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KCRA NEWSLETTER

The Keweenaw County Repeater Association

"Michigan's Northernmost VHF Voice Repeater"

K.C.R.A. 147.315 MHZ PL 100.0 Hz

Vol. 24 No 4

October 14, 2015

GREETINGS FELLOW RADIO HAMS AND VISITOR!

Hello and welcome once again to the KCRA Newsletter. Our October meeting opened at 7:03 pm EDT, with self introductions and the following were present:

W8FWG - George
K8YSZ - Gary
KD8JAM - Bill
KB8XI - Roland
W8EEK - Stuart
KB8YNF - James
VA3DJL - Don
W9GY - Jeff
KD8GBH - Dave
AB8WU - Jon
Claire Torrey

REPORTS:

Education committee: George, W8FWG reports that he's started the revision of the club's constitution and the changes will be listed in "red" and posted on the Internet when complete. He reports only partial completion at this time.

Treasurer: Bill, KD8JAM shows total current assets of \$612.49.

Technical Adviory Committee: Gary, K8YSZ reports that there is a noise problem on the repeater, and it shows up as being either a feedline problem or an antenna problem, and since the antenna has recently been refurbished, it was felt that where the feedline leaves the building it needs to be reterminated, and a date of Sunday October 25th was made and a site visit will be made and corrective measures taken at that time. Bill, KD8JAM further announced that we owe Pasty.NET a vote of thanks for providing us

with A.C. power and telephone service, a great savings to our treasury! Thank You Jonathan, AB8WU. Thanks from all of us!

OLD BUSINESS: There was a problem interfacing our existing controller with the new YAESU DR-1 repeater, and therefore the older Motorola MSR-2000 was placed back in service, along with the old controller, and we now have autopatch and control functions once again, plus 100 watts output from this repeater.

INTERFACE: Dave, KD8GBH spoke of a \$15.00 interface for use between a repeater and a controller. He will notify Bill, KD8JAM of the site and plug-in. Thank you, Dave.

MOTION: By George, W8FWG to allow the LSPR (Lake Superior Performance Rally) the use of the "147.315" repeater during the coming weekend for the safety of the people involved with the rally. Seconded by Jon, AB8WU and the motion carried unanimously.

REGISTRATION FOR THE LSPR: is set for Thursday night, Oct. 15 at the Bar and Grill of the "Mine Shaft" in Houghton.

SUGGESTION#1: By Jeff, W8GY to apply for a Special Event Call Sign (a 1 X 1 call) for the Michigan QSO party coming up in the Spring of 2016. He also suggested using the call sign of W9K (For Keweenaw) also KCRA. Jeff will check this out with ARRL Hq.

SUGGESTION#2: By Don, VA3DJL, to have a Special Event Call Sign for the forthcoming Sled Dog race, also in the Spring of 2016. A call sign of K9C was suggested for the "Copperdog Race." (K9 referring to the dogs!) "C" referring to the "Copperdog." The Special event Station would be located in the lobby of the old M & M Bank building at 200 Fifth Street in Calumet. He also suggested getting either QSL cards or a certificate for anyone working the station during this event.

CONFLICTS: The question arose: "Will any of these events interfere with the 'Winter Carnival' at M-T-U? The answer was: "No, as that date is set for Feb. 3 through the 6th of 2016."

FROM HOWARD: (BY PROXY) FOR THE SWAP MEET IN CHASSELL?

The answer was "Yes" and all agreed it would be good to have it again.

AUTOPATCH WORKING? George, W8FWG volunteered this item: "It would be good to test the autopatch with a complete voice test at least once every month to be sure it is working." (There have been times in the past where it wasn't working and no one knew about it! This needs to be looked into.) It was suggested that George, W8FWG do

the test monthly, and he agreed to it. **MOTION:** MSP (Roland/Jeff) and the motion carried unanimously.

JOTA: "Jamboree-On-The-Air" This is an ARRL sponsored event for the Boy Scouts of America. Boy Scouts all over the nation will be calling on the air, using various modes of transmission, and VA3DJL is hosting a local group here. Don received volunteers at this meeting from several of our members. Thank you gentlemen! And thank you Don, for hosting such an event. This is a "first" for our club! Glad to have you aboard, Don!

QUESTION: (From Roland, KB8XI) "How is the new repeater and antenna system working out? We haven't received any reports, and we would like to know how the coverage is now, that the antenna is raised and a different repeater is being used?"

ANOTHER QUESTION: The topic of "heat" for the equipment came up? Since we invoked a very large electric bill last year, the heaters were turned off, and enough heat is being generated by the equipment to keep the room at 50 degrees F. and it was felt this was adequate, and no heaters would be turned on this year.

FROM AB8WU: Jonathan has received a gift from N8CSF (Tom Boost) of Copper Harbor, of the old MSP radio system that operated on 42 MHz. He hopes to convert this to a 6M repeater and has two locations in mind. 1. At Mt. Horace Greeley (preferred site) or... 2. At the old MSP post on Rockland Street in Calumet. The unit weighs 500 pounds, so I doubt it that would go up to the 4th floor Jon....or maybe some Mechanical Engineer has a means of hoisting equipment up there. (We did once before with an existing cabinet (but not that heavy for the KCRA), but our repeater is now mounted in an 8 X 8 foot room on the first floor of Mt. Horace Greeley.

SECURITY MEASURE: George, W8FWG spoke of an individual who was able to gain access to the old Calumet Air Force station by parking down at the bottom of the hill, walking up and taking pictures of every building on the base, (for historical reasons). The Keweenaw County Sheriff's office allows persons to go up there, as many airmen of the past, would like to visit the site they once were stationed. There are locked doors both to the building, and to our equipment room, so it was felt there was no security problem there.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at: 7:50pm EDT.

DOOR PRIZE: Was won by Claire Torrey. Congratulations Claire!

A VERY GENEROUS OFFER FROM GARY: Gary provided gift bags to "EVERYONE" at the meeting....each bag contained a neon safety flasher, and an

engineering type calculator! Thank you Gary, You are just too generous! Thanks very much!

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY: Gary and also by Jeff (W9GY) and Julie Stricker. We surely enjoyed all those sweet treats Thank you all, very much.

NEXT MEETING: Our meetings at the KCRA are quarterly, during the months of January-April-July-October, so that puts us in the second Wednesday of each quarter, and so the Jaanuary, 2016 meetings will be held at the home of Gary Hansen on January 13, 2016. Hope to see you all there?

A SAD ENDING: I learned, just tonight (From Gary, K8YSZ) of the tragic accident and the passing of one of our radio amateurs. She was Lorraine Bixley, KC0PNG, of Alston, wife of Brian, N8VVR. (Brian was one of the Net Control Stations in the Keweenaw County ARES Net and SKYWARN Net that meets each Friday night on the "315" repeater.) Our prayers go out to Brian and all of the members of the Bixley family. We are saddened by your loss. We remember Lorraine in our prayers to God.