

# KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

## Michigan's Northernmost VHF-FM Voice Repeater"

### APRIL MEETING:

The April 11, 2007 meeting of the KCRA was held at the Keweenaw Pines Apartments near Mohawk at 7 pm EST, with 6 members (W8FWG, Virginia Thurner (Assoc.), KD8ABP, KB8UDD, KB8XI, N8HZH) and one guest (Mary Waarala) present.

### ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

President: (Absent)  
 Vice President (Absent)  
 Secretary-Treasurer: (Present)  
 Tech. Adv. Committee Chairman: (Absent)  
 Tech Adv. Committee Members (Absent)

### APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP:

(3) Deferred to July 18, 2007 meeting due to lack of Quorum  
 Received from John L. Tobey III, W8JLT of Harrison, MI .  
 Mary Ellen Crider (Assoc.)  
 Katriina Hopper KD8DYN

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Was given by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Beginning Balance: January 1, 2007.....**\$1633.84**

### INCOME

Credits (Deposits) (6) [Dues]..... 434.00

Total:..... **\$2067.84**

### EXPENSES:

Telephone: 87.77

U.P. Directory Ad (CCRAA) 50.00

CCRAA Reimb. (WE8D) 50.00

**Total Expenses: \$187.77**

### RECONCILIATION:

Beginning Balance + Credits .....\$2067.84

Checks written (5) 187.77

Ending Balance: 03/30/2007.....\$1880.07

Check Book Balance:.....**\$1880.07.**

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** (None available)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Homeland Security grant

Winter weather has stopped the installation of the new system, but it is planned for May of this year.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. New repeater coming (Discussed)
- 2. MSR2000 Motorola solid state 100W (\$700) (Being tested now, in Porterfield, WI)
- 3. Move of repeater to first floor of Bldg 154 (Need help on this one)
- 4. Phone line is run (And tested at first floor)
- 5. Transmission line must be re-run (New)
- 6. Reusing duplexers, antenna system, power supply and controller
- 7. Homeland Security grant of \$2295.56 paid for.
- 8. New power connections to first floor by Bill's Electrical (\$382.98) Paid by Sheriff
- 9. Homeland Security Grant for new Repeater: \$2295.56 (Pd in full)
- 10. We have been given: Motorola transceiver, Feedline and antenna (cut for 155.415 MHz)
- 11. Permission to reclaim the CCRAA's "ham" antenna by swinging Kew. Co. Road Comm. over to the 155.415 MHz antenna (Previously the Sheriff's antenna)
- 12. W8FWG plans on adding an APRS digipeater on that antenna (owned by CCRAA) (Approval given by the CCRAA.)

**NEW BUSINESS:** No quorum for the second quarter, therefore no business could be transacted.

**Informal meeting held.**

- 1. FCC announces "No Code" for amateur testing
- 2. National Park Svc abandoning Keweenaw Site for Centennial Heights
- 3. Bill Becks, WA8WG will have a battery backup MSSR2000 Motorola repeater for us.
- 4. Ham exams this coming Saturday, April 14, 2007 at MTU (WADS Hall) 8:30am
- 5. Swap-N-Shop the following Saturday, Apr. 21, 2007
- 6. New 2007 U.P. Ham Directory available at the Swap in Chassell
- 7. New repeater installation scheduled for mid-May of 2007
- 8. Minutes of this meeting published via E-Mail next week.
- 9. Henry Somero, WA8ICV is an "SK." [Moment of Silence] (Card will be sent)
- 10. Delinquent Members at this date: (7) But two, perhaps 3 more coming in yet.

With our October (2006) meeting showing a dues increase to \$13/year for individual memberships and \$18 for family memberships, we will discuss the future of dues at the July meeting.

Autopatch and Autodial continue to be FREE items for club members.

These increases are being made with the understanding that the financial health of the organization would be reviewed at the next regular meeting in 2007.

**DOOR PRIZES:**

It was also suggested to give a door prize of food, in lieu of any other item, for the time being. The door prize was won by Jon Herlevich, N8HZH.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn By: Roland, KB8XI and seconded by Paul, KB8UDD, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at: 7:25 pm EDT

The formal business meeting adjourned and refreshments were served by: Virginia and George Thurner.

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**DATE CORRECTION:**

The DCARS Hamfest (Delta County Amateur Radio Society) (Escanaba) is going to be held on July 28, not August 4<sup>th</sup> as was previously published. The reason for this is a scheduling problem with a vendor, and another Hamfest occurring on the same date. Mark your calendars for JULY 28, 2007

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**LATE BREAKING NEWS!****REPEATER UPDATE:**

Our KCRA Repeater (Listed in the ARRL Repeater Directory as the "Calumet" Repeater), is actually in Keweenaw County at the site of the former Calumet Air Force Station. This past week we were almost 100 percent completed with the new installation. With the Homeland Security Grant we were able to get a used Motorola, MSR-2000 repeater with battery backup (yet to be installed). Thanks to Bill Becks, WA8WG of Porterfield, WI. The new repeater is now on the air WITHOUT a PL tone. (For a short time it had a PL-107.2 Hz tone on it)...then we got our old 100.0 Hz back, and finally on last Tuesday (May 15, 2007)we discontinued the PL tones altogether, and the transmitter power went from 45 watts to a 100W output on the new transmitter, a new ½ Heliacx transmission line, an antenna move, on the roof of the building to almost complete the installation. A special cable has been ordered to provide the battery backup. Should we lose commercial A.C. power with the battery backup in place, it will revert to two large 12V storage batteries to keep the repeater on the air. For the time that it is transmitting on battery reserve you will hear a low pitched "beep" at regular intervals to let you know it is on battery power. We reused the duplexers which were in good shape, and we reused the ACC RC-96 controller. With some very sophisticated test equipment, Bill, WA8WG "tweaked" the system for best performance, and all of the features remain in place that we had before. For members of the KCRA they enjoy FREE autopatch service, Free Autodial service (2 slots per member per year), with only a small (\$13/Year Single membership or \$18/Year Family membership). An unlisted telephone line provides the control feature for this system, and we now have four control operators who watch over the system. (Control operators will receive the new dial-up codes this coming week). The Motorola, GM300 series transceivers, and the Astron power supply have been removed and are stored locally. Our thanks to the many donations received via club members, to help with the funding of this new system. While our original plan was for this repeater to cover only the county of Keweenaw, we find it does indeed cover a five county area (Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga and Marquette) and at least one Canadian Province, (Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.), making this repeater truly an "International" repeater! We've received very good reports so far, and we encourage the further testing of the system, not to test its range as much as the quality of the new signal from, the "315" repeater. The battery supply is enclosed in a Styrofoam container with a thermostat controlling heating elements for the batteries during winter operation.). The move from the fourth floor down to the first floor will make maintenance visits easier

on the repair crews. A special thanks goes to Sheriff Ronald Lahti, of Keweenaw County who obtained the Homeland Security grant for us, enabling us to put in the new system. Thank you very much, Ron, it is very much appreciated by all of the "ham" radio community!

### ONE MORE TIME:

The DC cable for battery back-up arrived in the morning mail today (Friday)...May 18, 2007..W hope to get it installed this weekend. Keep your fingers crossed that we get it in before a thunderstorm hits!

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**KCRA NEWSLETTER is published four times annually ( 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 NO PL tone, and with a positive split. 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@arrrl.net The officers of the KCRA are listed below:**

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Call sign</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>
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**NEXT MEETING: July 18, 2007 (Third Wednesday of July)**

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