



The Salvation Army

Emergency Disaster Services

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network



31 May 2018

National Disaster Specialist Flo Knox (KB3YAT) Honored By National VOAD

Providence, RI (05/09/2018) – National Disaster Specialist Flo Knox (KB3YAT) was honored by National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) with the National VOAD Spirit Award. The award was presented to Knox during the Awards Dinner during the National VOAD Conference in Providence, RI, on 09 May.



(From L-R) Gregory R. Forrester – President & CEO, Flo Walker-Knox KB3YAT, April Wood – American Red Cross, and Zach Wolgemuth, United Church of Christ

The award was presented to Knox by former National VOAD Board Chair April Wood of the American Red Cross. Wood said, “The Spirit Award recognizes an individual that embodies and exhibits an outstanding commitment to service and the spirit of National VOAD and the VOAD movement.”

“When we speak of someone living the spirit of VOAD, some other words come to mind – passion, enthusiasm, commitment, dedication, and professionalism. And when we speak of Flo Walker Knox, those same words come to mind.”

“Flo approaches her work with a dedication and compassion that is difficult to match. Whether she is helping you coordinate relief efforts, or bringing you a batch of cookies after a long day in the NRCC, Flo is remarkably steady and willing to help. In her role at the Salvation Army, Flo has worked closely with National and State members to improve communication and coordination throughout the disaster cycle.”

SATERN congratulates The Salvation Army’s National Disaster Specialist and SATERN member Flo Knox (KB3YAT) for her achievements in The Salvation Army and National VOAD.

National SATERN Liaison Presents Several Times At 2018 Hamvention

Xenia, oh (05/19/2018) – National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH) presented several times at the 2018 Hamvention in Xenia, OH. The primary presentation was about the SATERN response to the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season.



National Disaster Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH) presenting a forum about the SATERN response to the 2017 Hurricane Season to a full audience at the 2018 Hamvention.

Entitled, “*It Really CAN All Fail!*” the 75 minute talk covered SATERN’s response to the historic 2017 Hurricane Season. As part of the talk, Feist discussed how and why the power and communication infrastructure in Puerto Rico failed. Feist also showed why a similar failure, although less likely, was still possible in the continental United States and the lessons learned from the 2017 Hurricane Season that could be applied now.

Feist gave this same talk to an attentive audience during The Salvation Army National Community Relations Development and Emergency Disaster Services Conference in Indianapolis, IN on 02 May 2018 as well.

During the talk, Feist said that SATERN was on-the-air for a total of 32 days for five different events (the Great American Eclipse and Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate) from 21 August through 20 October 2018 including 22 straight days of operation for Hurricane Maria. This was the longest period of activation for SATERN since it was founded 30 years ago.

The SATERN Nets were supported by over 700 radio operators who gave thousands of volunteer hours of service from 40 states and 8 countries. Well over 300 messages were handled by SATERN during that time. = **Continued on Next Page** =

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Feist's research showed that, in comparison to much of the Caribbean, the continental United States was and continues to be much better prepared for many kinds of disasters that impact our infrastructure.

This is the result of many factors including better access to financial, business, equipment and personnel resources and pre-planning and preparation for such disasters. But it is also greatly influenced by the isolation and difficulties in providing logistical support to the Caribbean due to their being on islands far removed from other support and accessible only by sea or air.

For example, power companies spent billions of dollars improving Florida's power grid over several years prior to Hurricane Irma. And although Irma left many in southern Florida without power, the power companies were able to bring in 28,000 technicians from 30 states and had restored power to 4.4 million people in just ten days.

However, in the face of a 100% collapse of the power grid, Puerto Rico was only able to restore power to 45,000 people in twice that time and eight months later there are still people without power. Part of this has been found to be poor pre-storm installation and maintenance of the system and the poor financial status of the Puerto Rico Electrical Power Authority (PREPA). But much of it was also the result of the tremendous difficulties encountered in getting the large amount of equipment and personal resources and supplies into Puerto Rico through its one seaport and one airport, both of which had also been damaged by Hurricane Maria.

These same kinds of challenges also accounted for many of the differences between the continental U.S. and the Caribbean in regards to their communications infrastructures. In the continental U.S., the communications infrastructure was relatively resilient and the overall pattern of disruption light although some local areas did experience serious disruptions. But even those disruptions were generally short. In Puerto Rico, however, there was a 98% disruption of the communications infrastructure that took six to eight months to restore.

Feist was also part of a Public Service Panel Forum moderated by the ARRL on Saturday, 19 May. Other members of the panel included Rob Macedo (KD1CY) – VoIP Weather/Hurricane Net, Paul English (WD8DBY) – U.S. Army MARS Program Manager, David Stapchuk (KD9DXM) - U.S. Air Force MARS Program Manager, Ross Merlin (WA2WDT) – Department of Homeland Security SHARED RESOURCES (SHARES), Ted Oakada (K4HNL) – FEMA Chief Technology Officer and Malcolm Kyser (KG4G) – Civil Air Patrol Chief of Communications.

