

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 29, No. 2

Second quarter 2019

Meeting minutes — Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

In attendance: Bill KD8JAM, Jeff W9GY, Don W8SP, Dave AG8NT, Mary KE8FEU.

Engineer's report: Everything running well. Autopatch also running well. No one in attendance has checked the 440 lately.

Treasurer's report: Balance is \$4147.57. Bill KD8JAM has removed the name of Howard F. Klann (deceased) and added Donald J. Lafreniere to bank account #101819861.

Technical advisory committee: Don W8PSP suggests linking the 440 to Marquette — from there, the system links to Newberry and Grand Marais. One unresolved question: Can the link be switched off and on remotely? There was also discussion of whether linking the .315 would be more valuable; that said, base stations can easily reach the K8LOD 147.27 repeater now.

Secretary's report: George W8FWG is stepping down, per his email to the group of April 7. We thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the KCRA.

Old business:

- CopperDog went well the weekend of March 1-3.
- There was brief discussion about whether to acquire an S-COM repeater controller. Bill said he's not yet convinced — among the unresolved questions is whether messages in be input remotely.
- The 6m repeater project at Don's QTH was on hold through the winter and can now proceed with better weather. Funds are already allocated for the coax (see minutes from the January meeting). He might acquire coax while attending Hamvention in Dayton, which would save shipping cost.
- The Chassell hamfest is on for Saturday, April 27. Jeff says ARRL materials are on the way, and Ace Hardware contributed Craftsman knife set as an additional prize. In addition, Jeff will bring more of Howard's gear. Flyers will go up, including on the MTU campus.
- The Michigan QSO party is set for Saturday April 20 from noon-midnight at Bill's home. Bill has acquired the special event call W8K for the occasion.
- The Echolink node for the .315 was operable as of a check the previous Friday April 5.

New business: Two officer positions have become vacant due to the relocation of President Gary Hansen K8YSZ to Arizona and the resignation of Secretary George Thurner W8FWG.

- By acclamation, members present selected Bill KD8JAM as president, opening the position of vice president. (Bill will retain the position of Treasurer.)
- By acclamation, members present selected Don W8PSP as vice president.
- By acclamation, members present selected Dave AG8NT as secretary.

Special presentation: Mary KE8FEU expressed interest in a program to train up new hams in Franklin Township, where she is Township Supervisor. The need became evident during the floods of June 17, 2018 when mobile phone service appeared vulnerable. The township is developing a preparedness plan both for government operations and the general public. As part of that plan, Mary proposes the club offer licensing classes for people new to the hobby — perhaps over a span of 3-4 weeks. Notices to the public could go on the township's Facebook page and in the water/sewer bills.

Don said he'd be happy to step up. Members present agreed a September-October time frame for the classes would be best to accommodate residents who'd be traveling during the summer. Don will explore existing license class programs while at Hamvention in Dayton the weekend of May 17-19.

Other new business:

- As usual, the KCRA extends its thanks to pasty.net for covering the power and phone bills for the .315 repeater.
- By acclamation members present approved a motion to spend up to \$250 for food, generator fuel, etc. for Field Day activities the weekend of June 21-23. Don will contact Glenda Bierman from the Quincy Mine Hoist Association about returning Field Day to the hoist site for 2019; much of the gear used in 2017 is still good to go. (A Tram VHF-UHF antenna from Walmart might be a useful addition.)
- Jeff will email the group about the time and location of the QSO party.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2019, 7:00 p.m.