

# KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

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## “Michigan’s Northernmost VHF-FM Voice Repeater”

### ENCLOSURES:

1. **TREASURER’S REPORT FOR OCTOBER-2010**
2. **RENEWAL FORM [DISREGARD, IF ALREADY PAID]**

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Fourth Quarterly meeting of the KCRA was held Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at the home of Gary and Dianne Hansen on Bumbletown Hill, 1108 Bumbletown Rd. in Keweenaw County. This was the last meeting of this year.

### MINUTES OF THE KCRA, Inc. Meeting: October 13, 2010:

The Fourth meeting of the year for the KCRA, Inc was called to order by President Gary Hansen, K8YSZ at 7 pm EDT, with 11 members present. and a roll call of officers showed the following present: President (K8YSZ), Vice President (KD8JAM), Sec-Treas. George Thurner (W8FWG) Tech/Advisory Committee members were present; K8YSZ and KD8JAM. Other members present were, K9GIR, WB8QJZ, KD8GBH, W8FMR, KD8FPN, KC8VEU, and Associate Members Dianne Hansen and Virginia Thurner.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Controller is not responding to commands, we will be looking at it this weekend. (Update! It was tested today, Thursday, October 14, and found to be working normally! Cause unknown!)

**A/T COMMITTEE REPORT:** The PA for the original repeater was sent to Bill Becks (WA8WG) of Porterfield, WI for repair, but was found to be “not worth fixing”, and a new (pre-owned!) PA was ordered via E-Bay by Bill, KD8JAM, and installed by KD8JAM and KD8ABP.

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS:** Rudi D. Edel, N8OIX of Gaylord, Michigan \*  
Nancy L. Banfield, KD8FPN of Houghton  
Joshua A. Myles, KC8VEU of Calumet

\* This is a correction: Show Rudi D. Edel of Gaylord, MI as a new member

Motions made and accepted to accept KD8FPN & KC8VEU, and N8OIX will have to be accepted at the January, 2011 meeting.) Welcome to the KCRA!

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### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Repeater was replaced with a GE Delta, proving 120 watts output..
2. Telephone turned back on.
3. RC96 controller restored to service.
4. Autopatch and Autodial service restored by July 10, 2010

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Iron Man Triathlon at La Belle– NCS was Dave Torrey, KD8GBH, other hams who took part were, Dave, KD8CGA; Stan, WB8QJZ; Gary, K8YSZ; Joshua, KC8VEU; Nancy KD8FPN and George, W8FWG.
2. V.E. Testing: was October 9, 2010 at M-T-U (6 new “Techs” and one upgrade to General).
3. Elections for the CCRAA were held in September of this year.
4. New power amp (used one !) received via E-Bay and installed by KD8JAM and KD8ABP in the original MSR-2000 cabinet.
5. Copperdog150 will be held once again, one week earlier during the month of March in 2011. Members will be notified when we get more details.
6. Ham exams are scheduled for January, 2011.

### **DONATION RECEIVED:**

A donation in the amount of \$50.00 was received from the “Kupari Saari” and presented by Nancy, KD8FPN to our organization our thanks to them for their kindness. The next Triathlon will be held at Lac La Belle on August 14, 2011, and they are asking for the help of local radio hams once again.

### **A REMINDER:**

Joshua, KC8VEU reminded us that there are still a lot of vacant slots in the LSPR (road rally) coming up this weekend. If you can help, please contact Doug Polzien at 296-9686 or come to the Friday night registration at the Country Inn & Suites from 5 to 10 pm Friday (October 15) to offer your help.

### **Sept. 28, 2010 - CATASTROPHIC TELEPHONE FAILURE IN THE CALUMET (337) EXCHANGE**

About 8 pm on September 28, 2010 a fiber optic cable was accidentally cut, affecting telephone and data subscribers in the Calumet-Laurium-Keweenaw area. Ham radio operators converged on the “88” and “315” repeaters to help out. Our thanks to all of the radio hams who assisted in this critical time.

Hams that helped:

Gary, **K8YSZ** on 800 Mhz to Jack KD8NPI.

Jack **N8WAV** who tried calling me but got my voice mail recording.

Ed, **WB8CBA** who first reported it.

Luke, **KD8DKF**, who gave the first location as being at Boston Lake (near the airport).

