

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

Michigan's Northernmost Affiliated Club of the ARRL

EN57th

Lat. 47 Deg. 17 Min 30 Seconds, N

Long. 88 Deg. 25 Min 13 Seconds, W

#1108 Bumbletown Rd.

Keweenaw County, Michigan

147.315 MHz (+) Call sign: K8MDH ECHOLINK NODE # 405654

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:

We received four this month. They are: Mike Musiel, (K9SJ), Chris Musiel (KB9UCO), Mark Musiel (Assoc. Member), David Musiel (Assoc. Member). A Motion by KB8XI, Seconded by KD8JAM to accept all four of these new members passed unanimously. Welcome Musiel family members!

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2009 KCRA MEETING

The April 8, 2009 quarterly meeting of the KCRA, Inc was called to order by President Gary Hansen, K8YSZ at 7:01 pm EDT, with 10 members present. Self-introductions followed with these members present: A roll call of officers showed the following: President (K8YSZ) present, Vice President (KD8ABP),[Absent] Sec-Treas. George Thurner (W8FWG) present, Engineer (K8YSZ) present. Tech-Advisory Committee Chairman . K8YSZ present. Paul Kempainen (KC8FLK) A/T Committee Member (Absent) A/T Member Glenn Ekdahl (WA8QNF), (Absent). A/T Member David Sheffer (KD8CGA) (absent, due to being out-of-town). Other members present were: K9GIR, W8FMR, KB8XI, KD8JAM, W8QLT, Dianne Hansen (Assoc. Member), Karen LaBell (Assoc. Member) Virginia Thurner (Associate Member.) The Treasurer's report was read and is included (below) with this newsletter. The Engineer's Report showed that our repeater was up and operating once again.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beginning Balance 01/01/2009.....	\$594.24
Income:.....	+368.00
Disbursements.....	-322.69
Outstanding Check#3294-135.95
Ending Balance (checkbook balance).....	\$503.60

ENGINEER'S REPORT: The repeater is operating normally at this time.

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A/T COMMITTEE REPORT: Gary (K8YSZ), Bill (KD8JAM), and Howard (KD8ABP) and Mike (K9SJ) formed a committee of trouble investigators and determined the noise problem was being generated right on site. It was subsequently found and cleared by another agency. (The problem was noise generated from a microprocessor on site.)

CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

OLD BUSINESS: Building up a spare “315”. This project was discussed, and Gary, K8YSZ, and Bill (KD8JAM) will be working on such a project for the future, using the old “315” equipment. The temporary repeater will have a “bare bones” type of controller (no autopatch nor autodial facilities, controller, and would be AC or DC powered.) Details to be worked out by Gary and Bill. Bill reported at this meeting that all that is needed yet is to install the antenna and mounting bracket which was donated by Howard, KD8ABP (A Hustler tunable antenna). The Antenna system will be installed at Bill’s home in Allouez, near the Keweenaw County line.

SHALL WE BUILD AN ENCLOSURE AT THE SITE FOR OUR EQUIPMENT?

Gary will check with Keweenaw Co. for permission to do this. A Motion by Roland (KB8XI), not to expend more than \$300 for materials. Seconded by Terry, W8FMR, and for us to do the work ourselves. Two offers of a door for the new enclosure were given. One by K9GIR, the other by Terry, W8FMR.

CLUB INSURANCE: Shall we apply for club insurance? After a brief discussion and with the cost of \$1.50/Hundred, a motion by Roland, (KB8XI), seconded by Terry (W8FMR) for us to obtain this insurance passed unanimously. George, W8FWG) will contact the ARRL to obtain this insurance after reviewing what our premium would be.

CLUB AFFILIATION: We have recently applied to be an affiliated club of the ARRL. There were six steps in this process. We have received word from ARRL via our President that as of March 23, 2009 we are now a fully Affiliated Club with the ARRL. This process took about six weeks. I’ll notify all club members when the charter is sent in the mail, and we should receive it shortly. Our Sec-Treas. (George, W8FWG) has checked with ARRL, as we now had the necessary 51% to become an affiliated club, and that way would be eligible for ARRL equipment insurance at a cost of \$1.50/\$100. A new summary of equipment owned by the KCRA was made and the estimated cost for this insurance would be \$60 to \$80/year. Congratulatory E-Mails were sent from our Section Manger of the State of Michigan WA8EFK (Dale Williams), Our Affiliated Club Coordinator, (Scott Bickell) (W1BIC), K8JE, Jim Weaver, our Division Director, ands from ARRL HQ., Dawn Trigilio. We will honor their request also, in providing them with a copy of each of our quarterly newsletters plus any other news of our club. Our thanks to all officials of the ARRL who helped make our club an Affiliated Club of the ARRL.

