (1). Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club is having the following amateur radio licensing classes at Lawrence Tech. Contact point is Jerry Begel at w9npi@comcast.net:
 - 1 – Technician Class beginning Tuesday 22 September 2015
 - 2 – Extra Class with Ron Miotke – WD8MNX begins 21 September 2015
 - 3 - General Class with Marsh Fleming – N8FE and Wallace Murray – KE8HR of the Spirit of 76 Repeater, begins 21 September 2015. Cost for class is only for the book.
- (2). A member showed how he used a counter poise wire to increase the range of a rubber duck or small antenna on a HT.
- (3). The Findlay, Ohio Radio Club Swap is 13 September 2015. See their website for details.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 3 September 2015