

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

Michigan=s Northernmost VHF-FM Voice Repeater@

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

The third quarterly meeting of the KCRA was held one week later than usual, due to a scheduling conflict. The meeting date was **Wednesday, July 15, 2009** at the home of Gary and Dianne Hansen on Bumbletown Hill, in Keweenaw County

HOSPITALIZATION NOTICES:

Two of our members were recently hospitalized but are now back home recuperating. They are Howard Klann, KD8ABP and Charyl Johnson, W8QLT. We also send good wishes to Sharon Powers (the wife of Dick Powers, KA8L), who was hospitalized briefly recently. We wish all of these folks the best, and hope your recovery is going along well.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2009 KCRA MEETING

The July 15, 2008 quarterly meeting of the KCRA, Inc was called to order by President Gary Hansen, K8YSZ at 7 pm EDT, with 13 members present. Self introductions followed, and a roll call of officers showed the following: President (K8YSZ), Vice President (KD8ABP), [Absent] Sec-Treas. George Thurner (W8FWG), Engineer (K8YSZ). Tech-Advisory Committee Chairman . Paul Kempainen (KC8FLK) [Absent] A/T Member Glenn Ekdahl (WA8QNF), [Absent] David Sheffer (KD8CGA) Present. The Treasurer's report was read and is included as an attachment to this Newsletter. The Engineer's Report was read and accepted. Other members present were: George, W8FWG, Virginia Thurner, (Assoc. Member), Gary K8YSZ, Dianne Hansen (Associate Member), Bill KD8JAM, Karen La Bell (Assoc. Member), Terry W8FMR, Chari W8QLT, Dennis K9GIR, David KD8GBH, Jon AB8WU, David KD8CGA , Roland KB8XI

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:

1. Henry Lovett-Doust KD8JAK of Houghton
2. Cliff R. Pratt of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

These two new members were accepted into the club at this meeting with a motion by KB8XI and a second by KD8JAM. The motion carried unanimously. Welcome! Henry and Cliff.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

(See the enclosed attachment)

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Given by Gary, K8YSZ: The repeater is working properly, and no interference problems to report this month. Echo Link continues to grow in popularity and we are hearing stations connecting from all over the worlds now, showing us that we truly have an "International" repeater.

A/T COMMITTEE REPORT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS: We are now an ARRL Affiliated Club. We needed 51% of our members as ARRL members, we now have that .

We talked about building a wooden enclosure for our equipment and KD8JAM as Chairman with help from W8FMR will look into this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

CLUB AFFILIATION: We are an Affiliated Club with the ARRL as of March 23, 2009. We will be applying for Equipment Insurance, as soon as the evaluation of property is completed.

1. A donation of an entire operating APRS digipeater to the club from Howard, KD8AP was presented (by W8FWG), in Howard's absence, and a motion to accept by KB8XI, a second by KD8GBH, and the motion carried unanimously. The call sign of this repeater has been changed, and it is now known as K8MDH-1. It is located at the site of the "315" repeater. Thank you Howard for this most generous donation.
2. The KCRA's web page has been redesigned, thanks to Mike, AA9VI. Thank you , Mike....it looks very good! (Have a look at the new page: Found at: www.kcra-mi.net)
3. George, W8FWG proposed a "Constitutional Review" be made of our 25 year old constitution but a motion by KB8XI and a second by KD8GBH to leave it as is carried unanimously. The present constitution, therefore, will remain intact.
4. A suggestion to revise the "Application and Renewal " form was made by W8FWG but it was suggested to leave this go, until the next meeting.
5. Gary, K8YSZ is looking "Hints and Kinks" that could be added to the newsletter. If you have something of interest to all of us, in the KCRA please submit it to your truly, the Newsletter Editor, George W8FWG at: w8fwg@arrl.net
6. The application for Equipment Insurance was sent in on July 16, 2009 (Thursday)

7. COPPERMAN TRIATHALON:

Dick Powers, KA8L organized the “ham group” to provide safety communications for this event, consisting of swimming, hiking and biking on August 1st. (still to come)...The following hams are registered to take part: K9GIR, KD8CGA, W8FWG, KD8ABP, K8YSZ, N8CSF, K9JCO, KA8L, KD8GBH, W8FMR, KD8JAM. Thanks in advance to all who helped.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ham exams were scheduled for July 11 at MTU (next exam on Oct. 10th) in Douglass Houghton Hall, Room G32, (The ballroom) but there were no applicants, therefore no exams were given. A Commercial exam was given with an applicant appearing at the test site from Honolulu, Hawaii!

