

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 September 2016

On 7 September 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:

County Homeland Security is working to make possible web seminars with video conferencing. This would allow individuals in different locations to participate. 2016 proposals for grant projects must be submitted this month and for 2017 by November 2016.

Jim Richards – AB8JR added 2016 grant proposals are for 2017 funding and 2017 grant proposals are for the year 2018. It takes a while for a successful grant to reach its final destination, because it must be approved and acceptable to others such as the Environmental Preservation Act and FEMA.

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

Oakland County Skywarn has been very quiet. Jim can't recall a previous year when it was so inactive.

Query: When is the next ARPSC Simulated Test Exercise (SET)? Answer: Probably next March-April 2017.

Woodward Dream Cruise Round-up: Crowds were well behaved and the event went well. Jim thanks everyone for their help. Next year at the Woodward Dream Cruise, the Command Post for the Berkley and Royal Oak Police will be moved to a medical building on the southwest corner of Catalpa Drive and Woodward. This will also be our command post. Our command post for the Berkley Cruise-Fest will continue to be the fire-house.

Jim brought up the use of a more formal, tactical net protocol for activation based nets. Using a more formal Net control protocol is a huge help, especially when a net becomes very busy. Jim, Mike and Kevin agree that a future training session on this would be most useful. Changes in transmitting to net control would help. For instance, saying "Net Control from 4 Alpha" is better done by saying "4 Alpha to net control." This more quickly alerts net control that traffic will be coming in their direction. The use of Q codes is not appreciated and using plain English is better. Once a message or instruction is completed and understood, the recipient should reply with "copy."

Brooksie Way Run is Sunday 25 September 2016. Volunteers need to sign in between 6:45 – 7:00 am at the McDonalds on the SE corner of Walton and Adams Road. The race is usually over by 11 – 11:30 am. A sign-up sheet was passed to members and included whether they could bring a DMR radio. If there are enough DMR radios, Jim wants to set up a portable DMR repeater in the middle of the course instead at the command post.

The First Annual Troy "Move Across Troy 5K/1K" or "Frightful Five" event is now scheduled for Sunday, 23 October 2016 from 7 to 10 am. The race/walk will include closing a section of Big Beaver Road. The mobile command post will be on the south side of Big Beaver across from the Troy Community Center area. Eleven or twelve operators will be needed on the course. At this time, the 1K walk doesn't need volunteers.

Future DMR meetings: None are scheduled are at this time. Jim is taking reservations for Arrow Antenna's OSJ 146/440 dual band solid aluminum antenna with SO-239 connector. If enough are interested, he will make a group purchase for a good discount.

(III). Presentation – Upcoming County Health Open POD Exercise on 9 September 2016 by Jim Richards – AB8JR, EC.

Purpose: Oakland County is conducting a required full activation of a POD (Point of Dispensing) for the rapid mass distribution of drugs in an emergency; i.e. an anthrax outbreak requiring medicines to be dispensed to the public within the first 48 hours. The POD activation will take place at the Oakland Schools Building on Pontiac Lake Road which is across from the Executive Office Building.

ARPSC Activity and Role: The Oakland County Health Department has requested participation from the ARPSC to add realism in the event of an infrastructure failure. The ARPSC will provide radio operators at (1) the EOC, (2) County Health Command Center, (3) and the Open POD location. In addition, ARPSC volunteers are needed to be "customers" of the POD. This will assist the County in measuring its capability and provide ARPSC members with a better understanding of the POD function.

Radio operators at (1) the County Health Command will be Mike Vander Veer – KD8ATK and Mark Shaw – K8ED; (2) EOC: Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ; (3) POD Location: Don Johnson - KD8UA and Ron Miotke – WD8MNX. Floater will be Jim Richards – AB8JR. ARPSC members will meet in the northeast corner of the Oakland Schools parking lot at 9 am. POD dispensing activity is scheduled to begin at 9:45 am and will conclude before noon.

(IV). AEC-Management Team Reports:

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

Mike thanks all the volunteers participating at the Woodward Dream Cruise.

W8OAK nets are held weekly on Thursday evening at 8 pm on 146.900 MHz/100 pl. With the complexity of emergency situations, additional 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. Jim Richards – AB8JR added that net control operators gain experience with real activities such as the Woodward Dream Cruise and Skywarn. This year's Dream Cruise provided the opportunity for eight net control operators to take a turn in the net control chair. Situations with real emergencies such as a prolonged electrical blackout place great demands on net control operators and we still don't have enough for 4 to 5 days of service.

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

Repeater and receive sites: Ron has been "challenged" with the receiver stacks and still working on the issues. Our transmitter is still not working at its best.

(V). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

(1). Report from Jim Richards – AB8JR for Dave Roberts - KD8RDG, Sirens:

Siren testing Saturday, 3 September 2016 was most successful. Remaining untested sirens are now down to eleven, and none are in the difficult corners of the county. To volunteer for the next siren test on 1 October 2016, go to our arpdc.com website to see which sirens need coverage. Hopefully, the last eleven can be covered and we will be finished for the year.

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

Al is now off the nightshift and reports he is encouraging Region 2 North to include amateur radios in their future exercises. The radio at Huron Valley has been moved into their new EOC.

(3). Report from Jim Richards – AB8JR for Morrie Davidson – K8SJD, National Weather Service:

Last month was the hottest on record for Oakland County.

(VI). New Business:

An amateur radio hobbyist - Bruce Rittenhouse recently died and Dennis Jones – KD8MAW took over disposing his radios and equipment. Dennis would like to donate some of this equipment to a needy ham and needs help to identify such a person.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 8 September 2016