Each panelist spent a few minutes talking about their agency and the emergency communications resources it provides. Those involved in responding to the 2017 Hurricane Season spoke about that role as well. The remainder of forum time was spent

answering questions from the audience. Afterwards, all of the panelists agreed that audience attendance, energy and questions were the best they had experienced in recent years.

On Saturday afternoon, Feist gave a 20 minute Rapid Fire talk at the ARRL Stage on SATERN's Strategic Plan and the importance of strategic planning for other groups and organizations in Amateur Radio in the 21st Century.



National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH) giving a Rapid Fire Talk about the SATERN Strategic Plan at the ARRL Stage at the Hamvention.

This year's SATERN booth was very different. For the first time, a double-size booth was reserved. Half of the booth was a traditional display booth with pamphlets, banners and a computerized convention display. The other half of the booth provided a large hospitality area with chairs, snacks, coffee and water so that visitors could sit, rest and talk.

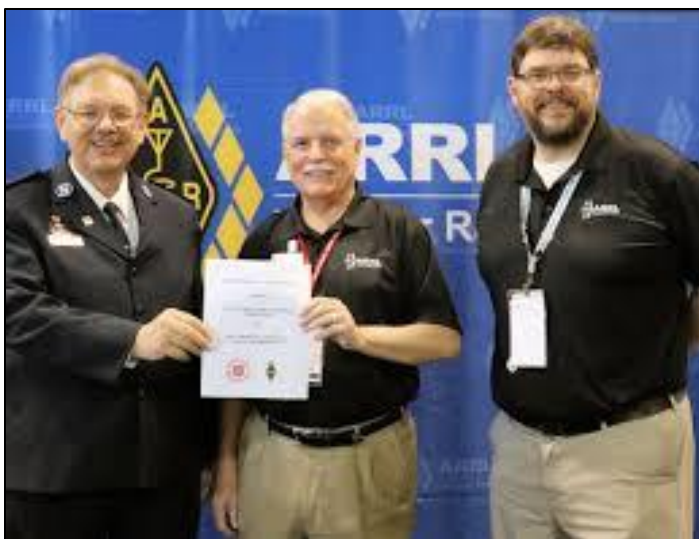


The 2018 Hamvention SATERN Booth with its display area (foreground) and Hospitality Area (background) became a popular spot people to stop and rest.

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The Salvation Army and ARRL Sign MOU At Hamvention

Xenia, OH (05/18/2018) – Continuing a partnership that has existed since at least 1996, The Salvation Army and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) renewed their commitment to work together during disasters with the signing of a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at this year's Hamvention.



National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH), ARRL Board President Rick Roderick (K5UR) and ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey (KI1U) show the newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The Salvation Army and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH) and ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey (KI1U) worked for over a year to complete the MOU and move it through their respective organizations for approval. The MOU was finalized when ARRL Board President Rick Roderick (K5UR) signed the document at the Hamvention on Friday, 18 May 2018.

The MOU defines how The Salvation Army / SATERN and the ARRL will work together in disaster and emergency response. Corey said, "It opens the possibility for sharing of resources. That's always important: we saw that last fall." In August 2017 SATERN supported the efforts of the ARRL during the Great American Eclipse and with its deployment of 22 operators to Puerto Rico in support of the American Red Cross. The ARRL supported SATERN with additional Net Control Operators and by using WIAW on the International SATERN SSB Net to handle incoming messages from Puerto Rico.

"Partnerships like these are essential to the continued growth and strength of amateur radio's response to disasters." Feist said.

SATERN Participates in Joint Presentation At National VOAD

Providence, RI (05/09/2018) - The ARRL, American Red Cross and SATERN conducted a joint presentation about their work together to support of Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. The presenters included ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey (KI1U), American Red Cross Community Mobilization and Partnerships Director Jacqueline Yannacci and National SATERN Liaison Bill Feist (WB8BZH).

Oddly enough, planning for this joint response actually began with the three organizations' response to The Great American Eclipse on 21 August 2018. During that event an estimated 3.5 to 7 million people were expected to flood into a narrow 75 mile wide path across the nation to see the first total solar eclipse to cross the entire U.S. in nearly 100 years.

As a result, there was a potential for cellular and other communications networks to become overwhelmed. The American Red Cross approached the ARRL to put their ARES Teams in those areas on standby in the event that the American Red Cross had to respond to a disaster somewhere in that path at a time when communications failed. The ARRL, in turn, asked SATERN to activate its International SATERN SSB Net for that day to support them in the event nationwide coverage was needed. Although no disasters or communications disruptions occurred, the partnership proved to be a critical practice exercise for what was coming just a month later.

