

# The Airscoop

K8PL

From the Editor:



Thank you to everyone who help with the painting and repair to the telegraph office. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.



It's amazing to think that Amateur Radio operators have had such a remarkable impact on the world thanks, in part, to the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN). The number of lives saved, families reunited, and vital information relayed by these volunteers is beyond measure. Time and again, SATERN serves as the only communications link to the outside world during a disaster.

Here is how it all began...and how it continues:

Before there was SATERN, there was SAROF—the Salvationist Amateur Radio Operators Fellowship founded by Major Carl J. Lindstrom (W9JSF) in the late 1950's for "strengthening those bonds of faith and common interest which link us together as Salvationists [enrolled Salvation Army church members] and amateur radio operators." Over time, an increasing number of non-Salvationist operators began participating in SAROF which eventually became the Salvation Army Radio Operator's Fellowship reflecting its expanded membership base.

As early as 1958 SAROF members were already providing essential Amateur Radio emergency communications in times of need. The War Cry reported:

"Last spring when a devastating tornado hit the Colfax area of Northern Wisconsin, Major [Carl] Lindstrom was instrumental in helping to organize communications for Salvation Army personnel operating in that area. In this effort more than 150 Wisconsin radio amateurs took part, handling health and welfare messages and relaying reports and instructions from the divisional office in Milwaukee."

SAROF was active until 2016 when it was discontinued.

In the late 1980's, a small international group of four SAROF members from the United States and Canada—Harold Gibson (VE3NKU), Ernie Reid (VE3BIX), Art Evans (KA9KLZ later N9KQ) and Captain Patrick E. McPherson (WW9E)—began discussing how they could provide emergency communications for The Salvation Army. These four were the nucleus of a new international emergency communications group—the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network or SATERN—which held its first Net session on Saturday, June 25, 1988. Three months later, SATERN began its mission in earnest, assisting with handling Health & Welfare messages after Hurricane Gilbert, still the second most powerful Atlantic Basin hurricane in history, devastated portions of the Caribbean and Central America. Recognizing its increasingly important role over the ensuing 30-plus years in responding to hurricanes in the United States, the Caribbean and Central America, SATERN officially partnered with the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) in 2021 to assist with incoming Health & Welfare messages and provide relays of incoming hurricane conditions and damage reports from the impacted areas.

In 1993 SATERN again demonstrated its ability to utilize new technological advancements by creating the first official SATERN website—SATERN.org—only two years after the very first website had been introduced in 1991. In 2022, SATERN.org was replaced by SATERNUSA.org.

Within its first ten years SATERN had more than proved its value and was recognized as an official part of the Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) program in the United States. Major, Pat McPherson (WW9E) was appointed as the first National SATERN Liaison—a position he held from then until his retirement from The Salvation Army in 2011. Major McPherson was posthumously awarded the prestigious Certificate In Recognition of Exceptional Service by National Headquarters for founding SATERN shortly after being Promoted to Glory and becoming a Silent Key on May 14, 2016.

Since the founding of SATERN, its volunteer operators have served both The Salvation Army and the public with vital communications in support of responders and survivors of significant national and international disasters by:

- Transmitting messages of health and wellbeing from survivors inside domestic and international disaster areas to their friends and families.
- Connecting concerned families with appropriate agencies to help locate their loved ones inside disaster areas.
- Relaying communications to assist Salvation Army incident command personnel with tactical and logistical coordination in support of their disaster services mission.

Disasters often result in high volumes of emergency communications. Occasionally the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has designated the SATERN frequency as temporarily restricted to emergency communications only as it did in 1998 during Hurricane Mitch.

In 2005, following Hurricanes Katrina's and Rita's landfalls on the Gulf Coast, SATERN was assigned an emergency call sign on a federal frequency. SATERN operators used all available modes of communication to save lives by directing emergency personnel to people trapped in houses and on rooftops. Over 61,000 missing person requests were received and 25,508 were located. National SATERN Liaison Major Pat McPherson (WW9E) commented, "It appeared the entire amateur radio population of the United States pitched in to assist, including 50 operators from the Texas National Guard."

