



Press Release

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AGENCY: CARVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF: JASON KAMERUD 602TsF
CLASSIFICATION: DONATION RECIPIENT
LOCATION: CARVER COUNTY
TELEPHONE: 952-361-1212

Carver County Sheriff Jason Kamerud is pleased to announce his acceptance of a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) donation to the Carver County Sheriff's Office. Search and rescue operations require prompt responses. Hours or even minutes can make a huge difference in saving a life. Recent generous donations from Kwik Trip and the Shakopee Mdewakenton Sioux Community (SMSC) have provided the Carver County Sheriff's Office Dive Team with a new tool for just this purpose.

A Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) was purchased 6 months ago. The company that built the ROV and sonar is [Blue Robotics](#) based in Los Angeles CA, with auxiliary operations in Wayzata, MN. The ROV was custom configured by [Blue-Linked](#). Blue-Linked put the SARbot (Search and Rescue) configuration together and adapted it for the surface-supplied power (made by [Poseidon Robotics, LLC](#)). The surface-supplied power is necessary instead of standard batteries because of the large power drain with the many ROV tools such as 360 Sonar, ROVL (Underwater GPS), Down Sonar, Camera, and Gripper.

The ROV has already found good use in Carver County search and rescue efforts. It was recently used during the search of a drowning victim and a downed plane. Sergeant Ben Beyer of the Carver County Sheriff's Office is grateful for the partnership with Kwik Trip and the SMSC which made the ROV a reality.

Stephen Kerkvliet, a member of the Carver County dive team, has been instrumental in obtaining this piece of equipment and working on the programming/configuration. Stephen has spent many hours on the ROV project and was presented with a challenge coin for all of the volunteer hours he contributed.

For their part, both Kwik Trip and SMSC are equally pleased. Justin Pope of Kwik Trip added, "We are so excited to continue to partner with the Carver County Sheriff's Office, and to try and help in any way we can. The Sheriff's Office does so much for our communities. The hard work, dedication and passion in which they do their jobs is amazing! We are happy we get to play a small part. On behalf of Kwik Trip, we would like to say, Thank You for making a difference each and every day!"

"Collaboration and partnerships help build stronger, safer regions," said SMSC Chairman Keither Anderson. "We are hopeful that our donation will help the Carver County Sheriff's Office in its life-saving work."

If you need assistance from police, fire or medical personnel call 9-1-1. Anyone with information related to an incident or crime is asked to contact the Carver County Sheriff's Office at 952-361-1212. After hours, call 952-361-1231.

To remain anonymous, you may leave a message on the tip line: 952-361-1224. You may also use the tip form on the Sheriff's Office website at: <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/county-sheriff/crime-prevention/crime-tips>

About Blue Robotics

Blue Robotics began by attempting to send a solar powered robotic boat from Los Angeles to Hawaii. While researching project components, the thruster was the limiting component, which needed to resist saltwater, operate continuously, and be efficient for months on end. A newly designed thruster (T100) was affordable, reliable, and more capable than anything on the market to enable ocean exploration. Launched in a 2014 Kickstarter campaign, T100 has become more popular than ever imagined!

About Kwik Trip

Kwik Trip is a family-owned company that serves customers with more than 700 convenient, clean retail locations. The stores are stocked through daily deliveries from the chain's home base in La Crosse, Wisconsin. More than 80% of the products featured in the stores are supplied through its own commissary, bakery, dairy and distribution center. Today, the company has grown to over 28,000 co-workers and is consistently ranked as a Top Workplace in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa.

About Shakopee Mdewakenton Sioux Community (SMSC)

The SMSC is a federally recognized sovereign Native American tribe located in Scott County, Minnesota. SMSC is dedicated to serving members, giving to tribes and organizations across the country, creating strong partnerships, and protecting the earth's resources. The SMSC is working to ensure a healthy community, environment, and economy for generations to come.



Pictured above is the SARbot ROV.

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