On 20 September Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico and totally devastated its power and communications infrastructure. Two days later the American Red Cross contacted the ARRL and requested amateur radio support of their shelters in Puerto Rico. The ARRL asked SATERN if ARRL operators could check into the already operational International SATERN SSB Net in the event that they needed HF voice support into the continental U.S. SATERN gladly agreed to this and by 28 September amateur radio volunteers had been deployed to Puerto Rico.

Each of the three presenters talked about their organization's part in the operation and the lessons learned from it. All three organizations agreed that the joint operation demonstrated the need for continued partnership activities whenever possible. They also agreed that it demonstrated the need to be better prepared for such operations in the future with pre-vetted teams of operators and an equipment cache that allowed for maximum mode and operational flexibility.

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SATERN To Celebrate 30th Anniversary With SATERN Net Rally

National HQ – Alexandria, VA (05/01/2018) - On Sunday, 26 June 1988, Major Patrick E. McPherson (WW9E-SK) conducted the very first SATERN Net with four check-ins including Art Evans (N9KQ) and two Canadian Salvationists. In the ensuing 30 years, SATERN grew from those four operators to over 4,200 worldwide and served in such major disasters as Hurricane Gilbert (1988 – just two months after their first Net), the Mississippi River Flood (1993), the Red River Valley / Grand Forks Flood (1997), The Izmit, Turkey, earthquake (1999), and Hurricanes Mitch (1998), Fabian (2003), Charlie, Francis, Ivan and Jeanne (2004), Katrina, Rita and Wilma (2005), Gustav and Ike (2008) and Isaac (2012). SATERN also became active in many local disasters such as the Plainfield (IL) tornado (1990), the southern Minnesota tornadoes (1998), and numerous others.



To celebrate thirty (30) years of operation, SATERN will be conducting a SATERN Net Rally from Monday, 25 June through Sunday 08 July 2018. The objective of the SATERN Net Rally is to inform the Amateur Radio community about SATERN including what SATERN is and what SATERN does, its recent activities

and what frequencies SATERN can be found on and to encourage SATERN net participation, increase SATERN volunteerism and, as always, to have fun with our shared hobby.

All licensed Amateur Radio operators are welcome to participate. They do NOT have to be SATERN volunteer or a member of The Salvation Army.

All licensed Amateur Radio operators who check-in to any of the registered participating SATERN Nets will receive a SATERN QSL Card. Cards will be sent to the addresses found on www.QRZ.com. Only one (1) card per Call-Sign will be sent.

Operators checking-in to any SATERN Net registered for the SATERN Net Rally will be asked to provide their call sign, their name, and their location. They may also be given an opportunity to make a brief comment. Net times and frequencies can be found on SATERN.org.

WinLINK can be used for check-ins only to the International SATERN SSB Net (M-Sat., 14.265 MHz) and the International SATERN Digital Net (Sat. 14.065 MHz). Check-ins must be transmitted via HF only on the Net day no more than one hour prior to the Net's operating time.

The WinLink email should be sent to WB5ALM@Outlook.com. The Subject line should be: SATERN 30th Anniversary Check-In. In the email's Text the operator should include operator's call sign and mailing address for the QSL card to be sent to.



The QSL cards will be from WW9E, the official Salvation Army USA National Headquarters station. WW9E was the long-time call sign for Major Patrick E. McPherson, the Founder of SATERN who became a Silent Key in May 2016. His family has graciously allowed Maj. Pat's call sign to be assigned by the FCC to The Salvation Army USA National Headquarters.

Those checking into eight (8) or more nets will receive a SATERN certificate via e-mail. The top 5 check-ins with the most confirmed log-ins will get an honorable mention on www.SATERN.org, in SATERN's weekly Newsletter and will be announced on the International SATERN SSB Net on Monday 23, July and on Saturday, 28 July.

NET REGISTRATION:

Any HF, VHF or UHF SATERN Net may register to be a part of the 30th Anniversary SATERN Net Rally. To register, the Net Manager should contact the National SATERN Committee at WB5ALM@Outlook.net. Nets must be registered by no later than Friday, 15 June 2018.

Registration implies that the Net Manager agrees to (1) regularly promote the 30th Anniversary SATERN Net Rally on their Nets and (2) e-mail their logs to the National SATERN Committee at WB5ALM@Outlook.net, by no later than Saturday, 14 July. Net Logs from SATERN Nets that have not previously registered will NOT be accepted.

Logs MUST be in electronic form (Excel Spreadsheet, CSV file, or plain text with delimiter). Logs must include Net date, Net start time, and Net frequency as well as a list of all check-ins by call-signs. Operator check-in time, operator name, signal reports, or their state are acceptable BUT NOT REQUIRED.

Hand-written Logs will NOT be accepted!

Net Control Operators should ensure that the call-signs supplied are valid or SATERN will be unable to send out a QSL card.

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