

K.C.R.A. . . Newsletter

Michigan's Northernmost FM Voice Repeater

FALL MEETING:

IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Our Fall, 2004 meeting will be held the third Monday in October, and that will be October 18, 2004 at the

Keweenaw Pines

Apartments Community

Building just south of Mohawk on Highway US 41 just 1/2 mile beyond the Cliff Drive (left side of the highway, when traveling North) Time: 7:30 pm EDST.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION.

(See the enclosed map)

AGENDA:

1. Constitution and By-Law Revisions.

WELCOME BACK:

We welcome back Richard Hanner (KC8VMV), Henry Somero (WA8ICV), and Bill Schoos (N8GWO). All of these gentlemen were former members and have renewed their membership with us!

NEW MEMBER

APPLICATION:

An application has been received from Cliff Hill, W8ICY of Bemidji, MN.

REPEATER

MAINTENANCE:

The batteries at the site were cleaned by Doug (N8KSO), assisted by George, W8FWG. Two light bulbs were replaced within the cabinet that provide heat during the winter months. (They are under control of a thermostat set at 50 degrees.). The output power was read, and found to be satisfactory.

LSPR:

The Lake Superior Road Rally is coming up, and Paul, N8ILY has OK'ed the use of the 315" repeater for the rally. As always the repeater must be operated in accordance with R & R contained in Part 97 of the FCC Rules. Hams provide safety communication for the rallyists..

SILENT KEY:

We learned from the Daily Mining Gazette of the passing of Michael J. Anuta, W8KHY of Marquette, WI. He was 103 years old, and was the grandfather of Dan Dalquist of Edward Jones Corp. of Calumet. Our sympathy to the Anuta and Dalquist families.

FEE INCREASE:

Our charter fee increased from \$10/Year to \$20/Year to the State of Michigan.

MEMBERSHIP:

The current membership of the KCRA stands at 73.

NEW MEETING PLACE?

We have been offered (free of charge) a conference room at the Keweenaw Pines Apartments in the Conference Room, (near Mohawk.) This will be a great meeting place as there is running water, toilet facilities and plenty of table space and chairs.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2004 KCRA MEETING

The April 20, 2004 meeting of the KCRA was called to order by President Paul Smigowski, N8ILY at 7:30 pm EDST with 12 members present. The roll call showed the President, Sec-Treasurer and two Technical/Advisory Committee members present. Self introductions was followed by acceptance of the previous meeting minutes and a Treasurer s report was given. No Engineer s Report was given as the Engineer was absent. A resignation was received from Engineer Jack Swift, N8WAV, and the newly appointed Engineer is Douglas Polzien, N8ILY. A report of present membership showed 79 members in this organization.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: With a motion by Glenn, WA8QNF, and seconded by Paul, KC8FLK, the motion was for the Secretary to cast one ballot for the retention of the present officers of the KCRA with a newly appointed member of the T/A Committee, Mark Konczel. KC8YDU.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS: We have a transceiver for the control link for 315" but to date, no work has been done on it.

NEW BUSINESS: Shows a loss of 7 members, despite three notices being sent out. They have been removed from the membership roll. Back-up batteries at the site are in bad condition, corroded terminals, and bulbs supplying heat to the radio cabinet are burned out. The new Engineer will be taking care of these two problems.

SUPPLEMENT

PHONE PATCH AND AUTOPATCH GUIDELINES

(A Condensed Article)

By: W8FWG

AsAs with any privilege, phone patch and autopatch can be the loss of the privilege for all amateurs. What constitutes abuse of phone patch and autopatch privileges is the absence of specific privileges is the absence of specific privileges is the absence of specific privileges is the absence of specific privileges is the absence of specific privileges. Consider these facts: To other amateurs, phone patching activities that result in unnecessary frequency congestion or which Radio operation are an abuse to the privilege to engage in other for

To the telephone company, which needs to protect its massive investment in capital equipment, anything that endangers its equipment, its personnel or its revenues is an abuse.

To the Federal Communications Commission, which is responsible for the efficient use of the radio spectrum by the services it regulates, any radio communications that could be handled more appropriately by wire is an unnecessary use of a valuable resource.

To the commercial suppliers of radio communication for business purposes (Radio Common Carriers), competition from a noncommercial service constitutes a possible threat to their livelihood.

At one time of another, threats to radio amateurs' interconnect privileges have come from each of these sources. And threat may come from another quarter: The governments of certain nations that prohibit amateurs from handling third-party messages internally in competition with government-owned telecommunications services. If illegal phone patching to and from their countries cannot be controlled, they reason, the solution may be to ban all international third-party traffic by amateurs and to permit no such special arrangements.

The question facing amateurs is this: Should phone patches and autopatches be subject to reasonable voluntary restraints, thereby preserving most of our traditional flexibility, or should we risk forcing our government to define for us specifically what we can and cannot do?

Experience has clearly shown that when specific regulations are established, innovation and flexibility are likely to suffer.

The Amateur Radio Service is not a common carrier, and its primary purpose is not the handling of routine messages on behalf of non-amateurs. Third-party communication as in incidental part of Amateur Radio, however adds an important dimension to amateur public-service capability.

