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.arpsc.com
Next Meeting: Wednesday, 7 December 2016 at 7 pm in the EOC.

Meeting Minutes for 2 November 2016

On 2 November 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:

Work continues on restoring the repeater system. Antenna at the Addison site is still out and another tower climb has not yet been scheduled. The three sets of new radios, purchased by Homeland Security, should be placed in service soon. These radios were delivered approximately one year ago. Our intention to purchase three additional sets through the UASI grant process has been pulled since the deadline for having the three prior sets in service and tested has not been met. Once the original three sets have been installed and tested we will begin to explore other means of funding for the three remaining remote receive systems. Efforts will continue to acquire them, but it will take time.

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

These last three radios will still need to be funded and will be requested soon. It appears we will have to use the three old Motorola's for a while.

Of the three new radio sets that we do have, Mike Vander Veer – KD8ATK is currently linking one with a repeater controller called" ID-O-Matic IV." It uses an USB interface, includes an ID timer, an audio amplifier and a separate volume control for the voice ID. This should improve upon the old Motorola combo. A firmware modification is needed to allow the receive site transmitter to introduce a slight delay in keying up to allow the radio to switch link channels to identify on the UHF link frequency. Mike requested and has already received the custom firmware from ID-O-Matic to use on the on the three radio stacks purchased by Homeland Security.

A new problem has been identified for our repeater at the water tower. It appears that the hardline cable may be bad, and if so, replacing it will be expensive. One member sited a similar problem on a different repeater which was found to be water in the coaxial cable.

This is the month to submit 2017 UASI/GAC (Urban Areas Security Initiative – Grant Allocation Committee) grant funding proposals. This would include one 220 MHz transceiver, 2 DMR transceivers for the EOC, diplexers, funding for training exercises which would include CERTs.

Our last siren test for the year is this coming up Saturday, 5 November 2016 at 1 pm. There are still 8 unchecked and 6 hot sirens for a total of 14 sirens. Most of these sirens are in the northwest quadrant.

The Troy Frightful 5K Event was held 23 October 2016. Dave Roberts – K8RDG who is not here tonight, asked Jim to thank all the volunteers. All went well and it appears that this event will occur next year, possibly with formal county ARPSC activation. Jim found the Troy Mobile Command Post in a large van, which had been formerly owned and outfitted by a local broadcast company. Amateur radio had a spot in the van and included both VFH/UHF and HF transceivers as well as a full compliment of Harris and MPSCS public service radios. It had an electrical generator which could run from the truck fuel.

Repeater Coordination: A letter was recently received from the Michigan Area Repeater Coordination Council (MARC) stating our repeater hasn't been coordinated since 2013. They require repeaters to be coordinated every two years and this is usually done by a repeater trustee. Mike Vander Veer – KD8ATK is now working closely with the Council and so far they have most grateful for his help; i.e. Milford location had been moved eleven miles and the old Rochester location is now located in Novi. We had to find if other repeaters on or near our frequencies might be too close, including one in Canada. Marsha Fleming – N8FE suggests the Canadian repeater should not be an issue. Mike has just now submitted repeater coordinates to the Michigan Area Repeater Council for their approval.

The National Weather Service meeting (NWS) had a meeting 29 October 2016 and reported Michigan had 40 tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings this year. There were two EFO tornados, one at Pinconning (8 July 2016) and the other at Milan, Michigan (28 August 2016). Michigan had 83 severe weather events this year, compared to 93 in 1995 and 102 in 2009. Future weather is predicted to be slightly cooler than average, stormier, and snowier than last year with a threat of a snow storm very early and at the end of the season. Average Detroit temperatures for 2016 were the 6th warmest on record. There have been some changes in NWS winter reporting. They now want to know low long it takes for one inch of snow to occur, flooding which affects roads and property, and non-thunder storm winds of 40+ mph. They announced

a Skywarn Spotter amateur radio contest for 2-3 December 2016 from 7 pm on Friday for 24 hours. The contest is to find how many weather offices can be contacted during this period of time.

