

Michigan 's Northernmost VHF-FM Voice Repeater

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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

The First meeting of the KCRA for the year 2010 was held Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at the home of Gary and Dianne Hansen on Bumbletown Hill, in Keweenaw County, 1108 Bumbletown Rd.

FINANCIAL REMINDER:

If you haven't already paid your Annual Membership dues for the year 2010, Here's a gentle reminder that our fiscal year runs from January 1-to-December 31 Dues are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$13.00/YEAR

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$18.00/YEAR

BUILDING FUND: (Whatever you'd care to give) This is to payback our loan from the year 2009 for the "building-within-a-building" we finished last year. It surely makes maintenance of our repeater more comfortable now! Thanks to all those who have already contributed!

MINUTES OF THE KCRA, Inc. Meeting: January 13, 2010:

The first meeting of the year for the KCRA, Inc was called to order by President Gary Hansen, K8YSZ at 7:02 pm EST, with 8 members present. They were: President (K8YSZ), Vice President (KD8JAM), Sec-Treas. George Thurner (W8FWG), Terry, W8FMR ; Dennis, K9GIR; Virginia Thurner (Assoc.); Karen La Bell (Assoc.) Dianne Hansen (Assoc.)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

(See the enclosed attachment)

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Given by Gary, K8YSZ: Repeater operating properly .

A/T COMMITTEE REPORT: A minor problem with the time signature was corrected.

CORRESPONDENCE: Check for \$125 received from the Road Rally (LSPR)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. We had our telephone number listed in the directory at as savings of over \$50/Year. Our thanks to Dave Sheffer, KD8CGA for suggesting this, with the message relayed to us by Howard, KD8ABP, thanks to both of these gentlemen.
2. Our standby repeater was turned off, but available for use at a moments notice. It carries a PL tone of 123.0 [3Z]

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Copperdog 150 (Dog race) coming in March 12,13,14. We of KCRA have volunteered our services as safety communications for this event.
2. Partial payment of \$500.00 made to W8FWG for his loan to the club for the building at the repeater site.
3. Shall we change the club name. It was unanimously noted with a motion by Terry, W8FMR, and seconded by Dennis, K9GIR, to leave the name as it is, the KCRA. The Motion carried unanimously.
4. Dues were accepted at this meeting and pointed out by the Sec-Treas. (W8FWG) that our fiscal year starts at January 1, and ends at Dec. 31 of each year.
5. Annual (combined) Monthly/Yearly Report of income and expenses to the club was presented as a document for each member present.
6. V.E. Testing, A reminder: Will be held the fourth week of January 23, 2010 at M-T-U and also a reminder that the New Technician Class pool (with diagrams this time) will start July 1, 2010. If you have any questions about this exam, please contact Glenn, WA8QNF, the V.E. Manager for our area. He can be reached by telephone at: (906) 482-7743, or by E-Mail at wa8qnf@arrl.net. The 2010 Test Fee remains at \$15.00.
7. Announcement: Negaunee Swap-N-Shop will be the first Saturday of February at the Negaunee Twp Hall. Starting at 9 am, ending at 2 pm. Entrance fee is \$4.00 and tables are \$6.00. If interested call Greg Hanson at (906) 225-1594 or E-Mail him at: ki8af@arrl.net.
8. Announcement: Volunteers needed for the U.P. 200 and Midnight Run (Dog sled Race) being held Feb. 19-thru-Feb. 21) It was mentioned that the Michigan Tech students are a great help....so HARC Members, you have a good reputation; keep up the good work, and hope you can help out again this year. The Manager is Lou Gembolis, at (906) 485-5442. Your help is very much appreciated. Anyone else wishing to help is surely invited too.
9. Announcement: The Copper Country Humane Society is planning on putting up a wind generator and needs a 40 to 60 foot tower (to borrow) for approximately 6 months. Can anyone help with this project? It would only be a loan to them.
10. Announcement: Superior, WI Hamfest will be the first Saturday of May. That's May 1, 2010, at the Fairgrounds. Starts at 9 am ends at 2 pm.

BUILDING FUND:

Donations earmarked for the **BUILDING FUND** are now being accepted. An anonymous “lender” provided us the necessary funds to complete this project last year, as our treasury could not support this very necessary project. If you wish to make a donation toward this project please mark it as “**BUILDING FUND**” in the notation on your check. Your help is very much appreciated.

