

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 October 2015

On 7 October 2015 at 7 pm, Jim Richards - AB8JR, Emergency Coordinator (EC) for the Oakland County ARPSC, called the meeting to order in County's Executive Office Building Conference Center (EOBCC). The order of business included:

(I). Report from Kevin Scheid, Homeland Security Division – Oakland County:

Progress has been made with the EOC renovations including new changes. The next ARPSC meeting is expected to be back at the EOC. County Homeland Security is planning exercises related to health care and later in November with CERT.

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

Repeater: We are now in possession of six replacement radios for replacement in receive sites, of which the first two will be installed at the Davisburg and Addison sites. A third will go in the Water Tower site which is thought to be causing repeater problems. Later, another will be installed at the Southfield site.

All 274 county sirens have been covered at least once this year. This last Saturday - 3 October 2015, 24 more sirens were covered, totaling 384 siren checks this year.

Jim gave a PowerPoint report on the EOC renovation project. Beginning with photos of the old communication's room, he showed how the amateur radio section has evolved into 5 new cubicles with desks with each enclosed by walls on three sides. This reduces ambient noise levels that were a major problem in the old EOC. One cubicle desk holds the HF radio, another the packet and APRS, a third is the main desk with a 2720 and 2820 ICOM transceivers for repeater operations, a fourth for DMR and ICOM 2720 radio. The VHF and UHF transceiver body will be hidden behind the desk and its control head placed on the table. Each desk will have a computer with one or two screens for news, weather, and the capability of displaying what we are doing. Hopes are that a 42 inch flat TV can be purchased and placed on the north wall of the radio

room section. An additional electric outlet in each cubicle would be useful. Next month if the EOC is ready, we can have our November meeting in the EOC and members can tour the new quarters.

Our ability to use the EOC's HF radio is in question at this time. We haven't had a chance to check if the HF cable feedline under the floor is functional and if the 15 year old inverted V antenna is still works or needs replacement. This is one of a number of checklist items.

On 24 October 2015, there will be a National Weather Service (NWS) Emergency Manager Meeting. The primary topics include a recap of the summer season and an outlook for the upcoming winter weather season.

Marsha Fleming – N8FE reported that MARS radio (Military Auxiliary Radio System) will have a SET (Stimulated Test Exercise) from 8 to 10 November 2015. MARS has invited ARES/RACES participation in a coronal mass ejection disaster exercise (CME). CMEs are huge explosions of electromagnetic and other radiation from the sun, and are responsible for geomagnetic storms and communication failures on Earth. Amateur radio operations are invited to participate in this exercise. Marsha reports MARS is trying to get more community involved and a MARS radio license isn't required to participate in this exercise.

FEMA has released the new National Preparedness Goal, 2nd Edition – September 2015. Details can be found a www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-system. The website adds the "core capabilities contained in the Goal are the distinct critical elements necessary for our success. ...to use existing preparedness networks and activities, coordinate and unify efforts, improve training and exercise programs...ensure that administrative, finance, and logistics systems are in place."

(III). Presentation by Jim Richards – AB8JR on Brooksie Way Wrap Up:

The Brooksie Way Run took place on Sunday, 27 September 2015. About 6000 people entered the races, which ran from 6:45 am to noon. Brooksie Way was recently placed on the 10 top most scenic runs list.

Our Oakland County ARPSC had 17 volunteers with 15 on the course and 2 at Net Control. Our job was eyes and ears on the course. The lowest point on the course (704 feet elevation) was furthest from net control and posed communication problems. Amateur radio frequencies used were 146.460/100hz simplex and a secondary cross band operation on 146.460/100hz and 449.325/100hz. Net control was at the Sheriff's Command Vehicle with a Diamond X-50 antenna up 26 feet, requiring no support lines. There was difficulty hearing stations 4 through 7 on the course, but all were good enough for copy. These stations occupy the lowest elevations on the course.

