

# K.C.R.A. NEWSLETTER

Vol. 23 No. 2 April 13, 2016

**KEWEENAW COUNTY REPEATER ASSOCIATION, Inc.  
K8MDH/Rpt 147.315 MHz PL 100.0 Hz  
Upper Michigan Northernmost VHF-Voice Repeater**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Gary Hansen, K8YSZ called the meeting to order at 7 pm EDT.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Showed the following officers present:

President: Gary, (K8YSZ)  
Vice President: Bill, KD8JAM  
Secretary: George, W8FWG  
Treasurer: Bill, KD8JAM

**TECHNICAL/ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

The following T/A Members were present:  
Gary, K8YSZ (Chairman)  
Bill, KD8JAM (Member)

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

George-W8FWG, Gary-K8YSZ, Bill-KD8JAM, Randy-KE8DCK, Raili McClellan-Guest, Gary-K8YSZ, Keith-KE8CPN, Logan-KD8VRB, Don-W8PSP, Peter-N8PJL, Ben-KE8DUN, Charlie-KE8DUK, Bruce-KE8DCJ, Erik Lee-Guest, Matt-KD8OOS, Kory-KE8AVN, Todd-KD8LNM, Jon-AB8WU.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW HAMS:** From the April 2, 2016 V.E. Testing we have Ben Jackson-(KE8DUN).....Charlie Jackson-(KE8DUK).....Diane Taylor (now Diane Jackson - (KE8DUO).....Bruce Jackson-(KE8DCJ) {he upgraded to EXTRA!} Congratulations Bruce!.....Jason-(KE8DUL).....Joseph-(KE8DUP).....Mariah-(KE8DUQ).....Cole-(KE8DUR).....Chester-(KE8DUS).....Carl-(KD9FWX).....Emily-(KE0IOX).....This test session was the second largest in the history of V.E. Testing in the Copper Country. In 1984 we had 27 at M-T-U.

**THREE MORE NEW MEMBERS:** We welcome Erik, Jasper and Dawn Lee to the membership rolls of the KCRA. We are happy to have all of you as new members and hope you will take an active part in the radio club.

**CHANGES:** The duplexers for the Yaesu DX-1 were donated by Bill, KD8JAM (A \$100.00 value)  
Thank you very much Bill!

**ENGINEER'S**

**REPORT:**

The repeater is up and the noise problem is still with us. The noise we heard in the summer months, along with high winds is absent now in the winter. Both, the 147.315 MHz and the 443.150 MHz repeaters are working satisfactorily.

**. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Bill, KD8JAM reported that our Treasury is sound, with a balance of: \$1,262.58. March 31, 2016. We bought two BAOFENG HT's for the Swap in Chassell.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Handouts were given showing how to use the autopatch on our 147.315 MHz repeater. Test of our autopatch is done monthly by George, W8FWG and it was done on April 12, 2016 and a talking test was made to Gary, K8YSZ.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Bill, KD8JAM is looking for a wiring harness for the repeater.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Our KCRA will be taking part in a Special Event with the call sign of W8K, and it will take place at the Quincy Hoist (Per W8PSP) on August 13, 2016.

**FIELD DAY-2016:** Participants of both the KCRA and the CCRAA will attend, and the location chosen again this year, will be at the Houghton County Historical Society (yard) on Hwy M-26 just out of the Village of Lake Linden. We hope to have a good showing.

**FALL/WINTER INSPECTIONS OF OUR TWO REPEATERS:** Will be held in the fall of this year.  
**ARRL CONTACTED SHOWING THE STATUS OF OUR REPEATERS?** No, but it was thought since we sent our paperwork with K8NB, (Frequency Coordinator for the U.P.) that he would have forwarded the information to the ARRL, so the repeaters would show up in the ARRL Repeater Directory at the next printing.

**CHANGES TO OUR TWO REPEATERS?** Yes, when time permits.

**CONTROL OPERATORS REVIEW:** George, W8FWG suggested that anyone who is a control operator for the legal operation of our repeaters be familiar with the control codes for doing such. He has provided all control operators with a guide. If you are a control operator, and don't have your copy or would like an update, contact George, W8FWG at: [w8fwg@arrl.net](mailto:w8fwg@arrl.net).

