

K.C.R.A. HEADQUARTERS
1108 Bumbletown Rd
Home of Gary L. Hansen, K8YSZ
Keweenaw Co., Michigan
147.315 MHz PL-100.0 Repeater
443.150 MHz PL-100.0 Hz
Open Autopatch

"Upper Michigan's Northernmost VHF & UHF Repeaters"



January 14, 2014

First Quarter

The KCRA ,Inc. meets the second Wednesday of each quarter during the months of Jan-Apr-Jul-Oct at 7pm at the home of Gary Hansen at the above address.

The newsletter is published immediately following the meetings and is sent to all persons on the KCRA's E-Mailing list.

The January 2015 meeting was opened and called to order at 7:07pm EST, President Gary, K8YSZ presiding. Self introductions followed. Roll call of officers showed the following officers present:

President: Gary, K8YSZ

Vice-President: Bill, KD8JAM

Secretary: George, W8FWG

Treasurer: Bill, KD8JAM

Technical/Advisory Members present:

Gary, K8YSZ

Bill, KD8JAM

Jeff, W9GY

Jonathan, AB8WU (newly appointed member)

MEMBERS PRESENT: (SEE PICTURE, BELOW)

K8YSZ, KD8JAM, W9GY, VA3DJL, W8FWG, AB8WU. (K8YSZ)

was absent from the picture as he was the cameraman!



Left: Bill (KD8JAM), Jeff (W9GY) Don(VA3DJL)

Right: George (W8FWG), Jonathan (AB8WU)

Engineer's report (By Gary, K8YSZ) The repeater is up and working but exhibits a noise problem at times. Bill, KD8JAM is planning a trip to the site on Sunday, January 18, 2015 to see if a problem can be found.

Treasurer's Report: Was given showing \$444.59 IN THE treasury with another \$100.00 to go in this weekend, bringing the total to: \$544.59 to date.

Secretary's Report (By: George, W8FWG) with a reading of the October (2014) Newsletter, bringing all members up-to-date.

Education Committee Report: (By George, W8FWG) Nothing to report on the Constitutional Review, but a promise to start it soon. Also: Ham radio exams to be given on January 24, 2015 at the Zion Lutheran Church top of Quincy Hill at 8:30am.

MAJOR DISCUSSION FOLLOWED ON THE REPEATER:
A noise problem that appears intermittently on our "315" Voice repeater followed brought these points to mind:

1. Is the trouble time related?
2. Is it a bad RF connector on the RECEIVE side, TRS OK?
3. It is full quieting on TRS, indicating a REC problem.
4. Needs careful trouble-shooting.
5. Put up a temporary antenna - on the first floor?
6. Is the SWR good? (Yes)
7. Is it an edge connector problem on a board?
8. Let's try putting a dummy load at the end of the line.
9. No heat in the room, is it a temperature problem?

10. What kind of connector on controller? (8-pinDIN).
11. Add cleaner (grease) to pins? Good idea
12. A bad solder joint?
13. Do we have a spare receiver?
14. Are there mice getting into equipment?
15. Pull phone line and see if noise disappears.

These items were all input by all members present this evening. Hopefully this problem will be resolved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Power Billing: Will be taken over by Pasty.NET

(Our thanks to the owners of Pasty Central for this act of kindness.)

Discontinue phone line from AT&T? (Yes, already done)

NEW BUSINESS:

COMING HAMFESTS:

FEBRUARY 7 HARA NEGAUNEE SWAP MEET

MAY 9 CCRAA CHASSELL SWAP MEET

AUGUST 1 DCARS ESCANABA SWAP MEET

REPEATER OPERATION: T/A Committee is checking on the operation of our "315" repeater..

George (W8FWG) nominated Jonathan Hopper (AB8WU) to become a new member of the T/A Committee. MSP Motion carried unanimously. Congratulations Jon, we are glad to have you as a new member of our team.

NEW TELEPHONE LINE: Provided by Pasty.NET Has already been installed.

NEW CONTROL OPERATORS LISTED HERE. (These are the people who see to it, that the repeater is operating within the R&R of the FCC rules.) The members of this team are:

K8YSZ

KD8JAM

KD8ABP

WA8QNF

AB8WU

W9GY

W8FWG

A corrections sheet was sent out via E-Mail to all of the above members.

COPPERDOG150 REPORT: (By Bill, KD8JAM) He has most of the operators that will be needed, and the positions have filled up fast. He had some volunteers from Michigan Tech students who volunteered to ride along all

weekend with the race coordinators. that event is a three day one, that will take place: Feb. 27,28 and March 1.

USER FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTOPATCH ARE PUBLISHED HERE FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The Star (*) function is the digit that brings the controller into action and connects the radio system to the telephone line, so you must always precede the 3-digit (or the 7-digit number) with the star (symbol) before you start dialing. There are a number of "User Functions" available to you, by radio, and we are listing them here to refresh your memories:

- *911 Regional Dispatch Center in Negaunee
- *912 Keweenaw County Sheriff's Office
- *916 U.S.C.G. Station Portage in Dollar Bay

IMPORTANT! If dialing *911 for Police, Fire or Ambulance, you must give the operator your location, as the location coming up on their screen will be our repeater location with a Mohawk address, and surely you are NOT there!. Try to remember that in an emergency. And if you are in, or see an automobile mishap, be sure to tell them if there are injuries, how many vehicles involved, how many persons and location of this event.

Upon completion of your autopatch call please remember to disconnect from the autopatch system by using the "Pound" (#) symbol. An easy memory aid is "Star UP" (Like stars in the sky)...and POUND (down) like a hammer pounding down." If you don'tyou will get this terse message...."If you'd like to make a call, please hang up and dial again."hit the POUND sign to disconnect, and you will get a "CALL COMPLETE" voice announcement over the air, from the controller, in our repeater. Thanks in advance for being so observant!

SUGGESTION: It was suggested by George, (W8FWG) that someone "test" the autopatch system by dialing a friend (using the 7 digit number) to be sure the autopatch is still working. In the past there have been incidences of it NOT working, and that would not be good in an emergency. We don't recommend testing the three 3-digit functions listed above as that would just be an inconvenience to them....we feel if the seven-digit number works, the others will also work. George, W8FWG offered to do the testing. (He will do it in two week intervals.)

DRAWING FOR A DOOR PRIZE: The door prize was a screwdriver set, and it was won by Jeff, W9GY. Congratulations, Jeff!

ATTENTION: NET CONTROL OPERATORS OF THE FRIDAY NIGHT NETS:

Gary, (K8YSZ) has issued this request (Of all Friday night NCS's) He will be reporting our net activity now to K8ED each week. Please send Gary your report via E-Mail. His E-Mail address is: hansengl51@gmail.com

He asks that you send him the following information:

1. Number of Check ins.
2. Number of pieces of Traffic (sent and rcvd).
3. Time of the net
4. Number of sessions.
5. Man hours (optional & can contain decimals)

ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING: 8:29pm
With a motion by W9GY and a second by AB8WU
The motion carried unanimously.

REFRESHMENTS: Cake and coffee provided by Gary (K8YSZ) Thank you Gary, it was very good!

FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING MEETING (EVERYONE).