**The Salvation Army**

**S.A.T.E.R.N.**

**KANSAS & WESTERN MISSOURI DIVISION**

**APRIL 2016**

**K0ECS Johnson County Kansas, Emergency Services Meeting**

Primary duties of ECS include storm spotting and communications for other Johnson County functions. All ECS members must meet certain qualifications and be re-certified every two years. Many SATERN members are active participants.
Johnson County, KS Emergency Communications leadership include Rita Hoffman KD0TJR Secretary (Left); John Bauerly NW0I President (Center) and SATERN member Herb Fiddick NZ0F Training Officer (Right). The picture was taken during the annual meeting at the Johnson County Administration Building, Saturday March 12th. Storm Spotter veterans and new volunteers (numbering over 60 attending) each gave over seven hours to the combined annual meeting and training activity.
Storm Spotter volunteers divided into four meeting rooms (corresponding to the Sector of Johnson County, Kansas where they live) to simulate an activation. The training stresses to report “only what you see.” Andy Bailey, Meteorologist, of The National Weather Service, provided previous training that was strongly re-enforced by these intensive drills. Mutual understanding and comradery are additional benefits of these sessions. John Bauerly (Far right) led this group.
ARES/SATERN members participated in the annual Search and Rescue Nighttime Drill on Monday, March 14th, 2016.

Nighttime Drill location (Above)
SATERN member Bill Gery KA2FNK contemplates preparations for nighttime drill.

SATERN member Del Sawyer K0DDS, who is also a CERT Leader developed and made available the radio equipped trailer.
SATERN members Brian Pintenich KD0BNQ (Left); Tony Johnson KD0KLD (Center); and Jim Andera K0NK (Right) finalize drill details before nightfall. The CERT trailer is a well-equipped vehicle for an on-the-scene such as search and rescue.

ARES/SATERN volunteers stand ready in the long shadows of nightfall.
Young search volunteers flank SATERN member / ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) Brian Short KC0BS (Center). ARES/SATERN is developing for present and future community service.

SATERN member Charissa Dunham KB4BML performs double-duty with her grandchild in tow. Yes, family is always first for ARES/SATERN members.
Ham 101 Class in Smithville, Missouri

I had a chance to attend a Ham 101 Class put on by Dennis Carpenter KA0KXY – at the fire station in Smithville, Missouri on Saturday, March 19th. SATERN member Herb Fiddick NZ0F gave his excellent presentation for new hams. Judging from the good questions from the audience Herb cut through the “fog” of getting started in the hobby.

Several others gave presentations, police and fire from Kansas City Northland, Associated Radio, Bridgecom, and some others. I made a brief presentation about SATERN and gave out all the prospective “New” member brochures I had.

There were 61 new hams in attendance which bodes well for the hobby. Four new hams were tested for amateur radio licenses and passed that morning.

I came away thinking that we need to put together a PowerPoint presentation that we can take to this type of event. While the impressions were fresh in my mind, I started an outline for the presentation and would be happy to hear suggestions for what we might include. Email them to me at james_jalex@yahoo.com.

73

Jim Alexander

K10CT
In light of the impending severe weather season, likely just days or weeks away, storm spotter seminars have begun to be made available to the general public. While we in SATERN do not generally become storm-spotters, as such, we use the information gained in the seminars to protect us while we are deployed as well as when traveling to and from a disaster site. The information provided is updated annually and is invaluable, timely, and potentially lifesaving.

The first group of District 5 SATERN volunteers to attend these seminars, during March 2016 are:

Luke Bugler (K0LTB), Larry Grimes (AB0RC), Lynn Grimes (KG0WQ), Chuck Loper III (KC0UYR), and JB Scott (KD0CSL)
Advice from storm volunteer: Be prepared featuring SATERN friend Rita Hoffman

By Gerald Hay

Rita Hoffman has weathered many a storm in Kansas during her lifetime. For 37 years, she has been involved, both with a career and now in retirement, in emergency management and communications during severe weather activities. She offers a single word of advice to Johnson County residents at this time of year: Preparedness.

“We want to get as many people prepared for this (severe weather) before it happens,” she said.

As part of the local emergency management team, she serves as an Emergency Communications Service (ECS) net control operator at the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center in downtown Olathe. The assignment is part of a vast communications network that’s activated during severe weather or other emergencies.

The goal of the network is basically twofold:
- Directing weather spotters where to respond and what to expect.
- Connecting information/situations from the field to the emergency management team in providing ground truth and timely responses.

Communications are a key element in a weather emergency in getting the right information to all levels of emergency management, public safety personnel, the National Weather Service, news media and the general public. The system also coordinates resources and personnel to provide added communications as directed by Emergency Management.

The process also helps to alert weather spotters and first responders in the field of possible danger, as needed.

“They may be in harm’s way and not know it. We want them to be safe, too,” she said.

On a few occasions, Hoffman has been a weather spotter, but never a weather chaser. Weather spotters do not chase storms. They usually stay put during severe weather at one of 30 designated locations in Johnson County for spotters to observe severe weather as it occurs.

“It’s fun to go out and see what develops,” she said.

For the most part, she has missed the wrath of nature in her personal life, but came close as a college student when a tornado struck her hometown of Garden City. The windows in her home were blown out along with other damage that the twister caused to her neighborhood.

“It was so cold afterward,” she said.

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Storm volunteer: Be prepared

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After college, she began a career in public safety, wearing many hats along the way. She worked in law enforcement at police departments in Salina and Roeland Park. She was a fire department dispatcher at the county’s Emergency Communications Center in Mission.

She left County Emergency Management in 2001 to become the emergency manager for the city of Olathe. Hoffman was named Kansas Emergency Management Professional of the Year in 2003 by the Kansas Emergency Management Association. She retired in 2010.