Today, SATERN continues to respond to disasters employing both traditional Amateur Radio technology and increasingly sophisticated Amateur Radio and non-Amateur Radio technology to meet the needs of the moment. Operators train regularly, serving in vital roles relaying communication during first responder training exercises. This prepares disaster service providers for whatever man and mother nature can throw their way.

Internationally, SATERN has spread globally with operators registered from all over the world including Europe, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Canada, Bermuda, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Australia and New Zealand. Consequently, SATERN has been invited to talk at several international Amateur Radio gatherings including two Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC) Conferences and the 2016 IARU Region 2 (Americas) General Assembly held in Vina del Mar, Chile.

## Secretary's Report

### Minutes of the May 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2023

For the Delta County Amateur Radio Society  
Escanaba, Michigan

President N8DP, Dave Palmgren Vice-President NJ9V, Paul Cavallaro  
Treasurer & Newsletter N0OUR, Jim Harsh  
Secretary KD8SDE, Maureen Potvin

N8DP called the meeting to order at 7PM. The Secretary's Report had to corrections, so it was motioned it be accepted by N8UPR, seconded by KD8KKN, and carried.

The Treasurer's Report was read and motioned to be accepted by N8UPR, seconded by K8WLT and carried.

It was decided that FIELD DAY would be held this year at the Hamshack...utilizing the Ecom Trailer. KB8PLR will be taking the Ecom trailer to Newberry's Swap, as OK'd. WA8LE motioned he be reimbursed for gas. W9SGD seconded and the motion carried. KB8PLR noted the generator problem was an easy fix as it was only a leaky loose fitting.

In New Business, Joe Cilc will give us \$250 for narrow, thick nap rollers, 4" for the planned painting of the Shack's Exterior. It was noted it should take 2 days to accomplish. No date was set. We also must fix the area under the Tower as it has become deteriorated and moldy. N8UPR volunteered to remedy the problem. Thanks, Bob.

N8DP opened a discussion about our meeting at either of two local restaurants before the monthly Meetings. The idea was easily accepted. The time would be 2 hours before the Meeting, which is called to order at 7PM. The Drifters and the Family Inn were the choices, and it was noted that the restaurants must be notified of our intentions and number of participants...in advance. I think N8DP may send out an email with the information each month.

A discussion regarding Donations for our upcoming HAMFEST determined that as we were late in determining the Location for this year's event, our donations from many distant companies would be reduced. Next year we should know the location and date early so that KD8SDE could contact many in November, December, January. This year KD8SDE will soon contact DX Engineering and Walt will contact M3fJP and also Rapid River Knifeworks. The Club will also offer CASH Drawings in the amounts of \$25; \$25 and \$50. Ten Mile Creek Forge and Giftshop will also donate something. If any Hams from the Club know anyone in business they can ask for a donation, that would be great. Last year KD8SDE donated a Gift Card from KFC, but they didn't pay for it, she did. (Restaurant Certificates or Gift Cards are always a Welcome thing!) Ten Mile Creek also donated several FREE Knife Sharpening Certificates and a Framed poem noting the kindred spirits of Hams over the globe.

A motion to adjourn was submitted by WA8LE and seconded by KD8KKN. Carried.

Present: N8DP, KD8KKN, K2PM, K8WLT, KD8SDE, W9SGD, NJ9V, N8UPR, WA8LE, K9VFS.

## Treasurers Report

The Treasurer's report submitted to membership by Jim Harsh N0OUR.

## Website

I encourage you to check out our website [www.k8pl.org](http://www.k8pl.org) for updated information. You can also check out our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dcars.k8pl> for updates on current events. I will be working to develop a google chat account where people can post information and chat with other members.

## Coming Events

The DCARS Hamfest will be on August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Rapid River Legion Hall.

June 17, Hardwood Cup Road Rally

June 24<sup>th</sup> Field Day will be at UP State Fairgrounds Ham Shack. We will operate using the ECOMM trailer.