NEW APRS INSTALLATION AT HERMAN:

Thanks to our sister club, The Copper Country Radio Amateur Association, we have obtained a 6 dB gain fiberglass antenna for use at the Herman APRS installation. This APRS station will be renamed as W8CDZ-1 and will operate on a frequency of 144.390 MHz. The station, consisting of a VHF transceiver, power supply, charger, transmission line, KPC3+ TNC and protective equipment and 100 feet of low-loss transmission line is being donated to the CCRAA, in its entirety by George, W8FWG to the CCRAA, in hopes of bettering serve the entire ham community. This new installation will serve hams throughout the U.P. and surrounding states. With this higher gain antenna above the old level (ground level!).....we should see a better signal through Herman. Thanks to Brandon, N8PUM, Howard, KD8ABK (who donated the original Ringo II antenna for APRS use) and Bill, KD8JAM for their assistance in getting this new installation operating at Herman.

APRS CALLSIGN CHANGE:

The APRS station at Ontonagon (Green) formerly known as W8FWG-7 has been donated to the Ontonagon County Amateur Radio Association (through Al, KC8OCK) by George, W8FWG, and will undergo a call sign change. It will be known as K8ONT-1, as soon as Al, KC8OCK, gets the call sign changed. We hope this station will continue to help operators at, (and traveling through) the western end of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

PORTABLE REPEATER REPORT:

It will operate on 147.315+ but with a PL tone of 107.2 until the regular repeater gets put back into service, and then will revert of a 100.0 Hz PL tone.

APRS CHANGES ON THE KEWEENAW:

Some recent changes were made (call signs only) to the Copper Country APRS stations (Automatic Position Reporting System). The changes were made for the betterment and continued operation of these systems. Howard (KD8ABP) has donated his equipment to the Keweenaw County Repeater Association and George (W8FWG) has donated his equipment to the CCRAA and the OCARA (Ontonagon) clubs.

OLD CALL SIGN	NEW CALLSIGN	LOCATION	COUNTY
KD8ABP-7	K8MDH-1	Mt. Horace Greeley	Keweenaw
W8FWG-6	W8CDZ-1	L'Anse (Herman)	Baraga
W8FWG-8	W8CDZ-2	Calumet (Osceola)	Houghton
W8FWG-7	K8ONT-1	Ontonagon (Green)	Ontonagon *

*Pending

LATE BREAKING NEWS:

The Daily Mining Gazette of Houghton, carried a story on Tuesday night (July 21, 2009), about the Federal government wanting to take back part of the old Calumet Air Force Station. I am trying to find out more about this situation and when I receive it, I'll be sending everyone a special bulletin. This is important to us, as our repeater is located on that property, and we wonder how (or if) we will be affected? Keep watching your E-Mails for more on this story.

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!

DOOR PRIZE:

3 door prizes were offered at this meeting. 1. An illuminated badge (Star Trek type) won by Dave, KD8CGA, 2. A raffle ticket, won by KD8JAM was a winner of \$25,000! (This turned out to be a prank and he got the ticket only...not the money! Sorry Bill, better luck next time!) and an "AM" radio in kit form was won by Chari, W8QLT. Congratulations to all these big winners!

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 8:07pm EDT. A motion to adjourn by KB8XI, seconded by KD8GBH and the motion carried unanimously. : The formal business meeting adjourned and refreshments were served by Dianne Hansen. (Coffee, cookies and sandwiches.) Thank you, Dianne and Virginia!

THE K.C.R.A. NEWSLETTER is published four times annually, 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@arrrl.net 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	<u>k8ysz@arrrl.net</u>
Vice President	Howard F. Klann	KD8ABP	(906) 337-2168	msgklann@pasty.net
Sec./Treas	George R. Thurner	W8FWG	(906) 337-2542	w8fwg@arrrl.net
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Tech. Adv. Committee:				
(Chairman)	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arrrl.net
	Paul A. Kemppainen	KC8FLK	(906) 482-4150	pak77@lighthouse.net
	Glenn P. Ekdahl	WA8QNF	(906) 482-7743	<u>wa8qnf@arrrl.net</u>
	David S. Sheffer	KD8CGA	(906) 337-0936	(None)