HERMAN REPEATER UPDATE:

In mid-November of last year, it was suggested by one of the club members asking “Why not restart the Herman repeater (146.670 MHz) at the home of Chuck Savolainen, WB8FCY (Chuck is the Chairman of the Repeater Committee for the CCRAA.) in Jacobsville?”

While the elevation there is not as high as the Herman site, it is possible that the signal could reach most of Baraga County. It is being tried as an experiment, and if it works out could remain there, or until we could find a better location. In a previous meeting, permission was given to add telephone service to this site from Baraga Tel.. so we could obtain service from Baraga Tel. Co. at a residential rate. This would be an advantage to us as we could then use the telephone line as a control link and as an autopatch/autodial system for Baraga County hams.

Installation is scheduled to begin right after the first of January 2010.. Chuck tells our club that all of the equipment is mounted in a new cabinet that will include the duplexers (yes, they are already installed), and he is just awaiting two matching networks, to be placed between the exciter and the amplifier. 146.670 will soon be on, from Jacobsville, as a test only, to see what kind of coverage it will give to Baraga County from his location.

FOR SALE:

48' ROHN HDX (Heavy duty) self-Supporting steel tower \$600.00

86' Andrew Superflex cable \$75

Bracket (Commercial Grade) \$25

G7 Hustler Antenna (Commercial Band) but works on 147.315 MHz 14' high \$50

Contact Stan Strangle, K8NYT AT (906) 827-3526

I-GATE POSSIBILITIES: In a recent telephone call with Jon Hopper, AB8WU, he mentioned there would be a possibility of adding a world-wide connection via the APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) to our existing digipeater K8MDH-1 on the fourth floor at the Keweenaw site.) More news on this venture at the January, 2010 meeting.

FD/2010: There was a discussion of having a “short session” of Field Day at Eagle Harbor, to show the presence of “ham” radio in the Keweenaw. More about this one at the January meeting.

APRS: Suggested to have a “Power Point” presentation about APRS, “Automatic Packet Reporting System” at MTU next year.

RENEW YOUR ARRL MEMBERSHIP OR START A NEW ONE THROUGH THIS CLUB:

The Reason? For each NEW ARRL membership we submit to ARRL through the KCRA we receive FIFTEEN DOLLARS! For each RENEWAL processed through this club the club gets TWO Dollars. Please see the Treasurer (George, W8FWG) for further details. You will be helping the club by doing it through us!

Thanks! **RENEWAL PROCEDURE:** You still pay the full \$39, but you pay it to the KCRA. The Treasurer then makes out a separate billing to ARRL for only \$37, and sends it in, to the ARRL. **NEW ARRL MEMBERSHIP.** Again, You make out your check (for QST magazine) to the KCRA for \$39, but this time the Treasurer sends in only \$24 to the ARRL). **NOTE:** “New” means: “Never having been a ARRL Member previous to this time.” So you see, renewing through our club (since we are now an affiliated club) helps us here, in the Copper Country. This offer is made only to ARRL Affiliated Clubs.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: REFRESHMENTS: Coffee and cake served by Gary & Dianne Hansen. Thanks to the Hansens’ for the generosity! The cake was good!

DOOR PRIZE: An under the cabinet type of fluorescent lamp was won by Dianne Hansen. Congratulations, Dianne!

P.S. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS THREE ATTACHMENTS:

1. **The Newsletter itself.**
2. **An “Application for Renewal” (Disregard if you’ve already paid for 2010).**
3. **Combined Treasurer’s & Annual Report for the year 2009.**

(Note: If you don’t have “EXCEL” to open the Combined Treasurer’s & Annual Report” download “Open Office 3.1” it is a FREE program and it will allow you to open the report.)

THE K.C.R.A. NEWSLETTER is published four times annually, and comes to you after the meetings during 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:

Office	Name	Call sign	Telephone #	E-Mail
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Vice President	William A. LaBell	KD8JAM	(906) 337-2546	k8jam@charter.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
(Member)	Howard F. Klann	KD8ABP	Non-Pub.	msgklann@pasty.net
(Member)	David S. Sheffer	KD8CGA	(906) 337-0936	(None)
(Member)	William A. LaBell	KD8JAM	(906) 337-2546	kd8jam@charter.net

NEXT MEETING: April 14, 2009. (Second Wednesday of April, 2010)