

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 4 November 2015

On 4 November 2015 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:

The new EOC renovations are nearly complete, with some technical issues to be resolved. Oakland County Homeland Security is developing new follow-up protocols after first responders arrive. Currently, plans are being made to include the ARPSC in joint exercises with CERT community training. Promoting and developing their capabilities is important.

When ARPSC members are mixing with other groups, be careful what you say. One never knows who is listening and who might misinterpret some comment. Volunteers for the ARPSC do represent the county and need to be always professional and polite.

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

Congratulations go to our ARPSC member, Dave Roberts - K8RDG who is now the new Troy, Michigan Fire Chief.

The repeater status is unchanged. No repair dates have been set for the Addison and Davisburg receive sites. Jim notes the reception from the southwest sounds better; i.e. Novi.

Next Saturday, 7 November 2015 will be our last siren test session until March 2016. There are three “hot” sirens on the list. Next Saturday’s sirens won’t be set off from the EOC, but from Tracy’s home in Groveland Township. She will be using a digital repeater to turn on and off the sirens. The siren sound will be different by first quickly ramping up several times before a full solid sound.

MARS radio (Military Auxiliary Radio System) will have a SET (Stimulated Test Exercise) from 8 to 10 November 2015 and has invited amateur radio participation in a coronal mass ejection disaster exercise (CME).

The new National Incident Management System (NIMS) Preparedness Goal for 2015 is now online at www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-system. Go online and read through this because it provides good information for members of the ARPSC.

Kevin Scheid and Jim are discussing ways to get our ARPSC more involved in the community. Jim sees this as an opportunity which gives a useful purpose. Grants may be available for CERT and ARPSC training which will be needed before actual deployment.

Query: How many community CERT teams are in Oakland County? Answer: Eight teams.

An ARPSC member recently attempted to contact Presidents of amateur radio clubs in the Detroit metro area to announce a Hazel Park ARC swap coming up 24 January 2016. Using 29 club websites for their information, he noticed that more than half had contact problems: no useful email address, website with obsolete information, an email address to a probable rarely checked address (i.e. president@_club), and even emails to two major club presidents bounced back. His point: If Oakland County ARPSC wanted to contact the Presidents of these clubs or groups, is there a better way? This secretary, Jim Murphy – N8SML will begin to collect email addresses for area amateur radio clubs or groups at n8sml@hotmail.com.

There was a recent MICON Emergency Coordinator's Meeting at DTX Weather Service (Michigan Inter-County Operational or Organizational Network = MICON). This was a preview of winter weather and winter spotting. MICON – DTX is planning a stimulated test exercise (SET) for Friday, 6 November 2015. Winter hazards of interest to the NWS are winds 40+ mph, hail 1 inch in diameter, 1+ inch of rain, first 1 inch of snow, every two inches thereafter, snow storm totals, freezing rain and sleet, icing accumulations, and damage.

What MICON is: The primary mission of MICON is to provide communication between any and all counties it serves and DTX during a severe weather event. DTX is the Detroit – Pontiac National Weather Service office at White Lake which covers 17 counties in Eastern and SE Michigan. Each county independently operates their own two meter Skywarn net and the MICON net links these counties to DTX Weather Service.

Jim Richards – AB8JR discussed severe weather by comparing what we had from 2008 through 2015. By far, 2015 had the least severe weather. The month of August generally has the worst weather. The current El Nino is the 3rd strongest on record.

Winter weather to the northern states should be warmer and precipitation in Michigan less than average. One or two major winter storms are predicted for Michigan, either very early or very late in the season.

2015 Skywarn Recognition Day is the first Saturday, 5 December 2015. This special event will be held at White Lake NWS from Friday 4 December at 7 pm for 24 hours.

Digital mobile radios (DMR) have been purchased by several members and they are gaining experience in its use. A commentary took place which suggested these radios could be useful in emergency communications. Already, Southern Michigan has DMR network coverage, but with some spotty areas. If some event happens, it would theoretically be possible to communicate state wide or to more limited areas by networking.

This secretary adds the following: The company "Connect Systems" has three digital radio handhels reported useable for amateur radio, either for UHF or VHF, and one mobile radio either for UHF or VHF, but no dual band radio. Their price ranges from \$130 to \$280. When purchasing a DMR transceiver, one must be sure that it covers the amateur radio band that the operator wants - VHF or UHF. Most DMR amateur radios use the UHF band, but occasionally the proximity to Canada disallows a US DMR repeater on that band.

DMR uses a "two slot 6.25 KHz TDMA repeater which allows a single repeater to have two side-by-side voice or text channels run by a single repeater, single duplexer, and one antenna. A single analog FM uses 25 kHz bandwidth. Some DMR repeaters can connect with the internet allowing more distant communications with neighbors or other countries. When the internet is down, communications can shift to the nearest repeater. More can be found on DMR radio by going to google and entering "DMR radio."

(III). Presentation by MiQP (Michigan QSO Party) Report by Peter Gladysz – K8PGJ.

In past years, Oakland County ARPSC entered this contest from the EOC. This year, Peter – K8PGJ's home was the site to enter this contest. CW and Phone ran full time on 20 and 40 meters with 8 antennas. Results: Won #1 overall in Michigan and received a plaque for their efforts. Team participants were Jim Richards – AB8JR, Mark Shaw – K8ED, Gerry Treas – K8GT, Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ, Fred Czubak – WE8P, and Randy Love – WF5X.

(IV). EOC Communications Room Tour:

Members were given a tour of the EOC Communication Room. Basically, there are 4 operating stations which are semi-isolated to reduce ambient EOC noise and make net operation easier to hear and conduct.

(V). AEC-Management Team Reports:

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

The 2016 Annual Sno*Drift Rally will be held 29-30 January at Atlanta, Michigan. Volunteers should contact Barb Steencken (head of volunteers) at www.sno-drift.org. Pete will be running communications for the race. Ham volunteers are needed.

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

W8OAK nets are held weekly on Thursday evening at 8 pm. More 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.

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

Please support the legislation for Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015; HR 1301 and S1685. Your letters to congressmen help. More information is available at arrrl.org.

The ARRL November Sweepstakes are coming. This is the oldest domestic contest in the United States. CW will be first (7 November 2015) and Phone two weeks later (21 November 2015). Operating guide for the contest is available at arrrl.org.

The ARRL has asked the FCC to make clear that amateur radio licensees may modify non-amateur equipment for use on amateur radio frequencies. Some hams have expressed concern that recently proposed rules would inhibit modification of such equipment.

(VI). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

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

October had a trace of snow and two inches of rain, which is 2 inches below normal.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 5 November 2015