

# KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

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Michigan's Northernmost VHF-FM Voice Repeater"

## SPECIAL MEMORIAL EDITION REMEMBERING LEE J. ROYCE, KC8DYG

It was just one year ago, that our past President, Lee J. Royce passed away and this special Memorial Edition is presented in his honor. Attached you will find pictures of Lee, in the early years, and his obituary will also appear. A good friend, family member, truck driver, computer repairman, and just an all-around good man. He could fix almost anything, and even had his own business of repairing all kinds of things for people, and he charged very little for his services. Lee will long be remembered for his kindness.

### **LEE JOHN "Hodag" ROYCE:**

**Eagle Harbor: Lee John "Hodag" Royce (KC8DYG) age 47, passed away on Wednesday, October 19, 2007 at Marquette General Hospital following a lengthy illness. He was born February 21, 1960 in Laurium, the son of Dennis and Geraldine Royce and grew up in San Antonio, TX. He was employed as a truck driver for most of his career. Lee is survived by his parents, Dennis and Geraldine of Eagle Harbor, a sister, Ann M. (R.C.) Smith of San Antonio, two aunts, Betty Bylaska of Antigo, WI and Millicent (William) Sunderlund of Monroe, MI special friends, June Erlandson and George and Virginia Thurner, numerous other friends and cousins. Lee was preceded in death by his grandparents, and a sister; Sue Lynn in February 2006. He enjoyed working on computers and building models. He was president of the KCRA radio club. Funeral services were held on Friday, October 19, 2007 at the Ryan Funeral Home in Calumet with Pastor Kenneth Toth officiating.**

### **PICTURE GALLERY:**

Please check the pictures honoring Lee's life at the end of this newsletter.

### **WELCOME!**

Gary (K8YSZ) and his wife Dianne have given us permission to conduct our meetings at their home. It is easy to find....It is just 3 miles north of the intersection of Hwy U.S. 41 and M-203 (Pine St. in Calumet). Turn onto Bumbletown Rd, follow it to the end, where the blacktop ends and you will see their home on the right-hand side of the roadway. You will see the tri-band beam atop the 40 foot tower, on the side of his house, with the 2M vertical at the top.

### **OCTOBER MEETING:**

**Quarterly meetings of the KCRA are held during the months of JAN-APR-JUL-OCT, on the second Wednesday of that month.**

The Oct. 8, 2008 meeting of the KCRA was held at the home of Gary and Dianne Hansen , 1108 Bumbletown Road, Allouez Twp, Keweenaw County. at 7 pm EDT, with President Gary L. Hansen presiding. There were 13members and 1 guest present .

### **DUES REMINDER:**

Dues to the KCRA, Inc are always accepted at any time, but the Fiscal year runs from Jan1 until December 31 of the New Year. Please keep your membership up to date and enjoy the privileges of belonging to the U.P.'s most Northern Amateur Radio Association. If we don't hear from you by the end of January, we will send a reminder letter. If still not heard by the end of February another reminder letter is sent. If, at the end of March nothing is heard, you are removed from the membership roles of the KCRA, but you may reapply at any time. Benefits of membership to the KCRA are:

1. Fellowship with other "hams" to discuss items of interest.
2. Free autopatch service
3. Two free 2-digit autodial slots of your choice
4. 911 access to the repeater
5. 912 access (Keweenaw Co. Sheriff Dept.)
6. 918 access USCG
7. Door prizes every meeting
8. Food and other refreshments at every meeting
9. One of the Copper Country's finest repeaters (100W Motorola MSR-2000)
10. Free notification of the expiration of your "Ham" license
11. Time-of-Day via the repeater
12. Meeting notice via the repeater

### **PROMOTION TIME!**

William R. La Bell of Allouez upgraded from Technician To General Class, and is now a FULL MEMBER of the KCRA. His call is very catchy: KD8JAM (Bill....Is that raspberry or strawberry !)  
Ha! Just kidding! Congratulations Bill, in doing both in one sitting! Good work! Welcome!

