

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 5 November 2014

On 5 November 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:

Both the Oakland County ARPSC identification cards and State of Michigan RACES cards expire at the end of this year and new ones will be issued. The new ARPSC ID card will have a new color. If members have new addresses or emails, please let Steve know. New photos for ID's can be made at the next meeting.

Winter Weather Awareness Week is 3 - 7 November 2014. Ebola: Currently, 7 persons in Michigan are being monitored for possible Ebola, one of which is in Oakland County. None have come down with the disease.

All the repeater antennas and equipment have now arrived and we are waiting for a vendor to install them. Jim Richards – AB8JR added that since the amplifier was removed, the repeater has been behaving better. One of the problems appears to be transmission issues at the water tower site.

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

Saturday, 1 November 2014 was our last siren test. Our results show 266/272 sirens were checked this year, despite two months when the siren tests were cancelled.

Mark Shurig – KC8WPS, Hospital Communication Team Leader has resigned, in part due to health issues. DMC Madison Heights Hospital is still closed. Three hospitals, DMC – Madison Heights, McClaren – Oxford, and Doctor's Hospital – Pontiac no longer have emergency rooms. The last two have opted instead for urgent care instead. A question arises on what to do with the radios at these hospitals. Jim has

sent out an inquiry to the District Two regional board on whether (1) to continue operations there, (2) test the radios less frequently, or (3) remove the radios.

From Randy Love – WF5X: Skywarn Recognition Day is the first Friday-Saturday of the December each year. This year, it is 5-6 December 2014 from 7 pm Friday to 7 pm Saturday. Hams attempt to make as many contacts as possible with numerous National Weather Service (NWS) stations throughout the country. Randy will be operating on the NWS side at White Lake to hand out contacts. Besides operating from one of the NWS sites, one can contest from home. If coming to the White Lake NWS, let him know in advance so that he can notify security.

(III). Presentation: Situational Awareness by Bill Riley – KD8FOR

Situational awareness, as related Homeland Security or to one's own security, involves being suspicious of dangerous situations. It involves using one's senses to identify a potentially harmful situation and is more than simple intuition.

For instance, have you ever had a feeling that something is not quite right, or that "you smell a rat?" Your senses – eyes, ears, smell, touch, and taste can sometimes warn you. Criminal fears triggers sweat and sometimes smell. Body language can telegraph actions; i.e. someone looking one way and going in another direction. You are using an assembly of clues to watch out for yourself, and sometimes one has only seconds to identify a problem before a predator strikes.

This could be of interest to law enforcement, but be careful - do not get directly involved in any altercation. Bottom line - situational awareness is a valuable asset in protection and identification of possible bad events.

(IV). Presentation: W1AW/8 Wrap Up by Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ

The W1AW/8 (ARRL) 100 year Anniversary Contest took place 15 - 22 October 2014. "W1AW" is the call sign for ARRL's headquarters and "8" the area identification. For Michigan, The ARRL allotted this call sign to certain operators in each state during 2014. This was the second operation of W1AW/8 from Michigan during the year. Pete signed up for approximately 80 hours of the special event. The balance of the time during the week was handled by another group operating from the Grand Rapids area. This Michigan operation was a second opportunity for stations to work W1AW/8 in Michigan. Special awards for working states, bands and modes will be available from the ARRL.

While not a "contest", the much sought after W1AW/8 special event call sign did generate large pile-ups where contesting skills were certainly helpful in working as many stations as possible in the pile up. This was a great opportunity for our operators to experience this side of the pile up with travelling to some far away location.

Pete ran such a W1AW/8 station at his home by putting up multiple antennas to four transceivers while working different bands and modes at the same time. He used RG-213 coax and dual filters for each band. SWR on antennas was 1.7 or less.

Assisting him were K8ED – Mark Shaw, KD8RDG – Dave Roberts, W8UE – Ted Marlin, K8GT – Gerry Treas, KD8RDG – Dave Roberts, AB8JR – Jim Richards, and WE8P – Fred Czubak. His station was set up to run QSO contacts as fast as 150/hour. A total of 7281 QSO's were made during the week which included very rare contacts with Norfolk Island, Lord Howe Islands, Tohelau Island, and Zambia. Jim Richards – AB8JR mentioned that they were on the receiving end of pile-ups which made contesting a lot of fun.

(V). Presentation: PRB Call to Action by Fred Czubak – WE8P

There is a new update for Michigan's PRB-1's bill from Ed Hude – WA8QJE, State Government Liaison to Michigan Section ARRL. This resolution has passed the State Senate and is now at the State House of Representatives in a committee, called "House Energy and Technology Committee." The State House of Representatives needs your encouragement by writing letters to your own individual district representative before their session ends this year.

According to the ARRL, PRB-1 is a statement that "local governments must reasonably accommodate amateur operations, but they may still zone for height, safety and aesthetics concerns. ...it is important to note that PRB-1 does not cover covenants...." * A PRB-1 for Michigan needs to be passed. Jim Richards adds that your letters and emails to your state representatives equates to so many voters and not only informs them of the problem and but encourages them to pass the bill. Suggestions from the membership included taking hams to Lansing and/or creating an informational film about why PRB-1 is so important.

* From arrl.org/prb-1

(VI). 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; both hams and non-ham help are needed. Pete is in charge of communications, which is described as "field day on steroids."

(4). 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. If interested, please contact or email Mike Vander Veer at kd8atk@wowway.com.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 6 November 2014
Minutes read and corrected by Jim Richards – AB8JR, EC.