

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

Michigan's Northernmost VHF-FM Voice Repeater"

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

I hope 2008 ended a good note, and that we will have a good year coming up in 2009. The winter has been pretty severe so far, and we have been left with some problems.....read on!

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome to our group, Randy Bell, K8HRO of Aura, MI and Karen La Bell of Allouez (XYL of Bill, KD8JAM.) as an Associate Member. Welcome to you both, and glad to have you with us! Motion to accept the new members by Gary, K8YSZ, seconded by Bill, KD8JAM. Motion carried unanimously.

A FRIENDLY DUES REMINDER:

Dues to the KCRA, Inc are always accepted at any time, but the Fiscal year runs from Jan1 until December 31 of the New Year. Please keep your membership up to date and enjoy the privileges of belonging to the U.P.'s most Northern Amateur Radio Association. Enclosed as an attachment is an 'APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL' If you have already paid your dues, please disregard this attachment. If you need to pay for 2009, please send your renewal (dues) to KCRA, Inc. 225 Kearsarge St. Laurium, MI 49913-2109. If we don't hear from you by the end of January, we will send a reminder letter. If still not heard by the end of February another reminder letter is sent. If, at the end of March nothing is heard, you are removed from the membership roles of the KCRA, but you may reapply at any time. Benefits of membership to the KCRA are:

1. Fellowship with other "hams" to discuss items of interest.
2. Free autopatch service
3. Two free 2-digit autodial slots of your choice (Provided they aren't already used)
4. 911 access to the repeater (Regional Dispatch – Negaunee)
5. 912 access (Keweenaw Co. Sheriff Dept.) (337-0528)
6. 916 access (Portage Coast Guard) [This corresponds to CH16 Calling/Emg for the CG] (482-1520)
7. Door prizes every meeting (Good items, too!)
8. Food and other refreshments at every meeting (Courtesy Dianne & Gary Hansen)
9. One of the Copper Country's finest repeaters (100W Motorola MSR-2000)
10. Free notification of the expiration of your "Ham" license (From W8FWG)
11. Time-of-Day via the repeater. (Using your touch tone pad on your rig)
12. Meeting notice via the repeater and by E-Mail, and by USPS.

EDITORIAL:

I don't often "editorialize" but every once in a while I get the "yen" to do it, so here goes. In view of the problems (over the years) to our KCRA repeater, it comes to mind that perhaps even the commercial grade, continuous-duty repeaters are suffering from "heat exhaustion"...that is failure of a component, or a solder connection to the repeater, due to the length of the transmissions. So, what I am thinking of doing is cutting down on the "key down" time of the repeater with some of those lengthy bulletins from ARRL (about 20 minutes), or some of the others (30 minutes) and by the use of "selective editing" of the material provided, we can reduce the "on-air" time of the repeater by more than 50%. In my opinion I think, in the long run, it is going to save us a lot of grief. And so, as a test, in the coming weeks I am going to try doing just that, and I invite listener comments on how they like the new format. I hope it will be to you liking?

PRB-1 HISTORY:

Since PRB-1 was passed by the FCC, Radio Amateurs have found that the zoning boards of local municipalities do not give adequate consideration to FCC Regulations in making zoning decisions. So beginning in the 1990's, amateurs began lobbying for legislation that would place PRB-1 type language into their State Laws. So far, 27 States have passed PRB-1 legislation.

The time has come for Michigan to pass PRB-1 legislation. Your interest, action & motivation will assure its passage in 2009.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2009 KCRA MEETING:

The January 14, 2009 quarterly meeting of the KCRA, Inc was called to order by President Gary Hansen, K8YSZ at 7:24 pm EST, with 5 members present. Because of the low turnout (weather-related) the self-introductions were not necessary. A roll call of officers showed the following: President (K8YSZ) present, Vice President (KD8ABP), [Absent due to illness], Sec-Treas. George Thurner (W8FWG) present, Engineer (K8YSZ) present. Tech-Advisory Committee Chairman . K8YSZ present. Paul Kemppainen (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). The Treasurer's report was read and is included as an attachment to this Newsletter. The Engineer's Report showed that our repeater was up and operating once again. (See related story in this newsletter.) Other members present were: Virginia Thurner, (Assoc. Member) Dianne Hansen (Associate Member),

