

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 3 December 2014

On 3 December 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:

Steve reports that 4 new cables are now hooked up to the tower. Next is to connect these cables to amateur radios in EOC. Inspection of the old former tower cables showed several had separated from their antennas and were flying in the wind.

New 2015/2016 Oakland County ARPSC ID cards were passed out at today's meeting; old ones must be returned to Steve. A few cards still need to be printed. The new 2015 RACES cards have not been received from the State. Both cards expire at the end of this month. Jim Richards – AB8JR added ARES cards should be ready by the next meeting.

Ted Quisenberry, Manager of Oakland County Homeland Security sent Steve information about the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network, which is an entity separate from the National Weather Service (NWS). Their website is <http://www.cocorahs.org>. They are a volunteer network of weather observers who measure and map precipitation (rain, hail, and snow) in their local communities.

Homeland Security wants everyone to be aware of malware cyber threats being found on website advertising. Somehow, malware piggy-backs with regular advertising, and then redirects one's computer to malware sites. Once your computer is infected, ridding the virus can be major effort. Over 200,000 incidences have been reported. Jim Richards – AB8JR reported that he was looking on ebay for computer routers and suddenly found a virus on his computer. Fortunately, his Norton antivirus program kicked in and eliminated it. Another member mentioned being hit by this virus in a Costco email when he opened it up. Another virus source may be malware lurking on a hotel's wi-fi.

Query: Where does one report a malware problem? Answer: Go to www.ic3.gov, Internet Crime Complaint Center, a FBI and National White Collar Crime Center partnership.

Another member mentioned that Nexus Card information is being scanned by criminals who are in close proximity to the card. These cards and others with chips need a metal enclosure to prevent its information being stolen. Nexus Cards are used for expedited US – Canada Border Crossings.

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

Sam Orlando – KD8DLV was net control for last Thursday night's Oakland County ARPSC net, which was Thanksgiving night. Four people reported in and questions arose about continuing holiday nets. After polling members, Jim indicated the 25 December 2014 Thursday night net will be cancelled, but the 1 January 2015 Thursday night net will be held. The December 2014 Hospital Net will be held one week earlier on 18 December 2014.

Query: One member reported into last Thursday night's net from Waterford (not very far away) and was told her transmission was poor. Why? Answer from Jim: Both the Davisburg and Addison receive sites are not working. It is likely her signal was divided between two other receive sites and bounced between them. Should this happen again, check the Morse code id reported by the receive site. However, doing this is not always a reliable indicator if the site is the problem.

A new Coordinator for the Hospital Radios will be reviewed later this month.

(III). Report on Skyward Recognition Day and the Old ARPSC Tower Antennas by 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. This year for the first time, all four NWS stations in Michigan will be operating: Gaylord, Marquette, Grand Rapids, and White Lake. Randy will be operating on the NWS side at White Lake and already has enough volunteers. Getting clearance to visit the White Lake site is difficult. However, hams can enter this contest from home.

Report on the old ARPSC tower antennas: Randy lives 15 miles away which is a straight shot to the antenna tower. He can barely hear it. Distortion cuts the voice out. Currently, the tower hook-up is still incomplete and hopes are that it can be finished soon.

All six former antennas on the tower were replaced and Randy brought them to the meeting to show what happened. All of these antennas had problems. One 440 antenna was hit by lightning. Three of the antennas lost their coax connections. Another antenna lost a water-tight grommet which permitted water to enter the antenna, freeze, and disrupt it. A 2-meter antenna lost its top portion. After seeing this, Randy was surprised that there was any transmission capability.

The tower now has 6 new antennas, not yet connected to the EOC radios. The antennas are:

- (1). 1 x Comet CX-333 Triband 2m/220/440 MHZ base station antenna, 10 feet long.
- (2) 3 x Hustler G6-270 2m/440 Mhz antennas, 7.5 foot long.
- (3) 2 x Diamond X50 base antennas, 5.5 foot long.

Currently unfinished are the (1) cables linking the communication room in the tower base to the radios in the EOC, and (2) cable connectors in the EOC.

(IV). VE Testing, Website, and Tech Update from Ron Miotke – WD8MNX:

The ARPSC will be performing VE exams for those who never had an amateur radio license and for those hams wanting to upgrade. The VEC will be W5YI.

Riley Hollingsworth – K4ZDH, former FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement, told the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club that the FCC is still actively checking amateur radio frequencies for violations. They have a Detroit office and they are listening. Hollingsworth's speech can be found at Ham Radio Now TV which can be seen online by going to google and entering "Episode 174 Ham Radio Now."

Next month, Ron will be launching the new Oakland County ARPSC website and will have more information at the next meeting. There is one new member, Kevin Scheid – KD8ZVO.

(V). 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."

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

As previously indicated, there will be no Christmas night net. 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 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.

(3). Report from Lloyd Suter – N2NGQ, Training/VE Testing:

Lloyd is reviewing the IS-100/200/700/800 classes for those who haven't taken them. He wants to find what level of interest exists to take them. Not having these classes can be a problem to members when some big crisis occurs and our help is needed.

(VI). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

(1). National Traffic System (NTS), from Mark Shaw – K8ED:

Mark has been appointed as Section Traffic Manager for the NTS.

(2). Report from Maurice Davidson – K8SJD, National Weather Service Liaison:

November was an odd month with a high of 64 and low of 11. There was 1.67 inches of rain, 4 inches of snow, and has not been as cold as last year, so far.

(VII). Miscellaneous Topics:

(1). Gerry Treas – K8GT reports last week's Hazel Park ARC testing session had 10/11 candidates pass their tests.

(2). Marsh Fleming – N8FE reports there will be a Tech licensing class held weekly at Lawrence Tech beginning 9 February 2015 with Gerry Tres – K8GT instructor. Classes will be 7-9 pm but time can be adjusted if needed. The class is free, but the book is \$25.

There will be general licensing class at Lawrence Tech from 7-9 pm beginning 12 January 2015. Also, Ron Miotke – WD8MNX is considering teaching a 15 week Extra Licensing Class. If interested in signing up for any the three classes, please contact Jerry Begel – W9NPI at w9npi@arrl.net.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 4 December 2014
Minutes reviewed, approved by Jim Richards – AB8JR, EC.