

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 1 October 2014

On 1 October 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 Steve Iannucci, Homeland Security Division – Oakland County:

Several events took place recently. President of the United States recently declared 11 August 2014 Oakland County flood victims eligible for financial assistance. FEMA has now taken over, and assistance information can be found on www.oakgov.com/homelandsecurity. FEMA will be meeting with government agencies in Southfield about their damages.

Consider signing up for the OakAlert Emergency Notification System for extreme emergency information. This can be found at www.oakgov.com/homelandsecurity/oakalert. OakAlert includes dangerous chemical spills, siren activation, active shooters, significant road closures, etc.

On 21 September 2014, Rochester Hills had an unexpected F-1 tornado at 5:57 am in the morning. Steve went out to the scene by helicopter and found the touchdown hit a narrow path for about four blocks long. National Weather Service didn't see it coming, and as a result, sirens didn't go off. The quick response by the Rochester Hills Fire Department with mutual aid assistance was very impressive.

Oakland County Health Department is carefully watching the Ebola problem. The Federal government is checking passengers coming into the U.S. Because the Ebola Incubation period is long, it permits travel and travel related problems. Ebola appears to not be transmitted through airborne contact.

Oakland County Homeland Security is hosting at NWS Winter Spotter Training Class on Saturday, 18 October 2014 from 10 am to noon at the Executive Office Building

Conference Center, Building 41 West, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, Michigan 48328. To register, call 248-858-5300.

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

The DMC Madison Heights Hospital was seriously damaged on 11 August 2014 by flooding. Employees have been laid off and the E.R. shut down. Jim is now considering whether our hospital radio operation should continue there. At this time, the radio will be left there and checked four times a year.

Query – What about Doctor’s Hospital – Pontiac? They have stopped emergency services? Answer: They still have a 24-7 urgent care service.

Query – What about Oakland Regional Hospital in Southfield? Answer from Steve Iannucci: The District Two regional board was the one with grant money for hospital radios and was responsible for assigning which hospitals should have radios, not Oakland County.

Our repeater is behaving better after taking out the amplifier. Without the amplifier, Randy Love – WF5X believes the existing output is 25 watts. Expensive repairs to the whole system will take two fiscal year periods to pay. One current topic is what antenna to place on the tower. Steve Iannucci added that the old cables had been under water for years, and a price quote to repair and replace all the affected systems is \$10,000. The cable going to but not up the tower is already completed. The next fiscal year should pay for new hardline cables up the tower, a new antenna, and possibly a new amplifier. Expertise is needed in choosing a new antenna.

Query – Northern Receive Sites: Answer: Nothing yet.

Wayne County is using a special grant to purchase a SMART message alert system to get emergency information out to interested parties. This is a system which can be linked into amateur radio. Oakland County was not eligible for this grant money. Jim has arranged to have approximately 250 seats set aside for Oakland County ARPSC use through his counterpart in Wayne County.

(III). Presentation: Results of 2014 Brooksie Way Half Marathon and Forthcoming W1AW/8 Contest.

Twelve members participated this year. Several other events at the same time took away potential volunteers. There was a partial new route due to construction on Livernois Road. The route change kept the path on Paint Creek Trail for a longer distance which included a 20% grade hill at about Mile 10. Weather was good and the event calm. There was only one medical issue at mile marker 12.5 near the end.

The W1AW/8 (ARRL) 100 year Anniversary Contest begins on 15 October 2014 for one week. There will be special centennial call signs and operators will need to be fairly experienced, as contacts can be up to 130 per hour. Dennis Ward - KT8X is the coordinator this year. Pete - K8PGJ will be running 4 stations at selected times.

(IV). AEC-Management Team Reports:

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

2015 Sno*Drift Rally will be held 30-31 January at Atlanta, Michigan. Volunteers are needed and should contact Barb Steencken at www.sno-drift.org. Let them know if you can come up for one or two days. Pete is in charge of communications. Barb states they will be on NBC national TV Sunday, 12 October 2014 with Rally America.

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

The W8OAK nets are held weekly on Thursday evening at 8 pm. 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 and possibly Mike can get you started as early as this month. If interested, please contact or email Mike Vander Veer at kd8atk@wowway.com. He will help with your training. One new net control operator is about ready to help.

(V). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

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

Our next siren test is Saturday, 4 October 2014. Twenty-six sirens are still left and that's the best position we have been in for years. Volunteers are needed to check sirens and do please help. Northwest section needs the most help; subnet controller is Larry – KB8POD on the Clarkston Repeater. To volunteer, email Larry at kb8pod@arrl.net. To help the northeast section, subnet controller is Brad – KB8QPF on the USECA repeater. Contact him at bmaney61@yahoo.com. The southeast (DART) net will not have Marsha Fleming – N8FE as net control this month, but will be turned over to Jim Richards – AB8JR and Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ at the EOC. Marsha advises her volunteers to help the northern subnets.

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

September precipitation at Metro was 4.71 inches, White Lake 5.79, with normal being 3.25 to 3.5. Sprinkler systems have not been used much this year.

(VI). Other Topics

(1). Powdered aspirin - 325 mgm is now available in a credit card size container, available from Breakthrough Products, Inc., of Denver, Colorado.

(2). OCARS will have Larry Camp – WB8R, ARRL section manager, give a presentation on Tuesday, 7 October 2014. Everyone is welcome. Meeting is at Bethany Baptist Church, 1275 Hiller road, Waterford.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Murphy, N8SML

Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 2 October 2014

Minutes read, corrected, and approved by Jim Richards – AB8JR, EC