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beginning Balance 12/31/2007.....\$1257.55
Income:.....1462.00
Disbursements.....2120.31
Ending Balance (checkbook balance)..... 589.24
(Sent previously to USPS subscribers)

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Repeater failed on January 3 and was back in service on January 13.
(See related story.....' "315" REPEATER GOES DOWN')

A/T COMMITTEE REPORT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Check for \$125.00 received from N8WGS (LSPR) (Thank you note was sent.)

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 would not have a controller, and would be DC powered. Details to be worked out by Gary and Bill.

CLUB AFFILIATION:

Our Sec-Treas. (George, W8FWG) is checking with ARRL to see if we could 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 would have to be made and the estimated cost for this insurance would be \$60 to \$80/year. The matter was tabled, because of the low turnout due to the weather.

NEW BUSINESS:

STAN LA MUTH RETIREMENT CELEBRATION THURSDAY:

Senior Telecommunications Engineer Stan LaMuth (ITS) retired after 36 years of service to Michigan Tech. A celebration of Stan's retirement was held on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009 from 2-4 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge. Light refreshments were served.

(Editor's note: Stan was a charter member of the KCRA)

"315" GOES DOWN:

On January 3, 2009 (Saturday afternoon about 3:00 pm), we had to take the repeater out of service once again. A continuing problem with loss of RF output was the cause, and the repeater was sent to Anderson Communications of Marquette on Thursday, January 8, 2009 for repair.

Bill (KD8JAM), did get a temporary "315" repeater working at his home, in Allouez using duplexers and a single antenna.) Anderson Comm. of Marquette repaired our repeater and tested it in a cold environment (their garage) for five days and it was picked up in Marquette by George (W8FWG) and brought back to the Copper Country on Tuesday afternoon, January 13. It was placed in service on Tuesday night, January 13 at 7:20 pm EST with Bill, KD8JAM, Howard, KD8ABP.

HELP WANTED:

Does anyone in the area use PSK-31? If yes, there is a fellow in need of your help, in helping him get started. He is Reino, W4KAR of Florida. He has an E-Mail address of w4kar@pasty.com..... and you can reach him at his E-Mail address. Please help, if you can. Tnx.

VICE PRESIDENT HOSPITALIZED:

Our Vice President, Howard, KD8ABP was hospitalized at Marquette General Hospital, on Wednesday, January 14, 2009. I talked with Howard briefly on Wednesday, January 14, and after his surgery on Thursday, January 15, he hopes to be discharged on Friday, January 16. We wish Howard a speedy recovery.

COMMERCIAL RADIO TESTING:

It was announced that there would be a Commercial Test session at the KCRA HQ on March 28, 2009. At this time there is one prospective candidate

“HAM” TESTING:

The V.E. Team of CCRAA and HARC will be providing amateur radio testing on January 24th (Fourth Saturday of January-2009) in the Ballroom (Main floor) of Douglas Houghton Hall at the East end of the M-T-U Campus. Use door Nr 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 EST. 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.

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 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!

ECHOLINK ADDED TO “315” REPEATER:

KD8JAM becomes part of K8MDH call sign!

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.

With Beta testing completed in November of 2008 the Echolink added to the “315” repeater is now a reality. It carries the call sign of KD8JAM (Bill La Bell’s call) and in addition to hearing the familiar voice ID of “KD8MDH Repeater”.....you will now be hearing the “315” ID-ing” with “KD8JAM Repeater” so don’t be confused by hearing two different ID’s on the “315.” Thanks to the cooperative efforts of Bill, KD8JAM who provided the Charter high speed link, Howard, who provided the transceiver, Dave, KD8GBH who added his technical expertise, and George, W8FWG who provided at

antenna system, this new service became a reality in November of 2008. Our thanks to all, who helped in any way. If you are a “ham” you can now access the “315” repeater from any part of the world, via the Internet! You must be a licensed ham though, in order to do so. So, you will be hearing some different call signs now, from different parts of the country (and world.) **The Node # is: 405654** and you can access others via RF, by using the “A” key on your touch-tone pad along with the Node Number of the station you wish to connect, so it is a two-way street!

