

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

"Michigan's Northernmost VHF-FM Voice Repeater"

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

The First Quarterly meeting of the KCRA was held Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at the home of Gary and Dianne Hansen on Bumbletown Hill, 1108 Bumbletown Rd. in Keweenaw County.

It was called to order by President Gary Hansen. The meeting opened at 7 pm EDT, with 8 members present. Self-introductions followed; and a roll call of officers showed the following present: Vice President/Treasurer, Bill LaBell, KD8JAM, Secretary Howard F. Klann, KD8ABP. Other members present were: Gary Hansen, Bill LaBell, George Thurner, Howard Klann, Vance Nelson, Dave Torrey, Denny Royce and Paul Grabig.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Given by **Bill LaBell, KD8JAM**, Ending balance as of December 31, 2012 of \$1147.15.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: *Updated as of Sunday, 25th March 2012*

Trouble Found and Work Done at Mt. Horace Greeley! 147.315 MHz Repeater, on Sunday afternoon.

All winter long we experienced a noise on the "tail" of our "ham" repeater, but we had to wait until the snow melted so we could get to the building. You won't believe what we found?

If you are familiar with coax cable of the RG8 type you know there is a socket called an SO-239 (SO meaning socket).....and the mate to it is a PL-259 (PL, for plug)

Well the springs, (four of them) inside the SO-239 fitting (center conductor mate) were so spread out (loose), the center conductor of the SO-239 (Socket) was making & breaking, irregularly. When we unscrewed the fitting one could simply push the center pin in of the PL-259 with no resistance to the push at all.....LOOSE!

We took a screwdriver (flat blade type) and bent all four tabs inward, making a good solid electrical connection. VOILA! Trouble gone!

Technically I would call this ("RF"sensitivity) This happened on the TRANSMIT side of the repeater (not the receive).....and the transmitter would be putting out 100 watts of RF energy.

This the type of trouble that is often seen with rusty connection outside, commonly called "RF Rectification." (Acting like a diode.....put voltage on a diode and you get one "H" of a noise....) (Example some light dimmer circuits) In fact if you'd like to "make" a little noise generator, just take

any ordinary diode and apply a small voltage to it.....you will get a raspy buzz.....and that is what we had alright!

We first eliminated all the things we thought it could be.....AC power supply....we turned it off, and let the repeater run on battery.....thermostat, we disconnected that (room heat)....no it wasn't that..... loose fitting on the receive side....(no), pick up on the ground leads.....no.....pickup on the telephone line no)....so by a process of elimination, our repeater is clean once again.

Three of us visited the site....Gary Hansen (K8YSZ).....Bill La Bell (KD8JAM).....and myself George (W8FWG), on Sunday afternoon about 3 pm (March 25, 2012)

-73- gents !
George T, W8FWG

A/T COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Gary Hansen,K8YSZ, (None).

New Business:

George(W8FWG) has resigned his position of Treasurer/Secretary effected as of the January 2012 special meeting and and with approval Bill La Bell (KD8JAM) is now the Treasurer and Howard Klann (KD8ABP) is the Secretary.

Welcome “New” member Lawrence A. Rogers, WD0BCF.

OLD BUSINESS:

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 (Bill LaBell, KD8JAM for further details. You will be helping the club by doing it through us! Thanks!

DUES FOR 2012:

Now is the time to get your 2012 renewal of membership in to the KCRA, Renewal traditionally is received at the October meeting, as it is the last meeting of the year. Our Fiscal year begins/ends Jan1-thru-Dec. 31. **Membership application.**

AUTOPATCH/AUTODIAL EXPLAINED:

Auto patch/Auto dial: *911 will get you the dispatch center in Negaunee.... *912 will get you the Keweenaw County Sheriff,.....*916 will get you the U.S. Coast Guard. The digit “5” will allow you to test all of the keys on your touch tone pad, to be sure they are all working correctly. In addition, each member receives two auto dial slots (speed dialing) of their choice. (Check with Bill LaBell, KD8JAM) and give him your telephone number and the two-digit slot you would like to have. (I have a record of all subscribers, and their speed call numbers.)

NEW BUSINESS:

EQUIPMENT INSURANCE

I was contacted by President K8YSZ RE: Our equipment insurance. I was asked to contact Marsh-Seabury & Smith RE: Equipment insurance in Carol Stream, IL with renewal information for our club. It was renewed through that agency. It will expire on July 23, 2012

FRIDAY NIGHT NETS:

Net Control Station operation conducted by Gary Hansen, K8YSZ, and alternate Brain Bixely, N0VVR.

First of all, the Keweenaw Co. ARES net is run, followed by the SKYWARN Net, and if there are any bulletins of interest to radio hams, Official Bulletin's of the ARRL have been discontinued.

GIFT FROM KEWEENAW CO. SHERIFF:

We have received a transceiver (Motorola) antenna system consisting of a 6 dB gain antenna and 7/8 inch Heliac transmission line + duplexers for a now defunct repeater the sheriff used to use.

*Note: antenna and feed-line in-use with AIS system, RX only.

AIS EXPLAINED:

“Automatic Information System” A system used by ships on Lake Superior was explained by George, W8FWG. Bob, WA8FXQ received a free receiver and installed it on the fourth floor of the tower, and through the generosity of Pasty.NET, a connection to the Internet was provided. Anyone with a computer can access this system and see what is happening in the shipping trade, world wide. Thanks to Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ, for the installation. Coverage is from the Apostle Islands all the way over to Whitefish Point near Sault Ste. Marie. Simply type into your browser: www.marinetraffic.com and see the ships, worldwide!

