

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 9, 2013 at the home of Gary and Dianne Hansen on Bumbletown Hill, in Keweenaw County. Address: 1108 Bumbletown Rd. in Keweenaw County.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

President Gary, K8YSZ, Vice President Bill

It was called to order by President Gary, K8YSZ. The meeting opened at 7:03 pm EST, with 9 members and 1 guest present: (Gary) K8YSZ, (Bill) KD8JAM, (George) W8FWG, (Vance) KC8RGO, (Dave) KD8GBH, (Dennis) K9GIR and (Associate Members) Virginia Thurner, Karen La Bell, Dianne Hansen, and Guest Audine Nelson.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Showed an ending balance as of December 31, 2012 of \$800.14.

ENGINEER’S REPORT: Given by Gary, K8YSZ, showed the repeater to be operating in good order. Complete "winterizing" of the "315" repeater took place on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012 thanks to Bill (KD8JAM), Howard (KD8ABP) and Gary (K8YSZ). Power output was measured as 100 watts out of the repeater and about 70 watts to the antenna, and SWR was also measured and both were within normal operating parameters.

COMMITTEE REPORT: (None)

OLD BUSINESS:

COPPERMAN TRIATHLON:

A number of us took place in the "[Copperman Triathlon](#)" Held at Copper Harbor on August 4, 2012 They were:

GeorgeThurner,W8FWG
BillLaBell-KD8JAM
DavidSheffer,-KD8CGA
RichardPowers-KA8L

JeffStricker-W9GY
CarrollCrist-K9JCO
GaryHansen-K8YSZ
ChrisMusiel - KB9UCO
HowardKlann-KB8ABP

OLD BUSINESS:

HOUSEKEEPING AT THE 315 SITE:

A nasty noise problem was found after considerable testing at the site. It turned out to be a dirty contact on an edge connector of the PL board. Thanks to K8YSZ, KD8ABP and KD8JAM for their persistence in finding and correcting the problem! Good work, gentlemen!

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW:

This one is still to be completed, and a three member team is working on it. Check the KCRA's web page for your copy of the constitution.

ANTENNA INSTALLATION AT THE EOC AT EAGLE RIVER:

This is a work-in-progress item.

KCRC ANTENNA SYSTEM:

The Keweenaw County Road Commission transferred their VHF radio to the 800 MHZ band and Sheriff Ronald Lahti, Keweenaw County Sheriff has turned over the entire installation to the KCRA.. The antenna belongs to the CCRAA.

NEW BUSINESS:

COPPERDOG 150 FOR 2013:

This is the 4th year for this sled dog race starting in Calumet, and ending in Copper Harbor and returning to Calumet. Radio hams are again needed. Contact Gary, K8YSZ at 337-1416 if you can help. Let's hope there will be enough snow on the ground for this event! Todd Brassard, Chairman of the race will be contacting Gary, with more details of how it will be run.

EAGLE HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE EVENT:

Coming up July 19, 2013 a special event will require the use of some radio hams too. More details to follow in the April Newsletter. Vance, KC8RGO will provide more information as the time gets nearer to this Special event

ANOTHER EAGLE HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE EVENT:

This one is the worldwide Lighthouse and Lightboat event. This one takes place the second weekend in August.

MOTION #1:

To donate the 7/8 heliax plus lightning arrestor to the CCRAA for reuse as either a packet or APRS station at the Keweenaw site. MSP. (Moved-Seconded-Passed) Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION#2:

The batteries on the fourth floor supplying the APRS station and the service to the boats on Lake Superior plus a Samulex charger. It was MSP to replace these batteries. Motion carried, unanimously

MOTION #3:

W8FWG and wife, Virginia have agreed to pay one-half the cost of the new batteries plus the new charger. Motion: MSP. Motion carried unanimously.

DONATION:

A 6,000 watt portable generator (on wheels) has been donated to the KCRA by George, W8FWG.

NEW EQUIPMENT ADDITIONS:

A 10 Gigahertz beacon has been installed at the Mt. Horace Greeley site by Brandon, N8PUM of Ishpeming.

Also: A new 440 repeater (444.200 MHz) Standard + 5 MHz split (no PL tone) has been added to the Keweenaw site. At its start, a 440 yagi (beam) was installed, pointed south. In the future, and omni-directional antenna will be installed. For those of you with 440 equipment please give it a try and forward signal reports to Brandon, N8PUM at: n8pum1@charter.net

NEW REPEATER:

The Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association has installed 146.82 MHz, as of Tuesday, October 9, 2012. You will need to add a PL of 100.0 to access this repeater. Give it a try. It is located 10 miles East of Republic on a 350 foot tower with a power of 20 watts (until the new repeater and controller can be added.) It is currently linked with the 147.270 repeater in Marquette and Alger counties. Coverage seems to be excellent. It is hoped that this repeater will fill in a gap left by the old "67" repeater in Herman. Please notify Brandon, N8PUM at n8pum1@charter.net of your findings.

EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION:

Fred Anderson, N8BTS, of Anderson Communications in Marquette has informed George, W8FWG, that the Isle Royale Park Service equipment at the site has been abandoned and has been given to us. Bill and Howard went up to the site to evaluate and found several pieces of radio equipment left intact, and at least two Motorola MSR2000 transceivers and some auxiliary equipment. The 7/8 heliax going up the 100 foot tower are ours along with two yagi type antennas at the top of the tower. Quite a "gold mine!" A new padlock was placed on the door, along with a copy of our station license.