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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The annual election of officers takes place at the April meeting, according to our constitution.

DOOR PRIZE:

The door prize of an ARRL Handbook (CD-ROM disk) was won by Bill, KD8JAM. Thanks to Terry, W8FMR for donating the door prize this quarter.

KCRA MEMBERS AS OF 01/14/2009

Anderson, Brandon T., N8PUM
Anderson, Frederick R., N8BTS
Anderson, Walter T., W8ERB
Baranowski, Philip L., KD8DKF
Becks, William G., WA8WG
Bell, Randall F., K8HRO
Brooks, Jon, KC8FUS
Brooks, Richard E., KB8FCX
Carlborn, Scott D., N8WGS
Clark, Steven J., KA8UZI
Djerf, Edwin R., WB8CBA
Ekdahl, Glenn P., WA8QNF
Englund, Vicky A., N8PIX
Fortier, Vickie M., KD8BJA
Grabig, Paul G., KB8UDD
Hanner, Richard J., KC8VMV
Hanner, Janet E., KC8VMW
Hansen, Gary, K8YSZ
Hansen, Dianne, Associate Member

Helppi, Reino R., W8ZZM
Hewlett, Roger G. , K8ZZA
Isaacson, Brian R., N8JAB
Johnson, Terry L., W8FMR
Johnson, Chari A., W8QLT
Keck, Jack W., W8ZKV
Kempainen, Paul A., KC8FLK
Konczel, Mark S., KC8YDU
La Bell, William, KD8JAM
La Bell, Karen, Associate Member
La Muth, Stanley, F., WB8QJZ
Lienau, James W., K9ANU
Meyers, Robert J., WA8FXQ
Meyers, Marjorie G., KC8LRP
Peterson, Helen I., N8XJJ
Royce, Dennis H., K9GIR
Royce, Geraldine A., Assoc.
Samuli John A., N8JS
Savolainen, Aleda M., KC8EKX
Savolainen, Charles F., WB8FCY
Sheffer, David S., KD8CGA
Skoglund, Denis W., KB8THD
Swiatkowski, Michael Jr., AA9VI
Turner, Charles R., N3AKQ
Turner, George R., W8FWG
Turner, Virginia C., Assoc.

OBITUARY:

James L. Baker (KE4ZRN)

ATLANTA, Mich. - James L. Baker, 73, of Atlanta, Mich, passed away on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at Otsego Memorial Hospital. He was born on April 6, 1935 to Leo and Hattie (Mettie) Baker. He married the former Frances Burcar on January 14, 1956 in Detroit, He had lived in Atlanta for the past 4 years. He was formerly of Lake Linden.

Jim was a member of Copper Country Masonic Lodge 135, where he was Worshipful Master for two years and also a member of the Hancock Eastern Star. He was a member of Trillium Chapter 304 OES, and a Ham Radio Operator. He enjoyed traveling, camping, and tinkering in his garage. He loved to help family and friends in anyway that he could. James is survived by his wife of 52 years, Frances (Burcar) Baker (KC8FUR) of Atlanta, Mich.; sons, Gary (Rachel) of Spring Hill, Fla. and Alan (Dorothy) of Holiday, Fla.; three granddaughters, Jenifer Deso, Sarah Granger and Jessica Carlisle; and

seven great-grandchildren, Chloe and Paige Deso, Mackenzie, Haylee and Morgan Carlisle, Zachary Baker and Anthony J. Granger. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Marge Baker, of Ariz., and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. James was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Baker. As were his wishes, cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held in the spring in Lake Linden.

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.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at: 8:02 pm EST. MC: The formal business meeting adjourned and refreshments were served by Dianne Hansen. (Coffee and cake) Thank you, Dianne!

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

NEXT MEETING: April 8, 2009 at 1108 Bumbletown Rd (Home of Gary (K8YSZ) and Dianne [Second Wednesday of April-2009]