### **VANITY CALL SIGN:**

You may not have recognized him on the air, with his new call sign of W8RAP (initials of his name)....But it is hard to forget our friend (and my former supervisor!) Roy A. Peltoniemi of Dollar Bay. He was WB8ZYL (zip-your-lip), and now.....Did you bring some "RAP" music with you Roy? (OK George, you can cut out the corny jokes any time now!)

**SILENT KEY:**

MASON - Paul M. Christensen, 58, of Mason, passed away Friday, September 19, 2008.

He was born April 6, 1950 in Kankakee, Ill., the only child of Marvin and Velda Christensen. He graduated from Central High School in Clifton. He also attended Michigan Tech.

Paul was a dedicated and valued employee of the local Auto Value (formerly OK Auto) stores. He was an avid bird watcher, taking great pleasure from getting up on Brockway Mountain early in the spring to watch the birds of prey migrate back to Canada.

Paul was also active in the CCRAA, holding the office of Treasurer, and was a past member of the KCRA.. He was a member of the Houghton County Historical Society and on the Houghton County Fair Board. He was a big fan of Performance Rallying, being a regular volunteer at the POR and later the LSPR, every year, working tirelessly to help organize and run the event. He was an accomplished model railroader, as well as a rail fan, traveling throughout the U.P. to study trains, about which he was very well versed. In recent years, his passion was for antique engines and equipment. He was a regular fixture at antique engine shows throughout the U.S. and his well restored engines made popular exhibits, always running very well and attracting lots of attention. And above all this, Paul was a loyal friend and a man who took pride in being a "Yooper by choice". He would never have wanted to live anywhere else. Paul is certainly missed by the many whose lives he touched. Surviving are his mother, Velda; several aunts, uncles and cousins. There was no funeral service nor visitation. Cremation has taken place. Memorials may be made to the Houghton County Historical Society or the Salvation Army.

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**MINUTES OF THE October 8, 2008 KCRA MEETING**

The October 8, 2008 quarterly meeting of the KCRA, Inc was called to order by President Gary Hansen, K8YSZ at 7:02 pm EDT, with 16members and 1 guest present.(Karen La Bell) The La Bell's are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary tonight@ Congratulations! Self introductions followed, and a roll call of officers showed the following: President (K8YSZ), Vice President (KD8ABP), Sec-Treas. George Thurner (W8FWG), Engineer (K8YSZ). Tech-Advisory Committee Chairman . Paul Kempainen (KC8FLK) (Absent) A/T Member Glenn Ekdahl (WA8QNF), (Absent) Member 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: W8FWG, Virginia Thurner, Assoc. Member) Dianne Hansen (Associate Member), KD8JAM, Karen La Bell (Guest), W8RAP, W8FMR, K9GIR, Geraldine Royce (Associate Member), KD8GBH,

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**  
(See the enclosed attachment)

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Given by Gary, K8YSZ, that the repeater is operating properly, with the new Tx/Rx duplexers installed on June 20, 2008.

**A/T COMMITTEE REPORT:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. PL tone on permanently.
2. Semi-Annual inspection of the repeater coming up before the snow flies
3. PL tone is also on the output now, as of July of this year.
4. Rally America (LSPR) is given permission to use the repeater during the road rally.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Dues for 2009 run from Jan 1, to Dec. 31. [Dues may be paid for next year, at any time]
2. Shall we increase, decrease, or keep the dues the same as 2008 (Keep the same )MC-Unan. KD8GBH/W8RAP
3. Education Dept. starting to provide video tapes for Technician and General + a Study book (W8FWG reported)
4. Would like to convert our VHS video tapes to DVD's. Can anyone do this for us at low cost? (Yes) [KD8ABP]
5. Can we have our repeater announce "PL-100)?" (Yes)
6. Can we add Echolink to the repeater? (Yes, see full story below!)
7. Can we get some signs showing the repeaters, along the highways? (Checking into it)
8. Can we get some flyers made showing local repeater freqs? (KD8ABP and W8FWG) working on it
9. Can we get a table at the U.P. Sportsman's Club next fall and possible hold a raffle to win an FRS radio? (Table until next August)
10. Can we get some autopatch information in our newsletter? (Yes, See Addendum to this Newsletter) we have a Simulate Emergency Test (SET) in our Club? (Possibly) Gary, K8YSZ will check into it.
11. Get a quote on ARRL Insurance (W8FWG will do that)
12. Send a get-well card to Cecil Crider, from club members (Done)
13. "AEC" (Answer Every Call) (See story below)

