

KCRA NEWSLETTER

The Keweenaw County Repeater Association

"Michigan's Northernmost VHF Voice Repeater"

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

Vol. 27 No 4

Oct. 11, 2017

GREETINGS FELLOW RADIO HAMS AND VISITORS!

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.

A motion by Jeff, W9GY, seconded by Bruce, KE8DCJ that the Secretary shall cast one vote for the election of all officers of the KCRA for the calendar years 2017-2018.

This was done, and congratulations to the officers for their past work, and the officers also includes those members on the KCRA's Technical/Advisory Committee.

Hello and welcome once again to the KCRA Newsletter. Our Oct. 11, 2017 meeting opened at 7:00 pm EDT, with roll call of officers..

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

President Gary, K8YSZ Present

Vice President: Bill -Absent

Secretary: George, W8FWG Present

Treasurer: Bill - Absent

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE:

W8FWG – George

W9GY – Jeff

K8YSZ – Gary

KB8YNF-James

K8OOI-Gus

AG8NT-David

KE8DUN-Ben

KE8DUK-Charlie

KE8DCJ-Bruce

AB8WU-Jon

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Both repeaters working satisfactorily.

T/A/ COMMITTEE REPORT: We are using a split antenna arrangement now, with the RX antenna on top , and the TX antenna mounted at roof level.

Power measured as 95W out of the duplexers. No BPF, and 2 cans used on the RX side of the duplexers.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balance: \$1,139.05 (Reported By George, W8FWG in the absence of our Treasurer, Bill KD8JAM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The report was: See the KCRA Newsletter, which will be published tonight, as soon as I get home.”

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Report on the present antenna arrangement at Mt. Horace Greeley

B. Appointment of Constitutional Review Committee, (Sugg. Pres, VP, Sec. and Treas. Be present at a special meeting. Gary will schedule this for us.)

It was suggested (By Jon, AB8WU) that a preliminary copy (after the committee meets, to be sent out to all members. This will be done.)

C. Autopatch test run and found to be in good operating condition.

NEW BUSINESS:

SLED DOG RACE – MARCH-2018. Please contact Bill, KD8JAM for a position again this year in the sled dog race.

MINUS ONE: Jonathan, AB8WU, and his wife Christiina (KD8DYN) and two daughters, will be leaving our Copper Country relocating in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario,Canada. Christiina has a new work assignment there. Jon plans on commuting from Canada back to the Copper Country at regular intervals, so you will be seeing him and hearing him on the air. Jon is planning a 6M repeater to be located at Mt. Horace Greeley.

CONSTITUTION REVISION: In the near future, all KCRA members will receive by E-Mail a “PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION”, written by myself, W8FWG. That way, you will have some input as to the look of the newly revised constitution. After the committee meets, and comments received from members we are looking at a date of 01/01/2018 for the complete revision of the KCRA's Constitution. The constitution may then be amended following Article 9 of our Constitution.

ARTICLE 9:

THESE ARTICLES MAY BE AMENDED BY A THREE-FOURTHS VOTE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THIS ORGANIZATION. PROPOSALS FOR ANY AMENDMENTS MAY BE MADE BY ANY MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE GOVERNING BODY IS DEFINED AS THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, ENGINEER, PLUS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND THE ADVISORY/TECHNICAL MEMBERS.

AUTOPATCH TEST : Oct. 3, 2017 new interface provided by Jon, AB8WU and

installed by Bill, KD8JAM and Gary, K8YSZ. Tested by George, W8FWG on Oct. 3, 2017, and found to be in good working order. Call placed to test. Found OK.

HAM EXAMS: October 6, 2017 at the Quincy Hill location near Hancock. (The Franklin Twp. Hall). We had 3 applicants and all passed, and so we will soon have 3 new Technician class licensees. Congratulation to all three applicants.

NEW: REVISED 605 FORM: The Standard Application for HAM radio testing now has a new form, and Glenn, WA8QNF has received a packet of them from ARRL and will be turning them over to Mary, KE8FEU, in the near future.

Editor's Note: I downloaded one of these forms myself from the ARRL page, just to see what it looks like and that new form is almost an exact copy of the old one but contains this question:

Basic Qualification Question: *Has the applicant or any party to this application, or any party directly or indirectly controlling the Applicant, ever been convicted of a felony by any state or federal court (Yes or No) If "YES" see FCC BASIC QUALIFICATION QUESTION INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURES" on the back of this form.*

NEW HAM IN THE AREA: Rosalind P. Marie, KM4VAR. She lives in Eagle River (MI) for part of the year, and the local hams have been kind in helping her get her station going. Thanks to all of you who helped Rosalind. Her husband is John.

SILENT KEY: We lost a very good friend in HAM radio, Rick, N8QYB of Hubbell. Rick was a "regular" at the Tuesday morning coffee group meetings at Candy's Corner Cafe in Hubbell. Sadly missed by his family and by all of us who knew Rick so well.

NEW ANTENNA SPECS: It will be a fiberglass Telewave, Model ANT 150 F6-2 with a top mount and a bottom mount.

