

# KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.

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## Michigan's Northernmost VHF-FM Voice Repeater"

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

Our fiscal year starts on January 1 and ends on December 31. Because a lot of expenses arrive in that first week of January, many of our members opt to pay their annual dues at the October meeting, and many did. May we count on your generosity to continue your membership for 2014? Membership dues are just \$13.00 for an individual, and only just \$18.00 for a family (no matter how many members are in the family). Renew your membership today by sending your dues to:

KCRA, Inc.  
c/o William R. LaBell, KD8JAM, Treasurer  
59897 Apple Street  
Allouez, MI 49805

### **ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP:**

1. With your ham gear call \*911 (star-911) for instant emergency calls.
2. Low cost, affordable membership to its members.
3. Information exchange with fellow members (trouble-shooting, etc.).
4. FREE Autopatch service (The only autopatch system in the entire U.P. of Michigan!).
5. TWO, FREE autodial slots (Your choice of 2-digit dialing: speed dialing).
6. Internet connection to the repeater while away from home, without your ham gear (Echo Link).

Our thanks to you for your continued support of the KCRA.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

We welcome James, KB8YNF to the KCRA. We're glad to have you with us. Also: Welcome back AB8WU (Jonathan), KD8JAJ (Charlie) KD8DYN (Kristiina), N8PAJ (Ann) KD8GBH (David) and KC8RGO (Vance).

### **OCTOBER MEETING:**

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

The Oct. 9, 2013 meeting of the KCRA was held at the home of Gary Hansen ,1108 Bumbletown Road, Allouez Twp, Keweenaw County at 7 pm EDT, with President Gary L. Hansen presiding. There were 10 members present .

### **MINUTES OF THE October 9, 2013 KCRA MEETING**

The October 9, 2013 quarterly meeting of the KCRA, Inc was called to order by President Gary Hansen, K8YSZ at 7:01 pm EDT, with 10 members present. Self introductions followed: W8FWG (George), KB8XI (Roland), K8YSZ (Gary), W9GY (Jeff), KD8JAM (Bill), KD8GBH (David), KB8YNF (James), AB8WU (Jonathan), KC8RGO (Vance) and KD8JAJ (Charlie). A good representation of members at this last meeting of the year.

#### **SILENT KEY:**

DOLLAR BAY - Roy A. Peltoniemi, (W8RAP), formerly WB8ZYL, 82, a resident of Dollar Bay, passed away at his home on Thursday, August 15, 2013. He was born on August 13, 1931 in Ahmeek a son of the late Arvo E. and Sanelma (Koski) Peltoniemi. Roy graduated from Calumet High School with the class of 1949. On February 9, 1952, he was married to the former Dolores Heiskanen. Roy was a veteran having served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He was a life long employee starting in 1955 and retiring in management in 1989.

Roy was a hard worker with a very innovative and creative mind, whether it was the houses he built or helping his daughter and son-in-law in the copper business. He developed a process for melting copper and always was helping his family at Keweenaw Gem & Gift.

In his younger years, he enjoyed playing the accordion and the guitar and was also a HAM radio operator and held membership in the CCRAA (Copper Country Radio Amateur Association) and the KCRA (Keweenaw County Repeater Association). He held an amateur radio call sign, first of WB8ZYL and more recently with the Vanity call sign of W8RAP (the initials of his name.)

He was a member of Grace Free Lutheran Church in Pelkie, a life long member of the Dollar Bay Fire Department and a past board member of Dollar Bay High School.

He enjoyed his time at the Portage Health Fitness Center in Houghton, he also enjoyed the computer whether it was Skyping with his friends in Finland or the 8 p.m. talk and game sessions with his buddies. Over the past few years Roy's health had declined but he continued to overcome everything that was in his path due largely to his SISU and great attitude he had for life.

Preceding him in death were an infant twin brother at birth, and two brothers; Reuben and Sulo.

Surviving are, his wife of 61 years, Dolores; daughters Sharon (Steve) Johnson of Baraga and Cindy (Ken) Flood of Dollar Bay; three grandchildren, Steve Jr. (Marissa) Johnson of Newark, Ohio, Benjamin Johnson of Pelkie and Brian Johnson of Baraga.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, 2013, in the Memorial Chapel Funeral Home in Hancock with Pastor Bill Chapel officiating.

Burial was in the Lakeside Cemetery in Hancock.

The Memorial Chapel Funeral Home in Hancock assisted the family with the arrangements and online condolences can be left for the family at [memorialchapel.net](http://memorialchapel.net).

[Roy was a full member of the KCRA, and a past President of the CCRAA]

#### **HAM EXAMS: Were held:**

At the Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock on October 5, with 7 people attending. We had 2 new Technician Class, 2 upgrades to General and 2 upgrades to Extra class. One failure.

The next V.E. Test Session will be in January of 2014. [January 18<sup>th</sup>]

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Showed a balance of \$901.26. We received a \$200.00 gift from KD8ABP (Howard). Our thanks to Howard for this generous donation to our treasury.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Given by Gary, K8YSZ, that the repeater is operating properly. A trip this autumn is planned to check out the repeater before the snow flies. K8YSZ, W9GY and KD8JAM will check out all operating parameters of the "315" repeater. We received two reports of the repeater not being as sensitive as it once was. That will be checked when the A/T Committee goes out to the Mt. Horace Greeley site, this fall.