Dave, **KC8BSN** (Calumet) telephone company employee who went out and actually found the trouble, saving the Marquette crew many hours of troubleshooting.

Terry, **W8FMR** from Laurium verified that he too could not call out.

Geo., **W8FWG** who first heard of the event from Ed, WB8CBA, while at the Osceola clubhouse.

Chas. **WB8FCY** from Jacobsville, who helped us understand the telephone routing.

Bill, **KD8JAM**, who used his Charter service to verify that Lake Linden still had service.

Jack, **KC8NPI** of Ripley who manned the OEM office, and was in touch with Gary, K8YSZ

No one could call in or out of the Calumet exchange. We called it an "isolation"

No 911 service.

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No emergency call box working at the MSP Post 90 in Calumet.

No DSL service from Pasty.NET in the Calumet-Laurium area.

Service was restored the next day at about 9:45am with a repair crew coming in from Marquette, and splicing the severed fiber optic cable.

It was reported that a contractor was working on a bridge at Boston Lake, and driving steel pilings, which severed the connection of the telephone office in Hancock (482 exchange), from the 337 (Calumet) exchange and the 289 (Keweenaw) office.

OEM dispatched a fireman to each fire station to handle any emergency calls, and trailers were put on the bottom of the screen at WLUC-TV6 in Marquette, and announcements were made out of the NOAA weather transmitter near Houghton. (WXK-73) of an emergency telephone number to call.

A complaint was filed by W8FWG to the Michigan Public Service Commission, on Friday, October 8, 2010, RE: Why were the Calumet and Keweenaw telephone subscribers not able to call within the exchange? A return message said an answer would be forth-coming in five to ten days. (A call was received by George, W8FWG, three days later and the answer (from an AT&T spokesperson) was found to be unsatisfactory), [By W8FWG] and AT&T referred the trouble report to service technicians at AT&T.

#### **DUES FOR 2011:**

Your Membership dues for next year are due now. Our fiscal year begins January 1, and ends December 31. A number of you have already paid your dues in advance supporting our **SPECIAL REQUEST** earlier this year, and no additional dues are requested of you, but for the remainder of our members, please submit your annual dues, and again, thanks for your support of the KCRA. **IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES FOR NEXT YEAR YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PAY AGAIN. (disregard the enclosed renewal form)**

#### **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:**

1. Free autopatch service.
2. Free autodial, allowing you two free autodial slots.
3. Free 911 service (This one is most valuable in itself) Dial “\*911”.
4. Free calling to the Keweenaw County sheriff’s office. (\*912).
5. Free subscription to the KCRA Newsletter.
6. Fellowship with other members, exchange of ham related ideas, etc.
7. A chance to win the door prize offered quarterly.
8. Connection to the Echo Link (Internet) facility.

#### **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 (George, W8FWG) for further details. You will be helping the club by doing it through us! Thanks!

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** A motion by KD8GBH and seconded by W8FMR and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm EDT (The meeting was reopened briefly to accept two new members, KC8VEU and KD8FPN.)

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**REFRESHMENTS:** Courtesy of Dianne and Gary Hansen. The apple cake and coffee was delicious! Thank you, Dianne and Gary.

**DOOR PRIZE:** Of a tool box complete with small tools and soldering equipment was won by Stan, WB8QJZ.

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**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. 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:

Office	Name	Call sign	Telephone #	E-Mail
President:	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arrrl.net
Vice President	William R. LaBell	KD8JAM	(906) 337-2546	k8jam@charter.net
Sec./Treas	George R. Thurner	W8FWG	(906) 337-2542	w8fwg@arrrl.net
Engineer	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arrrl.net

**Tech. Adv. Committee:**

(Chairman)	Gary L. Hansen	K8YSZ	(906) 337-1436	k8ysz@arrrl.net
(Member)	Howard F. Klann	KD8ABP	Non-Pub.	<u>msgklann@pasty.net</u>
(Member)	David S. Sheffer	KD8CGA	(906) 337-0936	kd8cga@charter.net
(Member)	William R. LaBell	KD8JAM	(906) 337-2546	kd8jam@charter.net

**NEXT MEETING:** Second Wednesday of January (next year)..... January 12, 2011  
Second Wednesday of January)