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

**ADDENDUM
KCRA MEMBERS
AS OF: 07/15/2009**

LAST NAME	FIRST	M.I.	CALLSIGN	CITY
Anderson	Brandon	T	N8PUM	Ishpeming
Anderson	Frederick	R	N8BTS	Marquette
Anderson	Walter		T W8ERB	Houghton
Baker	Frances	M	KC8FUR	Atlanta, MI
Baranowski	Phillip	L	KD8DKF	Calumet
Becks	William	G	WA8WG	Porterfield, WI
Bekkala	Harold	R	N8IMU	Laurium
Bell	Randall	F	K8HRO	L'Anse
Brooks	Jon	A	KC8FUS	Chassell
Brooks	Richard	E	KB8FCX	Chassell
Burgan	Roland	B	KB8XI	Hancock
Carlborn	Scott	D	N8WGS	Hancock
Clark	Steven	J	KA8UZI	Laurium
Crider	Cecil		WE8D	Calumet
Crider	Mary	E	Assoc.	Calumet
Crist	Carroll		K9JCO	Mohawk
Davis	Jon	M	N8HXP	Houghton
Deloughary	Kevin	J	KB8PLQ	Marquette
Djerf	Edwin	R	WB8CBA	Calumet
Ekdahl	Glenn	P	WA8QNF	Hancock
Englund	Vicki	A	N8PIX	Lake Linden
Fortier	Vickie	M	KD8BJA	Hancock
Grabig	Paul	G	KB8UDD	Calumet
Hanner	Richard	J	KC8VMV	Weidman, MI
Hanner	Janet	E	KC8VMW	Weidman, MI
Hansen	Gary	L	K8YSZ	Ahmeek
Hansen	Dianne	R	Assoc.	Ahmeek
Hanson	Gregory	L	KI8AF	Marquette
Helppi	Michael	R	KC8CCX	Ishpeming
Hewlett	Roger	G	K8ZZA	Saint Clair, MI
Hopper	Charles	R	KD8JAJ	Eagle River
Hopper	Jonathan	R	AB8WU	Hamden, CT
Hopper	Katriina		KD8DYN	Hamden, CT
Isaacson	Brian	R	N8JAB	Mohawk
Johnson	Charyl		A W8QLT	Laurium

Johnson	Terry	L	W8FMR	Laurium	
Keck	Jack	W	W8ZKV	Houghton	
Kemppainen	Paul	A	KC8FLK	Houghton	
Klann	Howard	F	KD8ABP	Calumet	
Konczel	Mark	S	KC8YDU	Hancock	
Koskiniemi	Donald	M	KB8THG	Lake Linden	
La Bell	Karen	L	Assoc.	Allouez	
La Bell	Lori	N	Assoc.	Allouez	
La Bell	William	R	KD8JAM	Allouez	
La Muth	Stanley	F	WB8QJZ	Lake Linden	
Lienau	James	W	K9ANU	Green Bay, WI	
Lovett-Doust	Henry		KD8JAK	Houghton	
Meyers	Robert	J	WA8FXQ	Vulcan	
Meyers	Marjorie	G	KC8LRP	Vulcan	
Mishica	Rodney	J	KC8BSR	Calumet	
Moyle	David	G`	N8KME	Calumet	
Murphy	David	R	AA8OX	Calumet	
Nopola	Gerald		E	N8CSE	Watton
Odgers	Dale	A	W8DAO	Dollar Bay`	
Odgers	Judy	K	N8XJP	Dollar Bay`	
Peterson	Helen	I	N8XJJ	Kearsarge	
Powers	Richard	M	KA8L	Copper Harbor	
Pratt	Cliff		VA3CLF	Thunder Bay,ON	
Reid	Robert	M	W8UXG	Ontonagon	
Royce	Dennis	H	K9GIR	Eagle Harbor	
Royce	Geraldine	A	Assoc.	Eagle Harbor	
Ruddy	Brian	J	N8SRL	Baraga	
Ruddy	Susan	B	KC8CDE	Baraga	
Samuli	John	J	N8JS	Sante Fe, NM	
Savolainen	Aleda	M	KC8EKX	Lake Linden	
Savolainen	Charles	F	WB8FCY	Lake Linden	
Schoos	William	A	N8GWO	Hancock	
Sheffer	David	S	KD8CGA	Ahmeek	
Skoglund	Denis	W	KB8THD	Houghton	
Smith	Donald	R	WD8KQF	Iron River	
Strangle	Stanley	W	K8NYT	Bruce Crossing	
Swiatkowski	Michael	J	AA9VI	Northbrook, IL	
Thurner	Charles	R	N3AKQ	Mechanicsburg,PA	
Thurner	George	R	W8FWG	Laurium	
Thurner	Virginia	C	Assoc.	Laurium	

Torrey	David	O	KD8GBH	Dollar Bay
Trainer	Alfred	R	KC8OCK	Ontonagon
Yarroch	William	L	KC8EKZ	Houghton