BENEFITS OF CLUB AFFILIATION:

1. ARRL Annual Report

Every ARRL club is eligible to receive a complimentary copy of the League's Annual Report, which contains the business reports of the staff and Directors.

2. ARRL Insurance

2A. ARRL Club liability insurance is available to affiliated clubs only, and is one of the most popular benefits offered. Many clubs conduct public events each year, such as hamfests and flea markets, and venue owners and operators usually require sponsors to furnish certificates of insurance.

2B. ARRL Equipment insurance is also available, and is restricted to ARRL affiliated clubs and ARRL members only. This has also been a highly popular program.

3. Referrals Of Prospective Radio Amateurs

League Headquarters, in addition to providing a basic package of information to a prospective ham, will refer prospects to your club for follow-up and recruitment. And your club will be listed in ARRLWeb's club search database.

4. ARRL Club Stationery

Club Services at ARRL Headquarters has available quantities of official ARRL Affiliated Club stationery, suitable for professional-looking club correspondence. To request a supply, contact the club staff at HQ. E-mail: nfusaro@arrl.org

5. ARRL Club Commission Membership Recruitment Program

ARRL Affiliated Clubs receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal they submit to ARRL Headquarters. Under the ARRL Club Commission Membership Recruitment Program, clubs retain \$15 for each NEW membership and \$2 for each renewal submitted (regular and senior memberships only). A NEW MEMBER is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission. A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at anytime, even before their current membership term expires. Download copies of the Club Commission Reconciliation Form and special ARRL Membership Applications as Adobe PDF files (requires Adobe Acrobat Reader) or request them from ARRL Headquarters. Resources are available to help clubs develop strategies for recruiting ARRL members (see Tips on Recruiting). This program may not be combined with any other promotion or special offer. For more information, E-mail clubs@arrl.org.

6. Mailing Lists

Mailing lists/labels of licensees by ZIP code are available from Headquarters. These monthly lists (available either by e-mail or standard mail) assist clubs in direct mail promotions of club-sponsored

events, and in recruitment of new members. Free mailing labels of ARRL members or clubs are available to clubs once a year.

7. Clip Art

Camera-ready artwork of Amateur Radio icons are available free-of-charge to ARRL clubs. Request copies from Headquarters. E-mail: nfusaro@arrl.org.

8. Club Gavel Competition

Only affiliated clubs are eligible for participation in the gavel competitions of the ARRL DX Contest, the ARRL November Sweepstakes, the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes and the 160- and 10-Meter Contests. For more information, see the Club Competition Rules.

9. Library Sets of ARRL Publications

Affiliated clubs are eligible to purchase at a greatly reduced price a set of ARRL publications for donating to their local library.

10. 50% Discount on Club Ads in QST

Your affiliated club may purchase advertising in QST at half of the going rate. Contact the ARRL Advertising Department for more information.

11. Planning an ARRL Hamfest or Convention?

Check here for Hamfest/Convention:

12. Rules

Planner/Sanctioning Guide (79,112 bytes, PDF file)

13. Special Service Clubs

In addition to the above, Special Service Clubs also receive the following additional benefits: SSCs get special recognition in QST as they renew or become SSCs. SSCs are also eligible to appoint local Awards Managers. For more information on any of the above benefits, please contact the Club Services at ARRL Headquarters.

NEW BUSINESS:

Work has been begun on the new (backup) repeater for "315." A tower, power supply, cabinet (on casters), antenna, and other accessory equipment has been donated and the old duplexers will be used for this repeater. The existing GM300 transceivers will be put into service. A new PL tone has been planned for this repeater. Should the existing "315" failure, it would then be an easy task for the user to simply change the PL tone in their transceiver(s), for operation into the temporary repeater. In fact, once it is

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determined what the new (back-up) repeater's PL tone is, that could be added as a "standby" channel in the user's existing equipment. A new controller has been obtained, and Bill, KD8JAM is starting to assemble the spare repeater. The installation would probably be at Bill's home in Allouez, but during the summer, it could be taken out to the present repeater site (Mt. Horace Greeley, connected to the existing feedline and antenna, and tested from there. The ERP would be about 100 watts compared to the 250W ERP that we have now, just a small change in the output level. See the pictures at the end of this newsletter showing Bill's good work! Thanks Bill! Outstanding!

SPARE POWER AMP:

George, W8FWG is checking with Bill Becks, (WA8WG) for the possibility of obtaining a spare PA for our existing Motorola MSR-2000 repeater.

CLUB STATUS REPORT: We now have 77 members in the KCRFA, Inc.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW NEEDED:

George, W8FWG brought up the point that we have not had a Constitutional review in over 26 years, and felt it was time to look at this now. The following volunteers will make up the Team: Gary (K8YSZ), Terry (W8FMR), George (W8FWG). Time and date of that meeting TBA.