Top Mount is: ANT-21-432

Bottom Mount is a ANT-M-433

Bandwidth; 144-151 MHz

Gain: 6 dB

Construction: Fiberglass-Omni-directional

Date of Installation; ASAP

Keith, KE8CPN did the tower climbing

THANK YOU: To Bill and Gary, for going up to the "315" site and replacing a 100 foot coaxial cable with a 50 foot one, thereby giving us a slight improvement in our total ERP of the repeater.

LSPR: James, KB8YNF asked the club's permission to use the "315" repeater on Friday and or Saturday during the running of the Rally on October 20 and 21st.

Permission was granted. It was also suggested that we make several announcements that the repeater will be used by amateurs in safety communication with the LSPR. Thank you in advance for being tolerant of those participating in this event. Good luck fellow radio amateurs.

Republishing of the U.P.Ham Directory? The question was asked by Bruce,

KD8DCJ, and the answer by George, W8FWG that there were no plans to publish any more copies for five years from the 2016 edition.

LAST THREE COPIES OF THE U.P. HAM DIRECTORY SOLD: Howard, KD8ABP received payment for one copy, George W8FWG, for two copies, and monies have been turned over to our Treasurer.

MOTION: By Jeff, W9GY and seconded by Bruce, KD8DCJ, to publish the 2016 U.P. Ham Directory on our Web page. (KCRA Web Page)

U.P. HAM DIRECTORY-2016 ON THE KCRA WEB PAGE: It was Moved Seconded and Passed Unanimously to remove the existing directory that is already there, and replace it with the U.P. Ham Directory of 2016. George will contact Bill (Bill you can read this right here)...about doing just that. Please go ahead with that project. If you need the information, I have it stored right here in my computer and can relay it to you. (W8FWG).

YAESU DR-2. A discussion followed, saying that the offer by that company would probably be extended to June of next year. It was hoped that this new DR-2 could be controlled over the Internet, but that option is not known at this time. In talking with Bill, KD8JAM yesterday he explains that if we send in our DR-1 there could be a cost savings as they would modify or ;provide new.....a DR-2 dual-band transceiver. Since this product is so new there isn't a lot known about it, at this writing.

ECHO LINK INSTRUCTIONS REVISION: Bruce, KE8DCJ brought up the fact that the instructions that we give out on Friday night are dated, and that a new set of instructions should be drawn up and posted on our Web Page. Please arrange to have this done, and get the information to Bill, so he can post it on the Web page. (Bruce: Since you asked the question, would you kindly put something together, and send it to Bill, KD8JAM for insertion to our KCRA's web page?) Thank you!

OUR FUTURE AT MT. HORACE GREELEY: With Jon, AB8WU leaving the area, there was some concern, whether we would continue to be able to operate our "315" up at Mt. Horace Greeley (MHG). Jon (AB98WU), assured us, that there was no change planned and we should have no problem. If a problem should arise we were advised to contact Chris Van Arsdale (KD8RAV) who is the Emergency Manager for Houghton County.

INSURANCE COVERAGE: Again, concern was brought up as we are using a "borrowed" antenna from the KCRA whether this was covered by our insurance. The answer given was it was thought that Bill, KD8JAM has indeed covered that antenna under our insurance plan, as we are using it at this site, and it should be covered by insurance. (No value was given at this time, but Bill (KD8JAM) could tell us what value he's put on that antenna.)

NEW VOIP ADAPTER: Jon, AB8WU has very kindly provided a brand new interface to our autopatch system, and it is reported to be working very well (with no echo this time) by George, W8FWG. Thank you, Jon! Thanks also to Bill (KD8JAM) and to Gary (K8YSZ) who installed the new unit up at Mt. Horace Greeley.

ECHO LINK INSTRUCTIONS: It was moved seconded and passed unanimously

(By Jeff, W9GY, and seconded by Bruce, KE8DCJ) that we have echo link instructions posted on our KCRA's web site. Bruce: Contact Bill, KD8JAM with the exact working of that new document.

LICENSE OF K8MDH RENEWED: Our repeater is licensed with the FCC and has recently been renewed by Bill, KD8JAM. The expiration date of the call was 12/17/2017, and now it is good until 12/17/2027. Thank you Bill (KD8JAM) for attending to this very important document.

ASTRONOMICAL EVENT: During January and of March of 2018, there will be a "Blue Moon." Meaning: There will be two full moons in January and in March of 2018. The full moons will occur January 1 and January 31.....and March 1 and March 31 – 2018 respectively.

DOOR PRIZE: Provided by Don, W8PSP and won by Gus, K8OOI. It was an ARRL Coffee Mug. Congratulations, Gus

REFRESHMENTS: Provided by Jeff, W9GY. Thank you, Jeff.:

ADJOURNMENT: At: 7:50pm EDT

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 January 10, 2018 meeting will be held at the home of Gary Hansen at 1108 Bumbletown Rd in Keweenaw County. Thank you, Gary for your hospitality, in having the KCRA Club meetings at your home, it is greatly appreciated.

-73-

George, W8FWG

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