

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 30, No. 1

First quarter 2020

Meeting minutes — Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Call to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll call of officers

President/Treasurer Bill LaBell, KD8JAM; Vice President Don Lafreniere, W8P-SP; Secretary Dave Gonigam, AG8NT

Also present

Jeff Stricker, W9GY; George Thurner, W8FWG; Kevin Kirschke, N8ZGO; Cristy Kirschke, KG8SGQ; Michael Musiel, K9SJ

Engineer's report

After New Year's, the .315 repeater would not auto-announce the time — only the K8MDH call, then flip to CW. Turns out the code must be reset once per decade, and that's now done. Otherwise, apart from stray tail noise, no issues.

6 meter repeater update: Still out of service for the moment. But Jonathan Hopper, AB8WU, has been visiting the Keweenaw of late and tinkering. Don, W8PSP, reports the antenna has withstood the winter winds. He also says the repeater has now gone through the coordination process — as seen on [this map](#) posted by the Upper Peninsula Amateur Radio Repeater Association.

Treasurer's report

Balance in treasury as of Dec. 31 is \$4,268.99, including \$61.23 in the Paypal account. Balance as of the meeting date is \$4,207.76. There are about 30 paying members and 17 charter or lifetime (and most of them donate each year).

Technical/advisory committee report

Echolink update: Bill, KD8JAM, has replaced the Windows 7 machine with a Windows 10 model. Audio needs tweaking (it's a bit low), but is otherwise functional and there are regular Echolink checkins during the Friday night .315 net.

Secretary's report

See minutes from the fourth-quarter newsletter. Don moves to accept, Jeff seconds. Motion carries by acclamation.

Old business:

Autopatch test: George W8FWG conducted a successful test the afternoon of Sunday 5 January, calling Dave AG8NT on both Dave's landline and cell.

Technician-class instruction for prospective hams in Franklin Township: At this stage, Don W8PSP is looking at an introductory information session on Saturday 25 January. It would begin with 15-20 minutes of what ham radio is all about, then moving into a hands-on demonstration of some sort to keep folks' attention, and finally a discussion of licensing requirements. 45 minutes total. Don will email Mary Sears, KE8FEU, Franklin Township Supervisor, to see if that date is doable.

Linking the KCRA's 440 repeater to General Motors Amateur Radio club WIRES-X system: Still awaiting more info from GMARC.

Cost of doughnuts for ham exam sessions: Mary Sears, KE8FEU, says she's happy to continue covering that cost herself.

Dedicated ham radio systems at the two area hospitals: Awaiting word on whether there's interest.

Thanks as always to pasty.net for covering the club's telephone and electric costs. Bill says given everything pasty.net and the Hopper family have done on the club's behalf over the years, it's been suggested the KCRA award lifetime memberships to Charlie Hopper, KD8JAJ; Jonathan Hopper, AB8WU; and Katriina Hopper, KD8DYN. Jeff moves, Kevin seconds, and the motion is approved by acclamation.

New business:

Website: Jon AB8WU has updated both KCRA and CCRAA websites, moving them to a new server and installing up-to-date software. Bill has been following up, fixing dead links that resulted from the updates.

PSAs: Bill says it's time to resume announcements for KCRA meetings and other events on the area radio stations and in the Mining Gazette. Dave AG8NT will take that up going forward; Don is forwarding Dave a list of contacts.

Copperdog: The dates this year are Friday 28 February-Sunday 1 March. Bill, as the race's communications coordinator, will get an email out to everyone interested/concerned in the next couple of days. Jeff, W9GY, says he'll apply for the special-event call K9C. [**Update** since the meeting: The request is in and Jeff is awaiting word from the ARRL.]

Also of note: Mike, K9SJ, says the 440 repeater he used to have operating atop Brockway Mountain and is now in storage might return to service this spring on a tower at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge; he's in talks with owner John Mueller.

Chassell hamfest date: CCRAA had tentatively set a date, but Dave points out that date falls on Easter weekend, and might be less than desirable for some hams. Dave will follow up with his fellow CCRAA officers. [**Update** since the meeting: After an email exchange, leadership of the two clubs settled on **Saturday April 18**. CCRAA president Randy McClellan, KE8DCK, has booked that date with the Chassell VFW hall and Jeff has sent the ARRL a notice for publication in QST.]

Meanwhile, Jeff W9GY has a table at the Negaunee hamfest set for Saturday 2 February.

Adjournment:

Motion by Jeff, seconded by George. Meeting adjourns at 7:47 p.m.

Post-meeting fellowship