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# KCRA NEWSLETTER

## The Keweenaw County Repeater Association

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"Michigan's Northernmost VHF Voice Repeater"

K.C.R.A. 147.315 MHZ PL 100.0 Hz

Vol. 28 No 1

January 10, 2018

**GREETINGS FELLOW RADIO HAMS AND VISITORS!**

Hello and welcome once again to the KCRA Newsletter. Our January 10, 2018 meeting opened at 7:00 pm EDT, with roll call of officers and A/T Committee Members.

W8FWG – George

W9GY - Jeff

K8YSZ - Gary

KE8DCK-Randy

KE8FEU-Mary

W8PSP-Donald

KE8DCJ-Bruce

KE8DCK-Randy

W8PSP-Don

### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS SHOWED:**

President Gary, K8YSZ Present

Vice President: Bill, KD8JAM Present

Secretary: George, W8FWG Present

Treasurer: Bill, KD8JAM Present

A/T/ Committee Members:

Gary, K8YSZ Present

Jon, AB8WU Absent

Howard, KD8ABP Absent

Bill, KD8JAM Present

Don, W8PSP Present

JeffF, W9GY Present

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Both repeaters working satisfactorily

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bill, KD8JAM shows total current assets (for the end of year, 2017) of \$1,242.05 In addition some \$300.00 worth of dues & donation came in and will be deposited increasing the Treasury to approximately \$1542.00+

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT:** None

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** (W8FWG sends this E-Mail to all members after tonight's meeting)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Revision of KCRA's Constitution

Motion: By W9GY, 2<sup>nd</sup> by KE8DCJ to accept the amended constitution as presented to all members in an E-Mail message this week. Motion carried unanimously.

VHF & UHF repeaters operating satisfactorily, within FCC R&R.

Autopatch test run successfully by George, W8FWG on 01/09/18 with Jeff, W9GY.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ratification of the KCRA's Constitution. It was accepted, and George, W8FWG promised to mail the final copy out yet tonight to all members of the KCRA.

MI QSO Party. When. 04/21/2018. 1600Z Apr 21 to 0400 Apr. 22, 2018. We will be taking part in it from the home of Gary, K8YSZ, Special Event call sign of W8K. Jeff, W9GY will be applying for that Special Event Call Sign. Come in watch and/or operate!

CopperDog150 March 2-4, 2018. (Fri-Sat-Sun) Contact Bill, KD8JAM at: kd8jam@charter.net to volunteer to help with this worthwhile project. Tel. (906) 337-2546.

"The Great Bear Chase" March 10, 2-018. (See Chris Van Arsdale, KD8RAV if you wish to participate in this event.) [Tel. 989-929-1001]

Mary, KE8FEU will get PSA's out concerning these events.

Our thanks to Jonathan, AB8WU with Pasty.NET for providing the power and

telephone for our repeater. It is very much appreciated by all of us.

Status of the new 6M Repeater to be installed at Mt. Horace Greeley. It is in the garage of W8PSP at present and just needs to be plugged in, powered up and connected to an antenna system for a test, before moving it to the new location at Mt. Horace Greeley.

Status of the power bill at our repeater site. Still being paid for by PASTY.NET.

Status of the telephone bill at the repeater site. Still being paid for by PASTY.NET.

Insurance figures update and bill of \$145.00 paid.

Question (From KD8DCJ) of the \$1500.00 charge for "Cords, Connectors, etc." On Page 4 of the new constitution. No definitive answer could be given for this item, whether it was including transmission lines or some other cable, the charge seemed high. Bill, KD8JAM advised us, that that figure was not included in the insurance calculation submitted to our Insurance agent. In any case, it did not affect our insurance premium for the coming year. At this point in time, that item remains "unresolved."

## **AUTOPATCH GUIDELINES**

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Our KCRA Autopatch is FREE for everyone to use. (Try it)

1. Listen on the "315" receive frequency first.....if it is in use, wait until it is free.(BREAK IN FOR EMERGENCY'S)
2. When it is free of all conversation, announce...."(Your call sign) Requesting Autopatch" (Remember the STAR (\*) Symbol tells the controller this is an autopatch call.)
3. Operate and hold the PTT switch on your microphone and dial (\*) (star) plus the 7-digit telephone number you are calling (2-digits for autodial) EXAMPLE: W8FWG is: \*88 or For EMERGENCY'S: (Fire, Police and Ambulance Services) dial "\*911" for the Keweenaw County Sheriff,..... or "\*912" for the Houghton County Sheriff,.....or "\*916" for the U.S. Coast Guard, Portage Station in Dollar Bay. With this type of call please be sure to tell the dispatcher WHERE you are, as the caller id to the attendant in Negaunee will only show the repeater's location , not the ACTUAL LOCATION where you are!.. Release the PTT switch and you will hear the automated response "Autopatch...(followed by the digits you just dialed)...followed by the ring cycle of the telephone. When the person answers, remember it is half-duplex, that is, while you hold your PTT down, you can't hear the party you are calling....so release to LISTEN....and re-operate the PTT key to talk to them. (It might be a good idea to instruct the caller to use the phrase "over" when they want to turn the conversation over to you.....this is optional.)

- 4. Ending a conversation. When you finish you will simply operate the POUND (#) key, (That would be the key to the RIGHT of the ZERO) then automated voice will then say...."CALL COMPLETE".....and with that statement it will disconnect you from the controller and the phone line. (If you should "forget" to hit the POUND (#) key an automated voice will come back saying something like....."If you'd like to make a call please hang up, then call your operator.")
- 5. Now suppose you get out of range, with your vehicle, before you can initiate a disconnect? There is a 2-1/2 minute timer that will automatically disconnect you from the phone line.....or....it will give a voice announcement of : 'PLEASE HANG UP AND TRY YOUR CALL AGAIN.'" Most hams, (monitoring) will realize that you can't bring it down, and they will hit the POUND (#) key for you, and bring it down for you. (Please be courteous, and do this if necessary, to prevent a lot of unwanted transmissions going out over the repeater channel.)
- 6. MEMORY AID: Just remember this simple phrase:....."STAR UP. (LIKE STARS IN THE SKY).....AND POUND DOWN (LIKE A HAMMER), (pounding down) These two keys are on opposite sides of the touch-tone pad (dialer) on your microphone and on all telephone dials, that are Touch-Tone.
- 7. On the Keweenaw Repeater ("315") we offer Free autopatch for everyone to use and two FREE autodial slots for members only. To get your autodial slots contact (Bill KD8JAM) at 337-2546 after 6 pm, and he will program them for you, at no charge. People sometimes use the last two digits of the telephone number you are using provided they are not already in use.

**DOOR PRIZE:** ARRL Antenna Book. Won by: Randy, KC8DCK. It was an ARRL Antenna book.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Provided by Jeff, W9GY and his wife, Julie.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion by Bruce, KE8DCJ , 2nded by Randy, KE8DCK at 7:23pm EST. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEXT MEETING:** Our meetings at the KCRA are quarterly, during the months of January-April-July-October, so that puts us in the second Wednesday of each quarter, and so the next meeting will be held on April 11, 2018, at the home of Gary Hansen, K8YSZ 1108 Bumbletown Rd, in Keweenaw County. Hope to see you all there?

-73-

George, W8FWG

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