**A/T COMMITTEE REPORT: None**

#### **CORRESPONDANCE:**

W8FWG (George) reported the handling of ten pieces of informal traffic by a group of three kayak enthusiasts who were on Isle Royale for about a week. The telephone calls were made by W8FWG on behalf of W8DRG (Ron) and W8JRM (Jim) to downstate family members waiting to hear of their expedition on Isle Royale. These amateurs had tried simplex and tried to reach the Canadian repeater with no success. They were very happy to have the response from someone on the mainland to handle their traffic back home, and reassure the families that all was well, and they be returning on Sunday of that week. The three operators stopped in late Sunday night to thank me (W8FWG) for taking the time to relay their messages "back home."

**OLD BUSINESS:** Constitutional Review committee. K8YSZ (Gary) and KD8JAM (Bill) will be addressing the update, in the near future.

**HAMFEST AND OTHER:** Members of the KCRA attended the Escanaba Hamfest in August and also worked at the Lighthouse/Lightship radio communications special event at Eagle Harbor. Our thanks to the people who helped with the Eagle Harbor event.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **ROAD RALLY:** A motion by W8FWG (George) and seconded by KB8XI (Roland) to allow the LSPR to use the repeater for the weekend of October 18 and 19. The motion passed unanimously. We ask the total cooperation of all of our members to allow this safety communications for the rally.
2. **TIME CHANGE COMING UP:** Remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour, on November 3, 2013, when once again we return to standard time.
3. **SLED DOG RACES:** This event is coming during February of 2014. KD8JAM will head up the communications, as Manager, and he will be looking for volunteers to help out with this event.
4. **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN:** Does it affect us as radio amateurs? Yes, as the exam session just held on October 5, ends up with all of the test results remaining at ARRL/VEC due to this government shutdown. It is rumored (and it is just a rumor at this point) that the issue will be resolved on Tuesday, October 15, coming one day after the Columbus Day Holiday on Monday October 14<sup>th</sup>. Only time will tell if this will come to pass. In the meantime, the FCC has notified all VEC's (ARRL in our case) to stop sending any more "batch files" until further notice. It means that the Oct. 5 session that we just held, will simply be processed at ARRL but NOT sent to the FCC until further notice.
5. **HAM EXAMS-2014:** In a telephone communications with the VEC TEAM officer (WA8QNF) the schedule will be like this:

**January 18, 2014** Exams at the Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock, A Saturday at 9am.

**April 12, 2014** Also at the Zion Lutheran church in Hancock.

**July** – CANCELLED [Because it is midsummer, and traditionally poor or no attendance]

**October 4, 2014** (Note: This is one week earlier to avoid running into the Columbus day holiday.)

6. **ACTING OPERATIONS CHAIRMAN:** KD8ABP (Howard) will be filling for vacationing KC8RGO (Vance). Vance takes over again, when he comes back.
7. **BROCKWAY MTN REARRANGEMENTS:** The 70 cm repeater privately owned by K9SJ had to be taken out of service as the tower was recently razed, but in hopes of putting up the installation in a new spot on “Brockway.” Also: New at this meeting, the Visitor Center at the top of Brockway mountain is also going to be torn down. In its place will be a new center, larger and more roomy than the old one. It affected the PASTY.NET antennas, and they had to remove their antennas and find a new location for them.
8. **MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE?** The subject was brought up, and discussed, and the consensus of the membership was to NOT have a dues increase at this time. It was felt that our expenses were being met with the present dues arrangement.
9. **DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE:** Vance (KC8RGO) and Rich (K6IPC) Will be working at the CCRAA Clubhouse to make some changes to the TNC, to upgrade the digital communications from that site.
10. **EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:** George, W8FWG brought up the fact that instructional material from ARRL can be used (loaned out) by making ONE copy of the VHS tape and keeping the original tape at home, to prevent loss by tape damage, etc. Also, with VHS tapes being phased out, the look of the future will most likely be a DVD (Digital-Video-Disk), and at that time it would be good to upgrade from the old to the new format. Copyright laws prevent us from making more than one copy of the source material. It was also mentioned that CCRAA has these tapes, and it would be a duplication of effort for the KCRA to go in to purchasing additional materials from ARRL. The CCRAA web site shows where practice exams can be taken, and gives the applicant a chance to Test their abilities to pass an exam by taking these tests on line. Realize of course, these are just that.....practice materials, and the applicant would still have to appear before a VE (Volunteer Examiner Team) to take the FCC test. We refer applicant to the CCRAA site at: [www.ccr\\_aa.net](http://www.ccr_aa.net)

#### **11. CONGRATULATIONS TO HOWARD, KD8ABP:**

Howard is now the President of our “Sister-Club” , the CCRAA. Our best to you Howard on your new assignment, and it is good to have members of both clubs helping one another.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

Will be the second Wednesday of January, 2014. [January 8]

**DOOR PRIZE:** A digital VOM was won by KB8XI (Roland)

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn by KC8RGO and seconded by KB8XI , and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at: 7:33 pm EDT.

The formal business meeting adjourned and refreshments were served by Gary, K8YSZ. (Chocolate cake and brownies, with coffee. Ummmmmm, Good, Gary! Thanks from all of us!

**KCRA NEWSLETTER is published four times annually ( 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@arrl.net The officers of the KCRA are listed below:**

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