**AEC:** No, not the “Atomic Energy Commission” but something yours truly came up with after hearing at the last meeting that a lot of visitor’s calls on the “315” go unanswered. When someone, not a regular operator to the area comes in (a visitor) and announces (W8XXX Monitoring) he/she should be answered and welcomed to our Copper Country. You don’t have to stay and hold a long-winded conversation with them, just let them know they are being heard, and perhaps they may have a question about lodging, fishing, or finding an exam point or some other place in the area. They may be here for just a short time, some may be here just over night, and they may think, (when no one comes back to them).....”Gee, this repeater is really “dead!” We don’t want to convey that impression to our visitors, so please.....please, the next time you hear a call that you may not be familiar with.....please answer them and have a short QSO. They will feel better, and so will you! And.....you may gained a new friend, you may even have something in common. Try it...you’ll like it! Thanks!

### **ECHOLINK COMING TO THE “315” repeater!**

**Q1:** What is “Echolink”

**A1:** The best way to “learn all about it is to “Google it”, with your computer and put in “Echolink” That will take you to the main page whose URL is: [www.echolink.org](http://www.echolink.org) and most of your questions will be answered there.

**Q2.** What is needed to use Echolink?

**A2.** A few things:

- a. You must be a licensed radio “ham.”
- b. A computer
- c. A microphone
- d. A sound card in your computer.

**Q3.** Is it legal?

**A3.** Yes, it is legal

**Q4.** Will I have to sign up for it?

**A4.** Yes, initially you will have to sign up, and you will be assigned a “Node” number

**Q5.** What do you mean by a “Node” number”

**A5.** Depending upon “when” you signed up you will receive a four, five or six digit “ID”, (Mine...W8FWG..... is “4401.”

**Q6.** Who may then come into the repeater once it gets connected?

**A6.** Almost anyone....anywhere in the world, who is a ham, can connect!

**Q7.** Won’t that be a costly venture for the club adding more equipment to our repeater?

**A7.** Not at all! All we need is a dedicated transceiver that will be tuned to the Calumet (Keweenaw) repeater and a high-speed Internet connection at someone’s home, and no new equipment is needed at the repeater site at all!

**Q8.** Wow! That sounds to good to be true, but where ware we going to get the extra transceiver, antenna system, and high-speed Internet connection?

**A8.** This was already figured out at the October 8, 2008 meeting of the CCRAA. Howard, KD8ABP is donating a transceiver, an FT-8990, and Bill, KD8JAM is donating the use of his high-speed Charter computer line, and Dave, KD8GBH, along with the other two gentlemen is helping with the technical details of hooking it up.

**Q9.** Sounds wonderful! When can we start using it, once we get our ham stations connected?

**A9.** No target date has been set, it is a “WIP” at this point.....a “work-in-progress” and as soon as these hams get together, and get it hooked up, I’ll be sending out a special bulletin to all club members of the KCRA, the CCRAA, ,and the other 26 clubs in Michigan, so at least the “Yoopers” will know about it. We encourage our HF operators to “spread the word”...and that way, we will be “Open to the world!”

**Q10.** What if we have some undesirable person connect that we don’t want, can we exclude them?

**A10.** Yes, there is a function to do that.

**Q11.** What if someone from out of the area violates and FCC rule, what do we do then?

**A11.** Every radio licensee must have a control operator. We have several in the KCRA, who can turn the repeater off by using the control link, at any time.

**Q12.** What about overseas stations, can we eliminate certain call areas?

**A12.** Yes, that also can be done.

**DOOR PRIZE:** Was won by Terry, W8FMR. A tool box and contents of same!

**NEXT MEETING:**

Will be the January 14, 2009. (Second Wednesday of January, 2009)

**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!

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at: 8:00 pm EDT. MC: KD8GBH/K9GIR

The formal business meeting adjourned and refreshments were served by Dianne Hansen. (Coffee and cake) Thank you, Dianne!

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**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:**

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