

# **KCRA Newsletter**

**Keweenaw County Repeater Association**

**Vol. 30, No. 2**

**Third quarter 2020**

**Meeting minutes — Wednesday, July 8, 2020**

**Call to order at 7:02 p.m.**

## **Roll call of officers**

President/Treasurer Bill LaBell, KD8JAM — present

Vice President Don Lafreniere, W8PSP — absent

Secretary Dave Gonigam, AG8NT — present

## **Also present**

John Applin, W8WU.

**Note:** Because a quorum was not present under KCRA rules, no votes took place during this meeting — only discussion, detailed below.

## **Engineer's report**

Everything in working order. Earlier in the day, Bill took delivery of two donated Motorola MSR-2000 repeaters. They'll be useful mostly for harvesting amplifiers to extend the life of the existing MSR-2000 in service for the .315. These units are tuned for business/government frequencies just above the 2m band, but Jeff, W9GY has the know-how to adjust the circuitry if and when the time comes.

So far this spring and summer, no on-site visit. Access has become more challenging than in years past with only the Keweenaw County Sheriff's office having a key to the gate.

Echolink: Bill has put a new computer into service — a [LattePanda](#) running Windows 10. Power costs have collapsed from about \$15 a month to an estimated \$0.60 a month. So far, it's proven reliable and users report good audio.

The 440 is up and running. Bill is experimenting with the Yaesu DR-2X repeater as time allows.

## **Treasurer's report**

Statement balance is \$4,032.87. Since the statement date, Bill transferred the KCRA's PayPal balance of \$247.26 to the main account, making the total as of the meeting date \$4,280.13.

Recent expenses include \$200 to Brian Ruddy, N8ZED — that's the KCRA's portion of the expense for a Yaesu FT-450D HF+6m transceiver recently raffled off by

the three area clubs (in lieu of awarding a door prize at the Chassell hamfest in April). Also \$186.85 to Mercer Consumer to insure equipment.

As of the meeting date, the club has 27 paid members, plus 22 members classified as lifetime, charter or associate. (Most of our lifetime and charter members still donate regularly, for which we're grateful.)

### **Technical/advisory committee report**

See Echolink notes in the engineer's report.

### **Secretary's report**

See minutes from the first-quarter newsletter.

### **Old business:**

Autopatch test: George Thurner, W8FWG, conducted a successful test on Thursday June 25.

Resumption of Technician class instruction: At this time it does not appear feasible, but before the project had to be abandoned it was an unqualified success. When the pandemic/lockdowns hit, Don had finished the second in a series of three planned classes; at the conclusion of that second class, exams were administered with nine new Technician licenses earned. We thank Don for his considerable efforts in making the classes happen, as well as Mary Sears, KE8FEU, for providing the venue at Franklin Township Hall.

**[Update** since the meeting: Three more Technician licenses were earned on Saturday, July 11 during the regular quarterly exams cosponsored by the KCRA and CCRAA. In addition, Bill earned his upgrade to Amateur Extra — congratulations!]

Thanks as always to pasty.net for covering the club's telephone and electric costs.

### **New business:**

The power output from the MSR-2000 (see above) has been slowly deteriorating with age. At present, it's about 60 watts. The club will continue to monitor the situation, but at this time the repeater remains perfectly serviceable and visitors from outside the area regularly praise the .315's coverage and appreciate that it's there.

### **Adjournment:**

Without a quorum present for a formal motion to adjourn, the meeting broke up at 7:30 p.m.

### **Post-meeting fellowship**