Query: Does the White Lake NWS have an open house: Answer: Yes. Go to DTX – NWS website for information.

(III.) Presentation by Mark Shaw – K8ED – Michigan Section Traffic Manager, "The Nuts and Bolts of National Traffic System (NTS) Traffic Handling:"

Standard ARRL radiogram forms are used to transmit formal messages and can be found online. Along the top of the form, there are 8 boxes which represent the preamble part.

Number 1 box is the message "Number" selected by the originating station.
Number 2 box is the message "Precedence." Routine = R = messages which can be handled last. Welfare = W = refers to inquiry as to health and welfare of an individual. Priority = P = uses the abbreviation "P" on CW/RTTY, and refers to messages having a specific time limit. Emergency = E = is always spelled out in letters and takes priority over everything else.
Number 3 box is "HX" is optional use for "handling instructions." For example: HXA followed by a number is a landline delivery which is the most common way to deliver. "HXB is cancel message if not delivered within __ hours. List goes to HXG.
Number 4 box is "Station of Origin" = amateur radio call sign. Return messages to go this station.
Number 5 box is "Check" which is the number of word "groups" in the text of the message and must be used on all messages. This verifies the text has been copied with the correct number of groups. .
Number 6 box is "Place of Origin." This is the city and state of the party, not necessarily the location of the station or origin.
Number 7 box is "Time Filed" is optional and is time filed by the station of origin. Time used is the 24 hour format followed by the letter "Z" to denote UTC time, or local time by "EDT" or a "L. (local)."
Number 8 box is the date.

Next is the "address to" with a telephone number. This is followed in the body of the radiogram with the text being no more than 25 word groups. Punctuation is not used except for / and X which denotes a period but never used as last group in text. "R" is used in place of a decimal. Other punctuations are a spelled out word such as "Query." Exercise or test message texts are indicated by "test message" or "exercise." Signature part is the name of the person who created the message. Some ARL texts include insertion of numerals and text, with the numerals spelled out. The number indicates a standard abbreviated text; i.e. "Fifty" for "greetings by Amateur Radio," or "Eleven" for "establish amateur radio emergency communications with __ on __ MHz,"

or “Eighteen” for “please contact me as soon as possible at __.” The bottom boxes are “Rec’d from” with date and time and “Sent to” with date and time. National Traffic System can be found locally at SEMTN (Southeast Michigan Traffic Net) at 10:15 pm daily on 146.760 MHz.

(IV). AEC-Management Team Reports:

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

Pete just returned from contesting in Curacao as PJ2T. He claims this call sign is the most utilized call sign in the world with ¾ million QSOs. Pete was part of a team who ran up a large score which has not yet been calculated. Propagation from the US to Europe was extremely poor, but good everywhere from Curacao except Africa and the Far East. He hopes to make a full report at a future meeting.

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

Mike is planning to change the repeater “time” this weekend after the siren test. He can’t reset the time from home, but only in the EOC. There are three new net controls to report: Del Bauchamp – WW2MI who has done his first net; Roberta Beauchamp - K8NET and Ric - KB500, who have started their training.

(V). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

(1). Report on Hospital Nets:

The November Hospital Net will be a week earlier on 17 November 2016 due to Thanksgiving. One member mentioned that items had been stacked in front of the radio cabinet making it inaccessible. Jim suggested that a polite sign be placed on the cabinet stating “Please do not block access to this cabinet”.

(2). Report from National Weather Service, emailed from Morrie Davidson – K8SJD:

Stats for October 2016 show a mild month with a high of 81 and low of 35 degrees. There was precipitation of 2.9 inches in Detroit and 2.8 inches at White Lake with a trace of snow.

(VI). Other Items:

(1). 27-28 January 2017 – Sno*Drift Rally. Barb Steencken states the rally will need a large number of ham radio volunteers. Volunteers can sign up for one or both days. More information and sign-up is at.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC,
3 November 2016