

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>
Next meeting is Wednesday, 4 January 2017 at 7 pm in the EOC.

Meeting Minutes for 7 December 2016

On 7 December 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:

Kevin is out of town tonight and there is no report.

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

A 2018 GAC/UASI (Grants Allocation Committee - Urban Areas Security Initiative) grant fund proposals were approved to replace two antennas, a tower climb expense, replace hardline cable (if necessary), purchase two DMR transceivers for the EOC, purchase one 220 MHz transceiver, fund a full scale stimulated test exercise (SET) including renting an indoor and outdoor facility and lunch. The 220 radio would be used between counties. Yearly grant funds can be confusing, as the proposals are usually adopted in the preceding year and funds distributed the following year. The 2018 grant fund, if given state approval, refers to funds becoming available sometime in the year 2018. State approval can be a very slow process and sometimes becomes available late in the year. Such grant money must be used the very same year or it is cancelled.

Our last siren test on 5 November 2016 completed our review of all 274 sirens during this last year. Thanks go to everyone who turned out to volunteer and make this possible.

Oakland County ARPSC Cards for 2017 will be distributed at the January 2017 meeting. Kevin and Jim were reviewing the roster of 207 members, and found they didn't know approximately half of members. Question became – how many of these

were really interested in the ARPSC? Jim believes the answer to this is whether they show up at a meeting and/or volunteer for key activities at least once a year.

Repeater coordination must be done every two years with the Michigan Area Repeater Coordination Council (MARC). Mike Vander Veer – KD8ATK took over this duty and became the Repeater Trustee when it was found that our repeater hadn't been coordinated since 2013. At that time, the 2 meter repeater had its coordinates in Milford, and had to be changed to its present position 18 miles east. This has been corrected with MARC. The 440 repeater had the wrong longitude and was changed. Out of six remote sites, three had their correct locations, and three needed to be changed.

Mike Vander Veer – KD8ATK showed the members one completed receive site stack which included two linked Vertex EVX-5400 radios and a repeater controller called ID-O-Matic IV. The combination has now been checked, tested, and is ready for use. Mike found one of the biggest problems was getting the I.D. to identify every ten minutes without bringing up the main repeater. At one point, he contacted the makers of the repeater controller who agreed to rewrite the firmware to suit our need. Mike also made circuit add-ons for the ID issue and audio level control. Everything seems to be working well now except he notes a slight delay on the intake. Our intent is to put this receive site stack at the Davisburg site which has heavy on-the-air traffic. Once this new receive site equipment has been checked out and working okay, the next efforts will be to install three more receive site stacks.

Oakland County Health Department sent us a certificate thanking us for our help at their 9 September 2016 Open POD exercise at the Oakland County Schools Building on Elizabeth Lake Road. Our biggest communication problem there was the metal lined walls impeded transmissions but we were able overcome this.

On Wednesday, 1 March 2017 there will be a Skywarn Training Class instead of the usual monthly ARPSC meeting.

(III). Presentation “The Big Picture on Equipment, Training and Exercises” by Jim Richards – AB8JR, EC

A lot of things are going on with our ARPSC and will go through our priorities:

1 - Strategic Initiatives

1. Rebuilt infra-structure
2. Expand ARPSC services to other agencies
3. Expand ARPSC services to HSD; i.e. to help other county agencies. In fact, there is one emergency manager who covers seven counties.
4. Improve proficiency of ARPSC members

5. Provide training opportunities to members; getting members trained with IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800, and issued RACES cards. Kevin Scheid will now become instructor for these classes.
6. Build additional communication modes. We had several members visit the county radio system. In the event of emergencies, the county may not have enough people to cover their radios. We could help with this. The State EOC is looking to digital data systems to improve upon verbal messaging. Verbal messages take too long for stimulated test exercises (SETs) and emergencies. The ARPSC needs to be brought up to speed on technology.

Query? What are other counties doing? Answer: Some are on the front in certain areas and behind in others, but Jim wants us to be at the front.

On 7-10 February 2017, there will be a MPSCS (Michigan Public Safety Communication System) Interoperability Training Conference in Traverse City, Michigan. This will include ARRL personal and State radio people.

A Review of Grant Money Approvals For Our ARPSC

2016 Grant Approval for \$1200, for purchase of UHF DMR repeater, replacement of two antennas, and feedlines for two remaining antennas.

2017 Grant Approval for \$10,000, for replacement of four antenna and feedlines.

2018 Grant Approval for \$9100, replacement of two antennas and feedline, purchase of two DMR transceivers for EOC, one 220 MHz transceiver, and \$1100 of this funding for a full scale SET.

Total grant funding for these years is \$31,600 and demonstrates an excellent level of approval and support.

A review of HSD (Homeland Security Department) Funded Projects

- 1 – Replacement of VHF controller and voter = \$4500
- 2 – Purchase of 6 Vertex EVX-5400 radios = \$4000
- 3 – Replace Addison site antenna = \$2400

Totals: ARPSC HSD funding = \$10,900; Grant approval money = \$31,600, making a grand total of \$42,500. This does not include monthly cookie/coffee/dinner meeting expenses. Both Kevin and Jim are actively looking into our needs out to five years. Our communication equipment now includes a replacement schedule. In the near future, we hope to have new DMR equipment and two antennas, but there will be a deadline when they must be installed. In addition, the tower behind out EOC has six feedlines with only four hooked up.

(IV). AEC-Management Team Reports:

(1). Report on Activities of Operations Coordinator – Pete Gladysz – K8PGJ from Jim Richards – AB8JR:

Pete is not here tonight, but is in Viet Nam. His contesting in the recent CQ World Wide places his group in 3rd place, so far.

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

There is new sign-up for net control training. W8OAK nets are held weekly on Thursday evening at 8 pm on 146.900 MHz/100 pl. With the complexity of emergency situations, additional net control operators are needed and Mike will help you get started. More net control operators become critical when an emergency goes on for 3 to 7 days. If interested, please contact or email Mike Vander Veer at kd8atk@wowway.com.

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

The following is recent amateur radio news:

- (1). 30 November 2016: FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith at the ARRL Pacific Division Convention stated despite FCC cutbacks, FCC radio enforcement will not be compromised and noted amateurs have “an incredible ability to self-police.”
- (2). 1 December 2016: The ARRL has issued a last call for members to write their US Senators to support the Amateur Radio Parity Act (H.R. 1301) when it comes up in the senate.” (from arrl.org/regulatory-advocacy)
- (3). 5 December 2016: The FCC has made a \$23,000 penalty against an individual from Astoria, New York for operating without an amateur radio license on 147.96 MHz and for transmitting a false officer-in-distress call on a NYC Police Department radio channel.
- (4). Last week or two: An Oakland County contractor was out to perform a survey of the Addison tower site. This, in part, is preparation to repair the ARPSC antenna with (1) hardline replacement, (2) an antenna bracket, (3) an antenna mount, (4) all required connections, and (5) mounting the antenna.

(V). Specialty Officer/Coordinator Reports:

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

This summer was the warmest on record at the Detroit Metro Airport. The first 19 days of November were above average temperatures and there was a record high of 73 degrees on 18 November 2016.

(VI). Other Topics:

(1). 27-28 January 2017 – Sno*Drift Rally. Barb Steencken states the rally will need a large number of ham radio volunteers; i.e. 75 volunteers. Volunteers can sign up for one or both days. More information and sign-up is at www.sno-drift.org.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Murphy, N8SML
Secretary, Oakland County, ARPSC, 8 December 2016