

# KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

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## “Michigan’s Northernmost VHF-FM Voice Repeater”

### **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:**

The Fourth Quarterly meeting of the KCRA was held Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at the home of Gary and Dianne Hansen on Bumbletown Hill, in Keweenaw County. Address: 1108 Bumbletown Rd. in Keweenaw County. (Gary and Dianne were vacationing in Florida with their daughter during our October meeting, but graciously allowed us to have our meeting there.)

It was called to order by Vice President Bill La Bell in the absence of the President. The meeting opened at 7:02 pm EST, with six members present. (Howard) KD8ABP, (Bill) KD8JAM, (Paul) KB8UDD, (Roland) KB8XI,(George) W8FWG and (Associate Member) Viginia Turner.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Showed an ending balance as of October 10, 2012 of \$719.22

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**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Given by Bill, KD8JAM, showed the repeater to be operating in good order. Complete "winterizing" of the "315" repeater will take place soon. A partial completion was already done, fans turned off, thermostat turned up and covers place over windows.

**A/T COMMITTEE REPORT:** (None)

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **COPPERMAN TRIATHLON:**

A number of us took place in the "[Copperman Triathlon](#)" Held at Copper Harbor on Saturday, August 4, 2012. Hams who took part were:

George Turner, W8FWG  
Bill La Bell - KD8JAM  
David Sheffer, KD8CGA

Richard Powers - KA8L  
Jeff Stricker - W9GY  
Carroll Crist - K9JCO  
Gary Hansen- K8YSZ  
Chris Musiel - KB9UCO

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW:**

This one is still to be completed, and a three member team is working on it. Check the KCRA's web page for your copy of the constitution.

**ANTENNA INSTALLATION AT THE EOC AT EAGLE RIVER:**

This is a work-in-progress item.

**KCRC ANTENNA SYSTEM:**

The Keweenaw County Road Commission is still using the feedline and antenna that really belong to the CCRAA. They are now using the '800 MHz" radio system. When they no longer need the VHF radio system, the equipment including the feedline (7/8" heliax and antenna) will be turned over to the CCRAA. The radio equipment will go to the KCRA. It is CCRAA's antenna and feedline that the road commission had been using for several years. George, W8FWG has been in contact with Sheriff Ron Lahti of Keweenaw County, and Ron will give him the word when the entire installation will be ended. At that time the feedline and the antenna system will be taken over by the CCRAA and they hope to put in either a packet radio system or an APRS system utilizing that feedline and that antenna.(Note to CCRAA: Be sure to "tag" it as your property when the time comes)

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**:NEW BUSINESS:**

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**ELECTION OF OFFICERS HELD:**

The following were elected for a term of one-year:

President: Gary L. Hansen, K8YSZ

Vice President: William R. La Bell, KD8JAM

Secretary: George R. Thurner, W8FWG

Treasurer: William R. La Bell, KD8JAM

Tech. Adv. Committee:

(Chairman)	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arrl.net
(Member)	Howard F. Klann	KD8ABP	Non-Pub.	msgklann@pasty.net
(Member)	David S. Sheffer	KD8CGA	(906) 934-2151	kd8cga@charter.net
(Member)	William R. LaBell	KD8JAM	(906) 337-2546	kd8jam@charter.net

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**NEW EQUIPMENT ADDITIONS:**

A 10 Gigahertz beacon has been installed at the Mt. Horace Greeley site by Brandon, N8PUM of Ishpeming.

Also: A new 440 repeater (444.200 MHz) Standard + 5 MHz split (no PL tone) has been added to the Keweenaw site. At its start, a 440 yagi (beam) was installed, pointed south. In the future, an omni-directional antenna will be installed. For those of you

with 440 equipment please give it a try and forward signal reports to Brandon, N8PUM at: n8pum1@charter.net

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**NEW REPEATER:**

The Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association has installed 146.82 MHz, as of Tuesday, October 9, 2012. You will need to add a PL of 100.0 to access this repeater. Give it a try. It is located 10 miles East of Republic on a 350 foot tower with a power of 20 watts (until the new repeater and controller can be added.) It is currently linked with the 147.270 repeater in Marquette and Alger counties. Coverage seems to be excellent. It is hoped that this repeater will fill in a gap left by the old "67" repeater in Herman. Please notify Brandon, N8PUM at n8pum1@charter.net of your findings.

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**EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION:**

Fred Anderson, N8BTS of Anderson Communications in Marquette has informed George, W8FWG, that the Isle Royale Park Service equipment at the site has been abandoned and has been given to us. Bill and Howard went up to the site to evaluate and found several pieces of radio equipment left intact, and at least two Motorola MSR2000 transceivers and some auxiliary equipment. The 7/8 heliax going up the 100 foot tower are ours along with two yagi type antennas at the top of the tower. Quite a "gold mine!" A new padlock was placed on the door, along with a copy of our station license.

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Bill reports that the old Echolink computer "died" and he has obtained a new one utilizing WIN7 as an operating system has been obtained FREE, and is now in service putting the Echolink back in service. This was installed in the home of Bill, KD8JAM. Thank you, Bill !

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**A REPORT FROM OUR SISTER CLUB:**

Roland, KB8XI reports a number of improvements have been made to the "88" repeater and plans are for moving to a single antenna near the top of the tower (that was the original installation until commercial broadcast station, WMTU went on the air. They have moved their antenna down, about 25 feet, so this move may prove to be worthwhile. Battery back-up is planned for next week at the "88" site. We commend all the people involved, KC8RGO, KB8XI, K6IPC, WA8QNF and others who have been so helpful in upgrading the "88" repeater. Both the "67" and "88" repeaters, have been modified for linkage. Good work guys!

