

# KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

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## “Michigan=s Northernmost VHF-FM Voice Repeater@

### **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:**

The Fourth Quarterly meeting of the KCRA was held Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at the home of Gary and Dianne Hansen on Bumbletown Hill, in Keweenaw County, 1108 Bumbletown Rd. in Keweenaw County.

It was called to order by Vice President Bill La Bell in the absence of the President. The meeting opened at 7 pm EDT, with 10 members present. Self-introductions followed, and a roll call of officers showed the following present: Vice President, Bill, KD8JA, Secretary-Treasurer George, W8FWG. Other members present were: Howard, KD8ABP; Stan, WB8QJZ; Terry, W8FMR; Paul, KB8UDD; Roland, KB8XI; Vance, KC8RGO; David, KD8GBH; and Karen, Assoc. Member.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Ending balance as of October 12, 2011 of \$733.43

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Given by George, W8FWG Repeater is operating OK , with only one commercial power failure during the quarter, battery back up worked, and kept the repeater on the air, during the outage of several hours.

**A/T COMMITTEE REPORT:** (None)

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **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!

### **DUES FOR 2012:**

Now is the time to get your 2012 renewal of membership in to the KCRA, Renewal traditionally is received at the October meeting, as it is the last meeting of the year. Our Fiscal year begins/ends Jan1-thru-Dec. 31.

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**AUTOPATCH/AUTODIAL EXPLAINED:**

Autopatch/Autodial: \*911 will get you the dispatch center in Negaunee.... \*912 will get you the Keweenaw County Sheriff,.....\*916 will get you the U.S. Coast Guard. The digit "5" will allow you to test all of the keys on your touchtone pad, to be sure they are all working correctly. In addition, each member receives two autodial slots (speed dialing) of their choice. (Check with George, W8FWG and give him your telephone number and the two-digit slot you would like to have. (I have a record of all subscribers, and their speed call numbers.)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**EQUIPMENT INSURANCE**

I was contacted by President K8YSZ RE: Our equipment insurance. I was asked to contact Marsh-Seabury & Smith RE: Equipment insurance in Carol Stream, IL with renewal information for our club. It was renewed through that agency. It will expire on July 23, 2012

**WINTERIZING THE "315" REPEATER:**

Bill, KD8JAM will see to it that this is done before the snow flies.

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**S.E.T. - 2011**

Two members of the club participated in S.E.T. – 2011. They were: Bill, KD8JAM and George, W8FWG. This event was held on October 1, 2011.

**LSPR Coming.** A motion by KB8XI and seconded by W8FMR allows officials of the rally to make use of the "315" repeater if needed. Please honor this request for the rallyists safety.

**FRIDAY NIGHT NETS:**

First of all, the Keweenaw Co. ARES net is run, followed by the SKYWARN Net, and if there are any bulletins of interest to radio hams, they will be given by Geo., W8FWG who is an Official Bulletin Station of the ARRL.

**GIFT FROM KEWEENAW CO. SHERIFF:**

We have received a transceiver (Motorola) antenna system consisting of a 6 dB gain antenna and 7/8 inch Heliac transmission line + duplexers for a now defunct repeater the sheriff used to use.

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**AIS EXPLAINED:**

“Automatic Information System” A system used by ships on Lake Superior was explained by George, W8FWG. Bob, WA8FXQ received a free receiver and installed it on the fourth floor of the tower, and through the generosity of Pasty.NET, a connection to the Internet was provided. Anyone with a computer can access this system and see what is happening in the shipping trade, world wide. Thanks to Bob Meyers, WA8FXQ, for the installation. Coverage is from the Apostle Islands all the way over to Whitefish Point near Sault Ste. Marie. Simply type into your browser:[www.marinetraffic.com](http://www.marinetraffic.com) and see the ships, worldwide!

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MOVES:**

The “Park Service” is moving from the Mt. Horace Greeley site to the Centennial Heights tower (Michigan State Tower) at Centennial Heights. This is an all new installation

**SLED DOG RACES:**

Will be coming on March 2,3,4 of 2012. I’m sure we will be asked to provide safety communications once again!

**YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE KCRA:**

Will be forthcoming on December 31, 2011

**HELP WANTED:**

KB8XI brought up the point that the antenna (wire) of Roy’s (W8RAP) came down in a recent wind storm. There were offers of help from four people within the club, Dave, KD8GBH; Terry, W8FMR; Bill, KD8JAM; and Roland, KB8XI. Thanks gang.....I’m sure Roy is going to appreciate your efforts.

**THANKS TO GARY AND DIANNE:**

For the use of their home for our October meeting while they were out of town. Thanks Gary and Dianne !

**DOOR PRIZE:**

A Digital Multimeter, and Roland Burgan, KB8XI was the lucky winner! Congratulations Roland! (Roland says he never won anything before this one!)

**Refreshments:** By: Karen La Bell, Thanks Karen, the cake was delicious !

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion by Howard, KD8ABP, seconded by Paul KB8UDD to adjourn, and meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm EDT

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. (147.915/147.315 MHZ). 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](mailto:w8fwg@arrrl.net) The officers of the KCRA are listed below:

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**NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 11, 2012 (SECOND WEDNESDAY OF JANUARY)**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR !**

**THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN CLUB EVENTS DURING THE YEAR**