

# The Airscoop

K8PL

## From the Editor: VHF while on Vacation.

**O**n vacation, our main focus is to spend time with family and friends, and garner new experiences. This can make the focus on hamming secondary, but there are still simple, vacation-friendly ways to get on the air. Here's how to have a successful VHF operation on your vacation.

### Planning and Programming

The first thing I do is check what activity is available at the destination. Two-meter operation is usually the best bet — that and 70 centimeters are the two most populated VHF/UHF bands no matter where I go. *The ARRL Repeater Directory* is usually my go-to resource for this, along with a good local area map, because nearby towns may also have repeater activity. If I'm going to operate mobile while traveling to or from the destination, programming my transceivers ahead of time with repeaters that will be in range along the way can help me gain insights about worthwhile stops en route. If you do this, make sure operating doesn't distract you from safe driving and paying attention to navigation!

### Keep it Local

Since my focus is typically in and around our destination, I don't need HF equipment or antennas, or anything for VHF/UHF long-range work. The mobile setup I use while driving to and from work is all I need. At the destination, I can use either my mobile radios with a mag-mount antenna and power supply right in our motel room, or a handheld transceiver with a battery eliminator and small power supply, since most tourist towns are large enough to have a repeater within range of my handheld. This small setup helps keep the peace with my traveling companions, so they don't feel like ham radio is taking over their vacation. To complete my vacation station, I take along

a small notepad, vacation logbook, and a scanner for listening to non-ham radio traffic in the area. I've often gotten a chuckle from shenanigans indulged in by a hotel's housekeeping staff, come across golf course traffic, and so forth!

### Vacation QSLs

Even though exchanging QSL cards is not typical in VHF/UHF operation, I do it anyway, for two reasons: as a thank you to locals for their advice on where to visit, and if I get a card in return, it's a unique addition to a vacation scrapbook. Sending a QSL card also provides a perk for the station I talked with, because they get to show off a QSL card from an out-of-state operator who talked to them on their local repeater. You can even customize a QSL card for your vacation, with a photo of your vacation setup, your operating location, or something unique you did on your vacation.

### Small Station, Big Fun

A vacation involving ham radio does not need to be a burden on the operator or their travelling companions. You need only a small amount of radio gear in order to have fun operating! A small station also ensures fewer chances of complaints from housekeeping or motel management, and is easier to secure when you're not in your room. The ability to operate on vacation has not only provided travel tips from locals, but has also given me the opportunity to get invited to local club meetings and make friends all over the country.

*Klaus Spies', WB9YBM, radio interests began in the early 1970s as a shortwave listener, including scanning, CB, and commercial operations. He received his ham license in 1975. He has been an author since 1988, with more than 65 articles published.*



## Secretary's Report

### Minutes of the June 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 Meeting 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

The Meeting was opened at 7PM by N8DP. The Secretary's Report was reviewed and and a motion to accept was entered by KD8TTQ , 2nd'd by N8UPR and carried.

The Treasurer's Report was read and discussed. A motion to accept was entered by K8WLT, 2nd'd by N8UPR and carried.

There was no Field Day report as there was no interest in running a station this year.

N8DP called for a HamFest report, but Al, W8FYZ was not present. Nobody was assigned to handle Table Rentals this year. The subject of obtaining any checks necessary for the Fest was brought up, as Jim wouldn't be able to attend the event. N8DP asked for 4 checks, signed, and he will manage them. Last year, we had signed up 25 tables by now, but there were some cancellations. As it became apparent we had no Contact, N8DP volunteered to handle that task. KD8SDE volunteered to contact Aileen, WA8DHB, with the details. HARA may not be there for a meeting room. Mark volunteered to show and tell in the ECOM trailer. Webster Electronics usually takes 5 tables, but as of yet, we have not heard from them. Perhaps somebody should contact them. W8FYZ has said he will handle the food. KD8SDE will be in the kitchen again, serving and greeting. One of Al's daughters will handle the money. KD8SDE will bring 4 boxes of donuts and hopefully, with a small discount for the club.

The Firecracker 5K Run, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, was discussed. Volunteers so far are N8UPR,

KD8KKN, NJ9V, K8WLT, N8XAH, & KD8TTQ. We still need 3 more!

It was noted that we need a different Repeater for the Ski Hill location. There is one available, so a motion to investigate and possibly buy it was entertained. It was agreed that no more than \$600.00 could be paid for it. N8UPR motioned to accept, NJ9V 2nd'd and it carried. NOTE: There are 3 VHF Repeaters in the Shack Storage. Discussion suggested we keep the best and sell the others at HamFest.

A MOTION TO ADJOURN BY N8UPR, 2ND'D BY NJ9V and CARRIED.

Present: N8DP, KD8TTQ, NJ9V, WW0J, N8UPR, 99JNV, N8XAH, K8WLT, K2PM  
KD8SDE, KD8KKN, WA8LE, N8ZHC.

Respectfully submitted by KD8SDE, Maureen, Secretary. 73.

J

ReplyForward

### 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.

Dave Palmgren will be net control for a digital net on Wednesdays at 7pm If you have a C4FM radio please tune to this net.