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MOVES:

The “Park Service” is moving from the Mt. Horace Greeley site to the Centennial Heights tower (Michigan State Tower) at Centennial Heights. This is an all new installation

Operators wanted – MAFCA Model A Tour, June 18-22, 2012

On Sun, Mar 25, 2012 at 6:25 PM, Paul Racine (KB0P) kb0p@kb0p.com wrote:
<please view in HTML for full affect>

I am looking for help from the radio operators from the CCRAA (Houghton club) and the Mich-A-Con (Iron Mountain club), to provide radio coverage during a 3-day event in June 2012.

The Superior A's (affiliated with MAFCA, Model A Ford Club of America) approached the HARA (Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association, Marquette) to solicit our help for radio communications for the upcoming event in June, for the 2012 International MAFCA Convention. Since this event will be

centralized out of Ishpeming and reaching out to Iron Mountain and Alberta/
Pequaming, I am emailing you to ask for help from members of your club.

<http://www.superiorclub.com/>

<http://www.mafca.com/>

Details

The Superior A's will sponsor the MAFCA event in the U.P. this summer. During the week of June 18-22, 2012, the 2012 International MAFCA Convention is coming to the central U.P. This event will host over 250 Ford Model A car. The Model A's will tour, in groups, from Ishpeming to Iron Mountain, and from Ishpeming to Alberta and then to Pequaming:

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 19, 20

7:00 (EST) AM -to- early afternoon

Cars touring from Ishpeming (Country Village) to Alberta, then off to Pequaming.

Thursday, June 21

7:00 AM (EST) -to- early afternoon

Cars touring from Ishpeming (Country Village) to Iron Mountain (Cornish Pump).

Our Role (as radio operators)

We will set up "net control" at the start of the Model A tour, at the Country Village in Ishpeming.

(Tuesday, Wednesday) We will set up radio check points at strategic locations along the route from Ishpeming to Alberta, and Alberta to Pequaming, using 2 Meters communication.

(Thursday) We will set up radio check points at strategic locations along the route from Ishpeming to Iron Mountain, using 2 Meter communications. The cars will leave Ishpeming in manageable sized groups (about 20 cars each) at fixed intervals.

Each group of Model A's will be identified either by numbers, letters, or colors.

We as radio amateurs are to report back to Headquarters as each group passes the radio check points (report time, group identifier, and how many cars in the group).

A bag lunch will be provided to the volunteers, by the Superior A's.

Our challenge (as radio operators)

We will use linked repeaters to provide 2 Meter radio communications. We must setup radio check points along the route. We will provide centralized communications with the aid of linked 2 Meter repeaters.

Tuesday and Wednesday (Ishpeming to Alberta and Pequaming)

Headquarters in Ishpeming will utilize the 147.270 Repeater (the "27" repeater in Marquette County, HARA).

The 27 repeater will be linked to the 146.820, KB0P repeater (Champion), which will provide coverage almost to Convington Junction.

We must set up a temporary repeater frequency in L'anse and we will link this repeater back to the 27 using Echolink. We must find a L'anse ham that is willing to volunteer their 2 Meter base station, preferable a ham with broadband Internet at the home. **I will then make an Echolink interface for their specific model radio to provided the radio link from Alberta to Pequaming.

Thursday (Ishpeming to Iron Mountain)

Headquarters in Ishpeming will utilize the 147.270 repeater (the 27 repeater in Marquette County, HARA).

The 27 repeater will be linked to the 146.820, KB0P repeater (Champion), which will provide strong coverage almost to Republic.

I will temporarily link the 147.090, KG8ZL repeater (the 09 repeater in Republic, CUPRA, solar powered repeater) to the 27, which will provide coverage on most of M95 to Sagola.

I will temporarily link the 146.850, WA8FXQ repeater (the 85 repeater in Iron Mountain) to the 27, which will provide coverage from Sagola to Iron Mountain.

Please contact me. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,
Paul Racine, KB0p
kb0p@kb0p.com
(906) 362-5446 (cell)

SLED DOG RACES:

A "Big" Thank You to all the workers/operators who supported the March 2,3,4 CopperDog 150.

DOOR PRIZE:

A SWR/PWR Meter, and Vance Nelson, KC8RGO was the lucky winner!

Refreshments: By: Diana Hansen, Thanks Diana the cupcake's were delicious!

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion by Howard, KD8ABP, seconded by Paul KB8UDD to adjourn, and meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm EDT

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. (147.915/147.315 MHz). The editor is Howard F. Klann, KD8ABP). The proofreader is William R. LaBell, KD8JAM. KD8ABP can be reached by telephone at: (906) 337-0234 or by E-Mail at: MsgKlann@Pasty.net

The officers of the KCRA are listed below:

Office	Name	Call sign	Telephone #	E-Mail
President:	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arrl.net
Vice President	William R. LaBell	KD8JAM	(906) 337-2546	k8jam@charter.net
Treasurer	William R. LaBell	“	“	“
Secretary	Howard F. Klann	KD8ABP	(906) 337-0234	MsgKlann@pasty.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	(906) 337-0234	MsgKlann@pasty.net
(Member)	David S. Sheffer	KD8CGA	(906) 934-2151	kd8cga@charter.net
(Member)	William R. LaBell	KD8JAM	(906) 337-2546	kd8jam@charter.net

NEXT MEETING: April 11, 2012 (SECOND WEDNESDAY OF April)

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN CLUB EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

Events can be found on the club web site. kcra-mi.net

The web site is being updated on a regular bases please check it for updates.