

Michigan's Northernmost VHF and UHF-FM Voice Repeaters

WELCOME!

Gary (K8YSZ) has given us permission to conduct our KCRA meetings at his home. It is easy to find...It is just 3 miles north of the intersection of Hwy U.S. 41 and M-203 (East Pine St. in Calumet). Follow Hwy U.S. 41 North from that intersection until you come to see the "BP" gas station on your left. Turn onto Bumbletown Rd, (just before the gas station) and follow Bumbletown Rd. to the top; (approx.0.9. mile) and where the blacktop ends and you will see his home on the right-hand side of the roadway. You will see the vertical Isopole antenna atop the 40 foot tower, on the right side of his house. (See the picture).

OCTOBER MEETING:

The second Wednesday in October (October 12, 2016) is scheduled for the last meeting of 2016.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS MEETING:

Our Constitution of the KCRA calls for Election of Officers at the October Meeting (This one) So, cast your ballots for any of the Officers for the KCRA.

Meeting opened and called to order by President Gary, K8YSZ at: 7 pm EDT.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

George, W8FWG; Don, W8PSP; Stuart, W8EEK; Vance, KC8RGO; Jon, AB8WU; Keith, KE8CPN; James, KB8YNF; Gary, K8YSZ; Bill, KD8JAM; Jeff, W9GY; Bruce, KE8DCJ; Charles, KE8DUK; Ben, KE8DUN; David, AG8NT; Randy, KE8DCK.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

President: Gary Hansen, K8YSZ - Present

Vice President and Treasurer: Bill LaBell – KD8JAM - Present

Secretary: George Thurner, W8FWG-Present

TECHNICAL/ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Gary, K8YSZ - Present

Bill, KD8JAM - Present

Jeff, W9GY- Present

Howard, KD8ABP - Absent

Donald, W8PSP - Present

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Gary, K8YSZ – All systems up and working

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bill, KD8JAM – Balance on hand: \$1914.65

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

George, W8FWG

1. Autodial Services to be amended. The *911, was discontinued to Negaunee, and instead re-rerouted to 337-0528, (the Keweenaw County Sheriff's Number), and relabeled as *911 to the Sheriff's Office.

NEW: – [As of this meeting], (In the future, when the sheriff's office is unmanned, the *911 calls will go to Regional Dispatch in Negaunee. It was reported by Bill, that we changed the *912 (formerly Keweenaw Co. Sheriff's number) to 482-0045, (which is the Houghton County Sheriff). The listed *916 would continue to be the USCG (Portage Coast Guard Station) 482-1520, located at Dollar Bay.

Summarizing:

*911: Keweenaw County Sheriff. **NEW:** (Future calls may go to Negaunee when Keweenaw is not manned)

*912: Houghton County Sheriff

*916: Portage Coast Guard Station

All three numbers must be preceded the "star" (*) symbol as indicated above.

2. Autopatch Extension Timer Code (Bill, KD8JAM) No report.

3. HAARP (High-Altitude-Auroral-Radio-Propagation) Project (Explained by W8FWG)

4. HARC Radio Project (M-T-U Radio Club - Report) [W8PSP that harmonics are falling in the 160M band]

T/A/ COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

MEMBERS:

Gary, K8YSZ (Chairman); Jeff, W9GY; Howard, KB8ABP; Bill, KD8JAM; Don, W8PSP

OLD BUSINESS

 Repeater Noise (Bill, KD8JAM) (The noise is negligible at this time)

 From Don, W8PSP: Copper Dog Cards out for the Special event [CopperDog 2016] It looks like a break even with 90 cards sent out, and 60 remaining, that will be used next year (2017) using the call sign K9C. Jeff, W9GY has already reserved that call sign for next year's event. Thanks Jeff.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS Motion by Jon, AB8WU and Vance, KC8RGO to have the Secretary cast one vote for the reelection of all officers for the next year. Motion carried unanimously.

2. ANTENNA RELOCATION: An antenna relocation plan for the "315" Repeater (Plans on "going over the top" of the tower at Mt. Horace Greeley, on Tuesday October 18, 2016, weather permitting, reported by Keith, KE8CPN.)

3. LSPR ROAD RALLY: (James, KB8YNF asked for permission for the road rally to use the KCRA's repeater Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15th. Motion by W9GY, second by W8EEK,

and the motion carried unanimously.)

4 . DISTRACTED DRIVING BILL IN MICHIGAN:

Recently, we learned from a Michigan ARRL member that a Distracted Driving bill had been introduced into the Michigan House of Representatives. This bill does *not* exempt amateur radio operators from this proposed law, with a result that operation of mobile amateur radio equipment may become illegal in Michigan. (**Note from Secretary:** It is not law yet, we are hoping for an exemption for amateur radio operators and others using two-way radio systems.)

5. AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT:

We have an opportunity to positively affect Amateur Radio for years to come. H.R. 1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, has unanimously passed the House of Representatives and moved on to the Senate for consideration. All you need to do is spend two minutes of your time to send an email to your two Senators supporting the Bill. By doing so, you will have helped the future of Amateur Radio by guaranteeing our ability to have an effective outdoor antenna in deed-restricted communities. (**Note from Secretary:** This could affect some radio hams living in areas where there are deed restrictions.)

6. TELEPHONE OUTAGE REPORTED:

On August 11, 2016 there was a U.P. wide telephone service interruption which affected our control link, and we lost control from about 5:15pm Thursday, Aug. 11, until 5am Aug. 12, and service was restored sometime between 8pm Aug 11, and 5am Aug. 12. Control is provided via a telephone line, and it is my opinion we should be looking for a new method of controlling the repeater, as we have to be in control for 100% of the time, according to FCC Rules and Regulations. Bill, KD8JAM, has suggested a method whereby we could do this via a 70cm radio link instead of relying on the telephone line. What it would mean then, however, that the control ops would have to have 70 cm capabilities in order to control the repeater. (**From Vance, KC8RGO:** Another method using the Mesh Network is to be considered. Matter tabled for the time being.)

7. RON LAHTI & RICK OLSON: both retiring 12/31/2016 (Our best wishes to both gentlemen! And thanks for your help in years past)

8. THANK YOU: To Jon Hopper, AB8WU for providing power and telephone service to the club at no cost. This is a great boost to our treasury, and on behalf of all of the members of the KCRA we are certainly grateful for this offer of help. Thanks Jon (AB8WU) and Charlie (KD8JAJ)!

9. AND THANKS ONCE MORE!

Howard, KD8ABP donated a Samlex 15/30A power supply/charger to us for the MSR-2000 "315" repeater. (Note: From W8FWG: This power supply is more efficient than our old one, and is now connected to our "315" repeater) Thank you very much Howard!

10. MICHIGAN QSO PARTY: Coming up in 2017. Jeff, W9GY will be applying for the Special Event Call Sign of W8K, once again (if not already done?)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. UPARRA (Upper Peninsula Amateur Radio Repeater Association)

2. **CHANGE NOTICE:** We have a new Frequency Coordinator for the U.P. of Michigan. He is KB0P, Paul Racine, replacing outgoing officer, Noel Beardsley, K8NB.
3. **NEW DUES STRUCTURE:** Dues are \$5.00/Repeater/Year .

TIME CHANGE: Remember, on Sunday, at 2am November 6, 2016 (the first Sunday in November) we revert back to standard time. Remember to move your clocks BACK one hour on Saturday night, Nov. 5, 2016.

From Vance, KC8RGO: Mesh Network is being expanded with a station at Stan's home atop Centennial Heights Hill, and W8CDZ location in Osceola, and Mt. Horace Greeley plus looking or permission to get on the "88" tower. Also: Looking for more towers in the area.

NEW REPEATER REPORTED : By George, W8FWG: Is AA8YF (Ted Trudgeon) at the original location between Bergland and White Pine, and is called the White Pine Repeater. It operates on 147.300 MHz, with a positive split and requiring a PL tone of 100.0 Hz. It is located in Ontonagon County.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by KC8RGO seconded by W9GY, and the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at: 7:39 pm EDT

REFRESHMENTS: Courtesy of Julie Stricker (via Jeff, W9GY) Thank you, Julie! Also from Don, W8PSP, Thank you Don, also very good, and not to be left out, the popcorn, by Gary, K8YSZ! Thank you Gary! Mouth watering! (Personal note to Gary, Thanks for the popcorn salt!) I'm going to try it tonight!

FELLOWSHIP: Following the meeting. There was good conversation among all of the attendees at this meeting. It was good to see so many interested people at our ending meeting of 2016. We want to see all of you back, at the first meeting of the New Year.

FOR GARY: Gary we are all in your support to you, as to your daughter's illness. Extra prayers are being offered tonight by 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 VHF and UHF voice repeaters, in Keweenaw County, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The VHF repeater operates on a frequency of 147.315 MHz, with a PL tone of 100.0 Hz. and a positive split of 600 KHz. The UHF Repeater operates on a frequency of 443.150MHz and also requires a PL tone of 100.0 Hz, and with a positive 5 MHz split. The officers of the KCRA for the year 2017 are listed below:

OFFICE/NAME	CALL SIGN	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
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Pres/ Gary L. Hansen. K8YSZ	1108 Bumbletown Rd	337-1416
Vice Pres & Treasurer Bill La Bell-KD8JAM	58989 Apple St.	337-2546
Sec. George R. Thurner W8FWG	225 Kearsarge St.	337-2542

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the KCRA will be the second Wednesday of January (January 11, 2017) at the home of Gary Hansen on Bumbletown Hill on Keweenaw County.

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