

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>
Next Meeting: Wednesday, 2 November 2016 at EOC, 7 pm

Meeting Minutes for 5 October 2016

On 5 October 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:

A number of things are going on, including: (1) Active Shooting Training continues, (2) Rescue Task Force Training, (3) Medical Management of CBRNE Event (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive – uncontrolled release). Efforts are being made to integrate the ARPSC badge into a common platform. This would simplify checking into an emergency scene or a county based function. Oakland County's Incident Management Team, a regional resource, is now the largest in the State and provides planning, management, and staging. The National Association of Counties recently awarded us for our activities.

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

Homeland Security Grant Funding

UASI/GAC grant funding proposals 2016 (Urban Areas Security Initiative – Grants Allocation Committee): These funds are made available during the year 2017. This group met on 22 September 2016 and granted us funds for antenna maintenance or replacement for our remote and main repeater sites. This grant still has to be accepted at State and at Federal levels before this funding is released. Our antenna needs were included in the 2016 grant because of antenna aging problems. For instance, the Southfield antenna failed in late spring, probably caused by being filled with water.

UASI/GAC grant funding proposals 2017: This funding would be released in 2018. Requests will be made for new equipment at three receive sites and for two DMR radios in the EOC. One of our problems is trying read Homeland Security's intent

or sensitivity in granting these funds. Certainly, they don't want to grant money for a radio to sit in a box until deployment.

Troy's Frightful 5K Race

Troy "Frightful 5 – Move Across Troy 5K/1K," will be held 23 October 2016 from 7 to 10 am: Dave Roberts – K8RDG is not here tonight. This race/walk will include closing a section of Big Beaver Road. The Mobile Command Post (MCP) will be in the Columbia Center parking lot which is on the south side of Big Beaver and slightly west of Livernois Road. Twelve or thirteen operators will be needed on the course. At this time, the 1K walk doesn't need volunteers. Ham communications will use 146.46/100 pl analog simplex. Volunteers need to meet at 7 am for the race (5 K race begins 8:30 am), recommended at the MCP truck which is an easier location for volunteers to move away to assigned posts. This is not a county activity, but more like the Oak Apple Run.

Oakland County Open POD Exercise - Post Report

County Health Open POD Exercise (Point of Dispensing) was held 9 September 2016: Our ARPSC had 16 volunteers, with 6 on the radio side and 10 being citizens passed through their system. The Health Department was most appreciative of our efforts. For us, it added to our training and exposure to others. The Health Department's EOC was across the street in the Oakland County Schools Building on Elizabeth Lake Road.

Problems: Mike Vander Veer found their EOC room was most difficult to make wireless transmissions. In the future, a simple antenna could be put on the outside of the building. A better message format is needed than what was being used. Written messages need to be short and concise before being passed on the radio people. The Health Department is looking forward to more joint exercises with us.

Brooksie Way Half Marathon – Post Report

The 25 September 2016 Brooksie Way Half Marathon had 22 volunteers, the largest number in recent years. We used WD8MNX – Ron Miotke's Motorola DMR Repeater (Digital Mobile Radio) running 50 watts either by AC or 12 volts from his Jeep. A temporary antenna is raised 30 feet up and fed by a LMR-600 cable. The location was changed before the race to the Long Meadow Elementary School when it was found to be a better location for handhelds (HTs) in the northwest corner of the race. We used only DMR radios in order to test our ability to use portable DMR HTs for future exercises and emergencies.

Several locations had an abundance of Police and Sheriff Deputies and future consideration will be whether to place a volunteer with them or move him/her to a less covered area. Also, there will be consideration about closer communication ties with

the Sheriff's Department during the race. Thanks go to a number of volunteers who loaned their extra pre-programmed HTs so that all the volunteers had DMR HTs. Thanks also go to Kevin Scheid – KD8ZVO for getting permission to use the school parking lot.

Query: Could CERT volunteers be used to assist us? Answer: Combining CERTS with ARPSC volunteers for certain functions is being considered, but the logistics haven't yet been worked out. There is the problem of a CERT member being both responsible to the CERT team and to the ARPSC team at the same time.

Query: Sheriff's team asked one ARPSC volunteer to place his car in the middle of Avon Road during the race - your thoughts on this. Answer: Yes, if the request is within reason and the radio operator is comfortable with the request. The volunteer will have to decide or possibly contact net control for advice.

Other Topics

Future Tactical Net Protocol Training: Jim Richards – AB8JR, Mike Vander Veer – KD8ATK, and Kevin Scheid – KD8ZVO, Homeland Security agreed that this is needed and more information will follow in the future.

ARPSC radio corner in EOC: All feed lines from the tower are now labeled. Four of 6 feed lines are connected and the remaining two need to be finished. It was discovered that the feedlines into the EOC had no lightning protection. Polyphaser protection was installed. Polyphasers were obtained from County Radio and installed by Kevin and Jim.

Addison Receive Site Tower stasis: A "before" photo (several years ago) showed our old poorly working antenna up 273 feet on the tower. A recent photo (taken 2 days ago) showed our antenna is no longer there. The county has issued a new order for a side mounted replacement antenna but there is no information when it would be installed.

(III). AEC-Management Team Reports:

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

Pete will be operating as a ham side-band contester "PJ2T" on the island of Curacao, on the dates of 29 and 30 October 2016. He will be using multiple towers with 1500 watts on most HF bands.

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

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. More net control operators become critical when an emergency goes on for 3 to 7 days. If interested, please contact or email Mike Vander Veer at kd8atk@wowway.com.

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

Repair of the repeater and receive sites continues to be a lot of work. The Vertex Standard Transceivers are a challenge and a number of members are coming forward to help. New Vertex radio stacks will be inserted into the receive sites soon.

(IV). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

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

The 1 October 2016 Siren Test was cancelled. Eight sirens are still unchecked and five additional sirens are on the hot list. This will be our last test in 2016.

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

All is quiet on Region 2N emergency planning to utilize ham radio operations. Providence Park Hospital - Novi needs hospital radio volunteers ASAP.

(3). Report from Morrie Davidson – K8SJD, National Weather Service

Predictions for our coming winter include bouts of snow dumping with at least 6-8 inches. High for September was 91 degrees and low 49 degrees. June-July-August combo had the highest temperatures in our recorded history. Oakland County now has slightly more than average rainfall.

(V). Other Reports.

(1). 16 October 2016 – Kalamazoo HamFest and Amateur Radio Swap and Shop. Information is at <http://www.kalamazoohamfest.com>.

(2). 27-28 January 2017 – Sno*Drift Rally. Barb Steencken states the rally will need 75 hams radio volunteers. More information is at www.sno-drift.org.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 6 October 2016