Since her retirement, Hoffman has been a volunteer in the Johnson County ECS, a local amateur ham radio organization, to assist Emergency Management and the National Weather Service in emergency communications and storm spotting, as needed.

The volunteers are trained on what to do. They must undergo classes on weather conditions and emergency procedures, must pass recertification training every two years, and participate in an annual mock exercise to test their skills.

Severe weather season begins in March (Severe Weather Awareness Week in Kansas, including Johnson County, will occur March 14-18) and continues, for the most part, through the end of autumn. The risks include heavy rain, strong winds, large hail, flooding, and tornado activity.

Hoffman, along with other net control operators, weather spotters, and emergency personnel, plans to do her part to ensure community safety when the wrath of Mother Nature occurs.

Citizens also should become proactive as well by having emergency plans in place and emergency kits on hand to take care of themselves and their families for at least 72 hours.

“We want to get people ready and recognize what to do,” she said. “They need to be prepared.”


SATERN Meeting Information:

➢ ARES/SATERN meeting April 11\textsuperscript{th} 7pm @ The Salvation Army Corps, Olathe, Kansas
➢ SATERN meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month, in the City Command building, at 6:30 PM local time. The address is 350 N. Market, Wichita, Kansas 67202
➢ WYANDOTTE COUNTY SATERN MEETING - held on the third Thursday of the month at the Harbor Light Village Salvation Army Corps, 6721 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in conjunction with the Jayhawk Amateur Radio Society.

Public Service Events to Support

Here are some public service events I thought you might want to advertise in the SATERN Newsletter. The SATERN Communications Vehicle will be at each event. SATERN members are involved in each event as contacts. Further, these are great opportunities for SATERN members to gain training, skills and experience.

Rich Britain N0ENO, Coordinator.
**Ararat Hambash at Kansas City, MO**  
*(Saturday, April 16, 2016)*

The SATERN Communications Vehicle will be on static display along with other emergency communications vehicles at the Ararat Shrine Hambash. The Ararat Shrine kindly offers SATERN the use of a repeater at no cost to The Salvation Army for our weekly nets. Let’s all support the Ararat Shrine at this event. If you can help staff the vehicle, please contact:

Rich Britain  
NØENO  
ksmosatern@gmail.com

**Wheels to Westin Tour de Cure at Platte County, MO (Sunday, June 5, 2016)**

The Wheels to Westin Tour de Cure is a bicycling event sponsored by the American Diabetes Association. This fundraiser for the charity provides much needed funding for research with the goal of finding a cure for diabetes. The Wheels to Westin Tour de Cure is held between Parkville and Westin, MO along winding and hilly roadways. Bicyclists may take a route of 11, 25, 45 or 63 miles during the event. Amateur radio operators, to include SATERN members, will provide communications support for the Tour de Cure monitoring the riders and road conditions to ensure rider safety. Amateur radio operators will be stationed along the routes. The SATERN Communications Vehicle is scheduled to be a communications support platform for this event. This is a great opportunity to obtain training on an operation that is in many ways similar to the type of communications that would occur during a deployment to a disaster scene. It will also give SATERN members the opportunity to practice with the equipment on the communications vehicle equipment.

**Contact:**  
Steve Lester KDØEKS  
Direct: 913-390-3570  
Email: stevekd0eks@gmail.com
Sunflowers to Roses at Johnson County, KS

(August 7, 2016)

This bicycling event raises funds that benefit various objectives, all related to fighting cancer and to helping those with cancer. Amateur radio operators, to include SATERN members, will be supporting this event by providing communications. The SATERN Communications Vehicle is scheduled to be a part of this operation. Again, this is a great opportunity to train with your fellow SATERN members and with the SATERN Communications Vehicle.

Contact: Steve Lester KDØEKS
Direct: 913-390-3570
Email: stevekd0eks@gmail.com
Summer Breeze in Jackson and Cass Counties in MO (Sunday, August 28, 2016)

This is a bicycling public service event scheduled to be held on Sunday, August 28, 2016 which begins and ends at the Longview Recreation Center in Lee’s Summit, MO. This bicycle tour is along the rolling back roads of southern Jackson County and Cass County, MO. There are three routes available to bicycle riders - 45, 70 and 100 miles. Amateur radio volunteers, including SATERN members, will be stationed along the routes. The amateur radio operators are there to provide communications assistance in the event of possible falls or other accidents. Amateur radio operators would have a significant public safety function at this event. This is a great opportunity to work with fellow amateur radio operators and the SATERN Communications Vehicle in a public service environment.

Contact:  Steve Lester KDØEKS
Direct: 913-390-3570
Email: stevekd0eks@gmail.com

The Salvation Army EDS & SATERN Southern Territory Website…

See for the latest in news. Courtesy of Bill.Feist@uss.salvationarmy.org and http://Disaster.SalvationArmyUSA.org/

Another interesting site that includes our SATERN Newsletter…
http://ksarrl.org and http://ksarrl.org/kar
Hey Salvation Army Volunteers,

In a little over a week from now on Saturday April 2nd, we are going do our 3rd annual Community Clean Up. If you are willing and able to help pick up trash, and or know of some folks that can help, come on down. Here is the schedule.

3rd Annual Community Clean Up
Saturday April 2nd, 2016
1110 E. Truman Rd., Kansas City, MO 64106 (Parking lot next to our building)

8am – Registration and Breakfast - Biscuits & Gravy, Coffee and Donuts
9am – Drive to assigned area
11:30 – Finish Up
Noon – Lunch back at our parking lot

Sincerely,

Steve Leiker
Metro KC EDS Coordinator
The Salvation Army
1110 E. Truman Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64106
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