

# KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

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

### **WELCOME!**

Gary (K8YSZ) and his wife Dianne have given us permission to conduct our meetings at their home. It is easy to find....It is just 3 miles north of the intersection of Hwy U.S. 41 and M-203 (Pine St. in Calumet). Turn onto Bumbletown Rd, follow it to the end, where the blacktop ends and you will see their home on the right-hand side of the roadway. You will see the tri-band beam atop the 40 foot tower, on the side of his house, with the 2M vertical at the top.

### **APRIL MEETING:**

The April 09, 2008 meeting of the KCRA was held at the home of Gary and Dianne Hansen , 1108 Bumbletown Road, Allouez Twp, Keweenaw County. at 7 pm EDT, with President Gary L. Hansen presiding. There were 9 members present . K8YSZ, Dianne Hansen (Associate Member), W8FWG, Virginia Thurner (Associate Member), KD8ABP, K9GIR, KB8XI, N8HZH, KD8GBH.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Annual dues are once again being accepted. If you have already renewed, disregard this notice....If you haven't..... a gentle reminder in the form of a Renewal of Membership Application is extended to you, in this newsletter. We value your membership, and the added income keeps our "315" repeater operating.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Given by Gary, K8YSZ, that the repeater is operating properly.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** We are interested in obtaining a new set of duplexers for our repeater..

To further improve our repeater we hope to replace the duplexers (which are now about 25 years old) with more sensitive ones, made by TX/RX (A subsidiary of the BIRD Corporation.). We have started a "Lee Royce Memorial Fund".....which will help pay for these duplexers. Jon, N8HZH is checking for a better price than we have, but the matter (with a motion) for the engineer to go ahead and purchase given, and the motion carried unanimously. Motion to table by Roland, KB8XI, seconded by David, KD8GBH. The motion carried unanimously. (See other "New Business" items below.)

## MINUTES OF THE APR 9, 2008 KCRA MEETING

### DUES FOR 2008:

Our dues structure runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31 each year. Regular membership (Anyone with a ham call) is \$13.00/Year Family Memberships run \$18/Year. Please send your dues to: KCRA c/o George R. Thurner, W8FWG Sec-Treas. 225 Kearsarge St. Laurium, MI 49913-2109. Your dues will also give you FREE autopatch, TWO free autodial slots, Emergency telephone communications (911, 912, 916) (\*911) = Emergencies such as police, fire, ambulance) (\*912) = Keweenaw County Sheriff (Dials 337-0528 automatically) (\*916)= United States Coast Guard, Portage Station in Dollar Bay  
[BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE "\*" (STAR) SYMBOL BEFORE THE 3-DIGITS]

### MEMBERSHIP CARDS-2008:

Are ready for distribution. If you signed up as a member for 2008 they were presented to you at the January meeting. If you couldn't make the meeting, your 2008 membership card will be mailed to you as your membership is received. Remember.....KCRA Membership runs from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

### THANK YOU:

A special thank you to all who sent in donations to the KCRA in Memory of our Past President Lee J. Royce. This fund at this date now stands at: \$872.00

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. New duplexers for the repeater: Motion to buy, for a cost not to exceed \$1650.00 including shipping made by Roland, KB8XI, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by David, KD8GBH. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Gin pole for tower work? Motion to table by KB8XI and seconded by N8HZH
3. Semi-annual inspection of repeater. Will be done as soon as the snow clears.
4. Maintenance issues at site. All equipment will be inspected.
5. PL Tone discussion. Decided to leave the PL100.0 on, until source of interference is found.
6. Disposal of existing equipment? Motion to store equipment until a later date. A motion by Roland, KB8XI, and seconded by Dennis, K9GIR. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Antenna inspection: Will be done as soon as the snow leaves the site.
8. Merger with CCRAA? Ignore, wait until a formal proposal is made by CCRAA.
9. Notices sent to delinquent members. Three notices sent...at the end of the months of Jan-Feb.-Mar.

If no response received by the end of April, those delinquent will be removed from the books as members, and they will have to sign up as new members.

10. Amateur exams to be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at MTU.
11. A question on ARES operation in Keweenaw Co. Gary, K8YSZ checked, and found out that members of other counties ARE allowed to join Keweenaw Co. ARES, and several have already signed up. (Gary, K8YSZ has sign-up forms for anyone interested in joining Keweenaw Co. ARES.)

**INTERFERENCE PROBLEMS AT THE SITE:** The interference showed up shortly after a new radio service began operation at the site. This necessitated turning “on” the PL-100.0 tone at the site. It has been “on” since last fall. The new radio service is called “Aircell”.....Our engineer will be running some tests to determine if this service is actually interfering with ours, or if the cause is some other service. A list of frequencies will be presented to the Engineer. If the interference problem is found, and corrected, it is possible to operate the repeater without a PL tone. The ARRL Repeater directory (current edition) shows it operating WITH a PL tone of 100.0 Hz.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn By: Howard, KD8ABP and a second by Roland, KB8XI, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at: 8:30pm EDT.

The formal business meeting adjourned and refreshments were served by Dianne Hansen.

**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 a 100.0 Hz PL tone and 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@arrl.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>
<b>President:</b>	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arrl.net
<b>Sec./Treas</b>	George R. Thurner	W8FWG	(906) 337-2542	w8fwg@arrl.net
<b>Engineer</b>	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arrl.net
<b>Tech. Adv. Committee:</b>				
<b>(Chairman)</b>	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arrl.net
	Paul A. Kemppainen	KC8FLK	(906) 482-4150	pak77@lighthouse.net
	Glenn P. Ekdahl	WA8QNF	(906) 482-7743	<u>w8qnf@arrl.net</u>
	David S. Sheffer	KD8CGA	(906) 337-4221	(None)