DTV EDUCATION:

(Digital-Television-Conversion)

While the FCC would like clubs to provide this service to the general public, the general consensus of those present was not to go ahead with such a program from this club.

"HAM" TESTING:

The V.E. Team of CCRAA and HARC will be providing amateur radio testing on April 11, 2009 (Second Saturday of April) in the Ballroom (Main floor) of Douglas Houghton Hall at the East end of the M-T-U Campus. Free Parking, in Lot #8, use door # 9 at the SE entrance to the building. All applicants should arrive NLT 8:30 am EST, and the testing will start at 9 am EDT. For more details contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743. Pre-registration is NOT necessary. The fee for 2009 has increased just one-dollar and stands at \$15.00 for the year.

COMMERCIAL EXAMS TO BE GIVEN: Gary, K8YSZ announced that in late May 28, 29 or 30, A commercial exam will be given at his home in Keweenaw Co. Anyone interested in taking the exam should contact Gary Hansen at (906) 337-1436. The actual date was not available at this writing.

MISSING THE NEWSLETTER?

If you know of any member of ours, who is not getting the newsletter, either by USPS or E-Mail, please let me know and we'll try to resolve the problem as quickly as possible. If they are a "snowbird" (going

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away for the winter), we can arrange to have the newsletter sent to wherever they are....just tell us, and we'll be happy to comply!

Thanks to Bill, KD8JAM, with donations by Howard, KD8ABP, and ideas from KD8GBH, Echolink became a reality on the KCRA repeater in November of 2008. Thanks to all, who helped with the project.

ELECTRIC GENERATOR SAFETY:

Stay safe with portable electric generators

When power outages occur, portable generators can be a great convenience, but like any power source they must be installed and used properly. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and these important safety tips.

- . Use the correct size, slightly higher output than needed
- . Connection: Never, but never, connect directly to an existing outlet, this could kill a lineman working on the outside line! Have a licensed electrician connect it through an isolated transfer switch.
- . Cords: Use proper sized cords for connection to equipment.
- . Space Never operate the generator in an enclosed space, it requires proper ventilation, and could generate dangerous carbon monoxide gas.
- . Never refuel a hot engine. Gasoline spilled on the hot engine could cause a fire. Keep a fire extinguisher near by.
- . Children: Keep children away from all portable generators at all times.

(Condensed from the March, 2009 edition of "Customer Connection": provided by the U.P. Power Co.)

HINTS AND KINKS:

At this meeting a discussion was held, to possibly have some Hints and Kinks as part of the newsletter. If anyone has anything they would like to have published, please contact George, W8FWG, the Newsletter Editor, and he will publish it here.

DOOR PRIZE:

The door prize of a pair of binoculars was won by Karen La Bell.

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MISSING ID?:

From time to time we hear the “315” repeater (and others) being keyed up, but there is no ID from the originating station. Please remember (even if you are just testing to see if you can reach the repeater), to give your own ID. It is required by FCC Rule # 97.119. Thank you for your cooperation.

REPEATER OUT OF SERVICE:

On March 20, a noise problem appeared on our “315” repeater. Trouble investigation showed the problem was located right at the site, and was repaired on March 25. Thanks to the following amateurs who helped locate, and repair the trouble. K8YSZ, KD8ABP, KD8JAM, K9SJ.

ADJOURNMENT: The Business meeting adjourned at 8:57pm EDT.

Motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at:8:57pm EDT Motion: By KB8XI, 2nd by K9GIR
The formal business meeting adjourned and refreshments were served by Dianne Hansen. (Coffee and cookies and cinnamon rolls.) Thank you, Dianne and Virginia!

THE KCRA. NEWSLETTER is published four times annually, after the meetings during the second Wednesday of 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@arri.net As of December 2008 it now has an Echolink Node #405654.

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>
President:	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arri.net
Vice President	Howard F. Klann	KD8ABP	Non-Published	msgklann@pasty.net
Sec./Treas	George R. Thurner	W8FWG	(906) 337-2542	w8fwg@arri.net
Engineer	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arri.net
Tech. Adv. Committee:				
(Chairman)	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arri.net
	Paul A. Kemppainen	KC8FLK	(906) 482-4150	pak77@lighthouse.net
	Glenn P. Ekdahl	WA8QNF	(906) 482-7743	wa8qnf@arri.net
	David S. Sheffer	KD8CGA	(906) 337-4221	(None)

NEXT MEETING: JULY 8, 2009 at 1108 Bumbletown Rd (Home of Gary (K8YSZ) and Dianne Hansen.

PHOTO GALLERY [Pictures courtesy of Bill La Bell, KD8JAM]



KCRA's new Portable Repeater



Bill La Bell's Handiwork (KD8JAM)



1

**Duplexers + GM300 (Motorola xcvr)
+ Power Supply on top.**