It is the policy of the American Radio Relay League to safeguard the prerogative of amateurs to interconnect their station, including repeaters, to the public telephone system. An important element of this defense is encouraging amateurs to maintain a high standard of legal and ethical conduct in their patching activities. It is to this end that these guidelines are addressed. They are based on standards that have been in use for several years on a widespread support within the amateur community. All amateurs are urged to observe these standards carefully so amateurs' traditional freedom from government regulation may be preserved as much as possible:

- 1) International phone patches may be conducted only when there is a third party agreement with the countries concerned.
- 2) Phone patches or autopatches involving the pecuniary (money) interest of the originator or on behalf of the originator's employer must **NOT** be conducted at any time.
 - a. Calls to a pizza parlor **ARE** allowed (provided you don't work for them!)
 - b. Calls made from the highway in the interest of safety (calling a wrecker) **ARE** allowed.
 - c. Calls to your business office to see if any messages are received are **NOT** allowed.
- 3) All interconnections to the telephone line **MUST** be made in accordance with telephone company tariffs
- 4) Phone patches should **NEVER** be made to avoid toll (long distance) charges
- 5) Third parties should **NOT** be allowed to make the call without the presence of a control operator.
- 6) Make sure the third party knows they are transmitting by radio, and that the communications may be heard by other people, and thus are **NOT** private
- 7) Phone patches **MUST** be terminated **IMMEDIATELY** in the event of any illegal operation.
- 8) Autopatch facilities must **NOT** be used for broadcasting
(Exception: NOAA weather, government propagation bulletins and space shuttle transmissions **ARE** permitted)
- 9) Station ID **MUST** be strictly adhered to. (At least once every 10 minutes)
RE: International Phone Patches: If a foreign language is used, the ID must be in English. Station ID of **BOTH** stations must be given at the **END** of the transmission.

- 10) In using phone patch frequencies, the rights of other amateurs **MUST** be considered patching on 15 and 20 meters. Confine your patching to: 21.300-21.450MHz and 14.250-14.350 MHz.
- 11) Phone patches should be kept as **BRIEF** as possible.
- 12) No unlicensed person may initiate an amateur transmission without the knowledge and approval of the station's **control operator**. Reverse autopatch calls must be screened and off the air, by the control operator. (Even if a tone on an incoming call causes the repeater to transmit, **THIS IS ILLEGAL**)
The use of reverse autopatch is permitted in only a very **limited** way.
- 13) If you have any doubt as to the legality or advisability of a patch **DON T** make it. Compliance with these guidelines will help ensure that hams' interconnection privilege will continue to be available in the future, which will in turn help amateurs contribute to the public interest.

(Ed: For the complete edition of this work please see the FCC RULE BOOK published by the American Radio Relay League.)

(This work is printed in abbreviated form with permission of the ARRL and credit is given to the ARRL's FCC Rule Book, 12th edition.)

NEW BANK:

As of October 2, 2004 the KCRA's National City Bank of Calumet became the River Valley State Bank of Wausau, WI. The change was transparent and we continue to work with the same people at the Calumet bank that we have in the past. New checks are being issued, new deposit slips have been received and our account number will remain the same. It is just a name change, and the new bank taking over several branch banks of National City Bank.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF replaces George Thurner, W8FWG as the new Trustee for the CCRAA club's two repeaters: W8CDZ-Hancock and W8CDZ-Herman. We wish Glenn success in seeing to it that the repeaters are operated within the Part 97 Rules & Regulations. George, W8FWG continues as Trustee of the KCRA repeater, K8MDH.

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

Paul Smigowski, N8ILY in a communication to the Secretary-Treasurer of this organization has resigned as President, effective Monday, October 11, 2004. Paul continues as a member of KCRA. In another E-Mail note received the same day, Mark Konczel, KC8YDU, resigned as an Advisory-Technical committee member. Mark continues as a member and supports the efforts of the KCRA.

MEMBER ID CARDS: New ID cards are being printed, and will be included in the April, 2005 mailing. Please contact the Secretary-Treasurer if you haven't received your new card by 04/30/05.

The picture on the back of the card was suggested by Virginia Thurner, Associate Member. Thanks Virginia!

The K.C.R.A. Newsletter is published twice annually (April and October) by the Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc. Spring meetings are held the THIRD Tuesday of April and the FALL meetings are held the THIRD Monday of October. Special meetings may be called at any time, by the President. KCRA, Inc. 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 positive split and with a PL-100 tone. The Editor is George R. Thurner, W8FWG. The proofreader is Virginia C. Thurner. W8FWG can be reached by telephone at: (906) 337-2542, FAX at (906) 337-1943 or by E-Mail at: w8fwg@arrl.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:	(Vacant)			
Sec./Treas	Geo. Thurner	W8FWG	(906) 337-2542	w8fwg@arrl.net
Engineer	Doug. Polzien	N8KSO	(906) 296-9686	dpolzien@up.net
Tech. Adv. Committee:				
(Chairman)	Douglas Polzien	N8KSO	(906) 296-9686	dpolzien@up.net
	Douglas Brumm	K8LHM	(269) 945-4842	k8lhm@arrl.net
	Paul Kemppainen	KC8FLK	(906) 482-4150	pkempp@portup.com
	Glenn Ekdahl	WA8QNF	(906) 482-7743	wa8qnf@arrl.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Club meeting notices, weather alerts and other special messages will continue to be aired on the 315" repeater. Autopatch and autodial slots expire with the members expiration date, and must be renewed to be kept operational.

KCRA MEMBER INFO:

Repeater Call sign: K8MDH

Input: 147.915 MHZ

Output: 147.315 MHZ

PL Tone: 100 Hz

Patch Up: * + Phone Nr.

Patch Down: #

Autodial: * + slot number

EMERGENCY: *911

Keweenaw Co. Sheriff: *912

U.S. Coast Guard: *916

Tone Pad Test: 5 + numbers

Time of Day: 39

Note: When dialing the EMERGENCY number (*911) you must tell the dispatcher where you are, as they can only go by the listed telephone number of the repeater. Please give them the nature of the emergency, number of vehicles involved (if any) and number of injuries.