Bill reports that the old Echolink computer "died" and he has obtained a new one utilizing WIN7 as an operating system has been obtained FREE, and is now in service putting the Echolink back in service. This was installed in the home of Bill, KD8JAM. Thank you, Bill !

A REPORT FROM OUR SISTER CLUB:

Roland,KB8XI reports a number of improvements have been made to the "88" repeater and plans are for moving to a single antenna near the top of the tower (that was the original installation until commercial broadcast station, WMTU went on the air.) They have moved their antenna down, about 25 feet, so this move may prove to be worthwhile. Battery back-up is now in place at the "88" site. We commend all the people involved, KC8RGO, KB8XI, K6IPC, WA8QNF and others who have been so helpful in upgrading the "88" repeater. Both the "67" and "88" repeaters, have been modified for linkage. Good work guys! Battery backup has been added to the "67" site in Donken.

REPORT FROM KC8RGO:

CCRAA is considering redoing the digital service presently at the Calumet (Osceola) site. The change would be an improvement over what they have now.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

We may be able to avoid the high cost of the telephone by going to "Magic Jack" No action taken at this meeting, but think about it.....\$19.95 a year! Yes, that's a year! Our present telephone bill runs around \$300.00 per year.

LSPR CAME TO THE COPPER COUNTRY:

Lake Superior Performance Rally, the Oldest, Toughest and Meanest Rally on the Rally Circuit returned to Houghton, Michigan October 26-27, 2012 The Lake Superior Region Car Club announced the 18th running of the Lake Superior Performance Rally (LSPR) based in Houghton, Michigan. The LSPR is known as the Oldest, Toughest and Meanest Off-Road event in the country and is sanctioned by Rally Car/Rally-America in Golden Valley, MN.

The Lake Superior Performance Rally (LSPR) was an event held over two days, with a Coef. 3 Friday and a Coef. 2 Saturday for Rally America novice placing purposes only. New this year will be the inception of Super Rally Rules. If you DNF the first night you can come back the next day with applied penalty road points.

This year's event was held October 25-27, 2012 with competitor and worker registration starting on Thursday October 25th. Racing officially started Friday, October 26th at approximately 2:15pm(EST) with the first car out from the Country Inn & Suites on Razorback Drive just off M-26 behind WalMart in Houghton. Fans and spectators were invited to get up-close and personal with the cars and drivers during the Parc Expose at LSPR Headquarters (Country Inn & Suites) from 1:00pm to 2:15pm (EST) prior to the official start of the Auto Value LSPR Rally

This year's route started Friday October 26th with the Auto Value LSPR event at the Country Inn & Suites and traveled to the Moyle Gravel Pit off Green Acres Road for the first of two stages before heading south to the US Forest Service Roads in and near Kenton then headed back to Houghton in the early hours of Saturday to LSPR Headquarters for the official finish. Saturday October 27th all the action moved to Baraga County for day two. New to the Baraga County area will be the Parc Expose in Downtown L'Anse near the Marina in the public parking area from 9:30am to 10:30am (EST) prior to the official start of the second and final leg of this two day racing event. Once again Rally fans and spectators got up close and personal with the cars, drivers, co-drivers and teams to learn more about Off-Road Pro Rally. The LSPR racing officially started at approximately 9:30am on Saturday with the first car out from the Downtown L'Anse Marina and head into the back roads of the Baraga County area for another challenging day of racing. Fans and spectators got a second up close peak at the cars and the teams as they came in for service at the L'Anse High School parking lot, spectators were asked to please park outside of the school grounds.

(A Motion by George, W8FWG, seconded by Roland, KB8XI to allow the LSPR to use the "315" repeater during this event [if needed], passed, MSP: with a unanimous vote.)

FRIDAY NIGHT NET:

A new (NCS) member was added to the Keweenaw County ARES/SKYWARN Team of Gary, K8YSZ and Brian, N0VVR, it was yours truly, George, W8FWG. These three individuals will rotate shifts each Friday night at 9 pm on the "315" repeater. Mark your calendars and join them each Friday night at 9 pm Eastern time.

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, KD8JAM for further details.) You will be helping the club by doing it through us! Thanks! (Addendum: Two members used this method to renew, and the club is now \$4.00 richer!)

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 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
President:	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arrl.net
Vice President	William A. LaBell	KD8JAM	(906) 337-2546	k8jam@charter.net
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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) 934-2151	kd8cga@charter.net
(Member)	William R. LaBell	KD8JAM	(906) 337-2546	kd8jam@charter.net

THANK YOU:

This one is a little late, but "better late than never!" And we quote: "*On behalf of Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital please accept our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your help with this year's event. The enormous amount of support year after year is the reason why the Copperman Triathlon stays alive! We hope you will continue your support for Copperman 2013 (save the date: August 3, 2013)*"

(Editor's note: This letter was received by Gary, K8YSZ August 15, 2012)

DOOR PRIZE:

Was won by Vance, KC8RGO. It was a commercial CD on Construction.

MOTION TO ADJOURN By: Dennis, K9GIR, 2nd'ed by: Vance, KC8RGO and the meeting adjourned at: 8:05 pm EST

REFRESHMENTS BY: Audine Nelson, Gerry Royce and Dianne Hansen Thank you ladies! Everything was very tasty!

NEXT MEETING: April 10, 2013 (Second Wednesday of April)