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**LSPR COMING TO THE COPPER COUNTRY:**

Lake Superior Performance Rally, the Oldest, Toughest and Meanest Rally on the Rally Circuit Returns to Houghton, Michigan October 26-27, 2012 The Lake Superior Region Car Club would like to announce the 18th running of the Lake Superior Performance Rally (LSPR) based in Houghton, Michigan. The LSPR is known as the Oldest, Toughest and Meanest Off-Road event in the country and is sanctioned by Rally Car/Rally-America in Golden Valley, MN.

The Lake Superior Performance Rally (LSPR) will be one event held over two days, with a Coef. 3 Friday and a Coef. 2 Saturday for Rally America novice placing purposes only.

New this year will be the inception of Super Rally Rules. If you DNF the first night you can come back the next day with applied penalty road points.

This years event will be held October 25-27, 2012 with competitor and worker registration starting on Thursday October 25th. Racing officially starts Friday, October 26th at approximately 2:15pm(est) with the first car out from the Country Inn & Suites on Razorback Drive just off M-26 behind WalMart in Houghton. Fans and spectators are invited to get up-close and personal with the cars and drivers during the Parc Expose at LSPR Headquarters (Country Inn & Suites) from 1:00pm to 2:15pm(est) prior to the official start of the Auto Value LSPR Rally

This year's route starts Friday October 26th with the Auto Value LSPR event at the Country Inn & Suites and travels to the Moyle Gravel Pit off Green Acres Road for the first of two stages before heading south to the US Forest Service Roads in and near Kenton then heading back to Houghton in the early hours of Saturday to LSPR Headquarters for the official finish. Saturday October 27th all the action moves to Baraga County for day two. New to the Baraga County area will be the Parc Expose in Downtown L'Anse near the Marina in the public parking area from 9:30am to 10:30am (est) prior to the official start of the second and final leg of this two day racing event. Once again Rally fans and spectators can get up close and personal with the cars, drivers, co-drivers and teams to learn more about Off-Road Pro Rally. The LSPR racing will officially start at approximately 9:30am on Saturday with the first car out from the Downtown L'Anse Marina and head into the back roads of the Baraga County area for another challenging day of racing. Fans and spectators will get a second up close peak at the cars and the teams as they come in for service at the L'Anse High School parking lot, spectators are asked to please park outside of the school grounds. (A Motion by George, W8FWG, seconded by Roland, KB8XI to allow the LSPR to use the "315" repeater during this event has passed, with a unanimous vote.)

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**FRIDAY NIGHT NET:**

A new (NCS) member was added to the Keweenaw county ARES/SKYWARN Team of Gary, K8YSZ and Brian, N0VVR, it was yours truly, George, W8FWG. These three individuals will rotate shifts each Friday night at 9 pm on the "315" repeater. Mark your calendars and join them each Friday night at 9 pm Eastern time.

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**RENEW YOUR ARRL MEMBERSHIP OR START A NEW ONE THROUGH THIS CLUB:**

The Reason? For each NEW ARRL membership we submit to ARRL through the KCRA we receive FIFTEEN DOLLARS! For each RENEWAL processed through this club the club gets TWO Dollars. Please see the Treasurer (Bill, KD8JAM for further details. You will be helping the club by doing it through us! Thanks!

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**THANK YOU:**

A special thanks to Gary and Dianne Hansen for the use of their home, while they were vacationing in Florida.

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**THE K.C.R.A. NEWSLETTER is published four times annually, and comes to you after the meetings during January, April, July and October, by the Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc. It is a Michigan based, non-profit organization for the purpose of operating and maintaining a VHF voice repeater, in Keweenaw County, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The repeater operates on a frequency of 147.315 MHZ, with a 100.0 Hz PL tone and a positive split. (147.915/147.315 MHZ). The editor is George R. Thurner, W8FWG. The proofreader is Virginia C. Thurner. W8FWG can be reached by telephone at: (906) 337-2542 or by E-Mail at: w8fwg@arrl.net The officers of the KCRA are listed below:**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Call sign</b>	<b>Telephone #</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
<b>President:</b>	<b>Gary L. Hansen</b>	<b>K8YSZ</b>	<b>(906) 337-1436</b>	<b>k8ysz@arrl.net</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>William A. LaBell</b>	<b>KD8JAM</b>	<b>(906) 337-2546</b>	<b>k8jam@charter.net</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>George R. Thurner</b>	<b>W8FWG</b>	<b>(906) 337-2542</b>	<b><a href="mailto:w8fwg@arrl.net">w8fwg@arrl.net</a></b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>William A. LaBell</b>	<b>KD8JAM</b>	<b>(906) 337-2546</b>	<b>k8jam@charter.net</b>
<b>Engineer</b>	<b>Gary L. Hansen</b>	<b>K8YSZ</b>	<b>(906) 337-1436</b>	<b><a href="mailto:k8ysz@arrl.net">k8ysz@arrl.net</a></b>

**Tech. Adv. Committee:**

<b>(Chairman)</b>	<b>Gary L. Hansen</b>	<b>K8YSZ</b>	<b>(906) 337-1436</b>	
				<b>k8ysz@arrl.net</b>
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				<b>msgklann@pasty.net</b>
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				<b>kd8jam@charter.net</b>

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**MOTION TO ADJOURN** By: Paul, KB8UDD, 2nd'ed by: Roland, KB8XI and the meeting adjourned at:7:50 pm EST

**REFRESHMENTS BY: GEORGE (W8FWG) & (Associate Member) Virginia Thurner.**

**NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2013 (SECOND WEDNESDAY OF JANUARY)**