The following resulted: All operators had equipment properly programmed and were ready to go. No emergency situations occurred. Cross band operations worked reasonably well. The weakest signal was at station marker 8A where the operator improved signals by placing one HT's 12 feet up in a tree and operated his own cross band repeater. Network control station was up and operational within 10 minutes. Estimated runner arrival times at each post proved to be very accurate and helped predict race progress. In the future, command post communications might be improved if the antenna for cross band operations could be raised an additional 15 to 20 feet. Bottom line: This is like a SET. It gives us the opportunity to practice and to try different things. Thanks go to everyone who came out to help.

Jim asked the members if they would be interested in expanding ARPSC community services. For example, we could help search for someone who suddenly goes missing in an Oakland County community. This would allow us a greater presence in the community.

For this to happen, the community must request us and become a sponsor. Then this would need central coordination, planning, previous training, and official activation before members could be sent out. An activation notice could begin with an email notice, text message, or phone call to tell members to go to our emergency net for more information. One member suggested we might need to develop a specific list of volunteers to call, text, or email. Another suggested every activated volunteer would need a clearly identifying vest or outfit when on assignment. Jim Richards – AB8JR will look further into possibilities and problems of such a community service with Kevin Scheid.

(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. Net controls run more than the Skywarn Net, Weekly net, and Monthly Hospital Net. They are also needed for unexpected emergency nets. Sometimes the emergency is so long that 2nd and 3rd shifts may be needed. It takes a large number of net control operators to do these jobs. If interested, please contact or email Mike Vander Veer at kd8atk@wowway.com.

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

There are no new members to report. The EOC renovation has slowed membership actions such as membership IDs and email notices. These are expected to

return to normal after the EOC is finished. If anyone hasn't received Oakland County ARPSC notices (i.e. next meeting location and time), please let Ron know.

The ARRL mentions that legislation for Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 – HR 1301 and S1685 is finding increasing support. Hopes are that the legislature will pass the Act this year.

Department of Homeland Security notes October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month 2015. This is designed to raise awareness about cybersecurity with all its problems and protective efforts.

Cyber security should always be constantly watched when you are using your computer or mobile phone. A number of problems can develop when surfing the web without being cautious. Don't click on unknown websites, or random emails recommending going to unknown email addresses, and don't download unknown files. Never share passwords. Make your passwords long and difficult to guess. Check privacy settings on social network sites. Restart your computer regularly. Use a secure wireless router and network. Be careful of clicking the "Green Button" when downloading. Also, be careful of websites with multiple click-on downloading buttons. You may hit the wrong one which might be bad news.

What is happening currently in cyber attacks is less for information gain, but for changing the computer's system. This modification helps the attacker later down the road. The computer's owner/user might not be aware. These attacks continue to be mostly financial in nature. Be careful of free antivirus programs. Some carry malware and others may not technically good enough to protect you as you want. More information on cyber security can be found at www.ic3.gov and www.fbi.gov.

Query: What is the prosecution possibility for cyber attacks in the U.S. and outside the US? Within the US, arrests and litigation have been good, but outside the US, the legal system often fails. Most Internet Service Providers (ISP's) have a reporting mechanism and will correct a problem if there are enough complaints.

Comment from members: Beware of phone calls from Internal Revenue Service demanding money and information. The IRS never makes such calls. The ARRL has reported that someone has been bombarding it with attacks which are then redirected to you for your passwords and personal information.

Query to Ron: What computer security service do you use? Answer: The paid version of ZoneAlarm by Checkpoint. Ron notes that a lot of security services are often slow updating new virus or malware problems. Norton and McAfee are fine to use. Be skeptical of "free" antivirus programs.

(V). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

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

Al has contacted Region 2 North about the radio at the bankrupt Pontiac Doctor's Hospital. They states the hospital is not endanger of closing soon and the radio is to stay there.

(2). Report from Steve Walbrun – KD8WAA, Webmaster for W8OAK:

Steve is working to update the membership list and the website is still under development. After the EOC is opened, he expects to send members an email asking them to update their membership information

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 8 October 2015