**WHAT IS THE STATUS OF OUR CLUB'S INSURANCE?:** We are paid up through July. After that date we will be taking our insurance with the ARRL and the company called Mercer Insurance." It's a better dealer (Cheaper too!)

**NEW FRIDAY NIGHT NCS:** Effective April 22, 2016 we have Bruce, KE8DCJ as an NCS on the Friday night ARES Net and the SKYWARN Net. Thanks from all of us Bruce, with four of us as Net Control Stations we have to serve only once a month, and that makes it much easier than just a couple of people manning the NCS spot. Thank you Bruce.

**THE ALL NEW U.P. HAM DIRECTORY:** Goes to press soon, and we have to give thanks to Gary, K8YSZ and also to Erik Lee (Associate Member) who did the bulk of the work. It made my job of distribution much easier, Thank you both for being here. We will be ordering 200 copies as we have "pre-orders" for 142 at this time. We hope to sell all of them.

#### **MICHIGAN QSO PARTY:**

The Michigan QSO party is to take place on April 16 (Saturday) and the KCRA will take part in this event. It goes for 12 hours from noon to midnight, and we will try to work all 83 counties in the state of Michigan. Using the call sign of W8K.

#### **COPPERDOG150 REPORT:**

Bill, KD8JAM reported on the CopperDog 150 Event and thanks to the M-T-U participants who rode along with officials for the entire event! Good work, guys!

Special thanks too, to the two ladies Melissa and Lori who did the data input on the computers at the M & M Bank Building at 200 Fifth Street in Calumet, during the event.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** I have received an update on our Membership from Bill, KD8JAM, our Treasurer. We now have 46 members in our club.

**FROM OUR ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP:** Special thanks to member, Howard Klann, KD8ABP who donated a second YAEU DX-1 repeater to our club. Thank you Howard!  
(a \$500.00 value!)

**HARC REQUESTS AN AUDIENCE WITH US:** Gary, K8YSZ turned over the floor to "Cory" who talked of a repeater survey their club (HARC) is making in the Keweenaw. They will be running a repeater at Mt. Horace Greeley (the site of our repeater) on 441.95/444.85, and they wanted to be sure that their equipment will not interfere with the operation of either of our repeaters. It will be a DMR UHF Repeater. They will be mounting their equipment in a separate room and the transmitter will run 50 watts output will be a link to their system in Hancock. AGM batteries were recommended for their

installation as backup power.

**TRAINING AIDS:** Want to learn what it takes to become a HAM? Want to learn CW? Lots of people do, now that it is no longer a requirement to get a HAM radio license! Just Google: hamtestonline for the first item and LCWO (“Zen the art of radiotelegraphy”) (A Morse code trainer) {Just put in “TEST” as a user name} [ In German, French and Italian languages]

**FOR SALE:** Go to the KCRA Web page at: kcra-mi.net, and click on the “For Sale” item. You'll find lots of ham equipment there! Give it a try!

**POWER NEGOTIATIONS:** During the month of May, Pasty.NET will be meeting with Keweenaw County RE: Payment of power in the Tower at Mt. Horace Greeley. Jon AB8WU can give us details of how that meeting went, at the July meeting of the KCRA.

**THANK YOU:** To Jon Hopper, AB8WU for providing power and telephone service to the club at no cost. This is a great boost to our treasury, and on behalf of all of the members of the KCRA we are certainly grateful for this offer of help. Thanks Jon and Charlie (KD8JAJ)!

**DAYTON HAMVENTION:** Our own Peter Lafreneire has been invited to speak at the Youth Forum. Peter, who is N8PJL, and a very young ham is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation of HAMS in his family. Congratulations, Peter!

**OUR SYMPATHY:** Goes out to the family of Jeff Stricker, W9GY, upon the passing of Jeff's mother in Ohio.

**DRAWING FOR THE DOOR PRIZE:** There were two drawings this evening.

Winner#1 was Jon Hopper, AB8WU, and he won a DC meter in an oak case!

Winner#2 was Charlie Jackson, and he won a multimeter.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion by Don, W8PSP, seconded by Jon, AB8WU, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm EDT

**REFRESHMENTS:** Refreshments were provided by: Gary, K8YSZ

**NEXT MEETING:** Will be on July 13, 2016. (That's the second WEDNESDAY of July.)