

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 31, No. 1

Second quarter 2021

Meeting minutes — Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Call to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll call of officers, all present:

President/Treasurer Bill LaBell, KD8JAM

Vice President Don Lafreniere, W8PSP

Secretary Dave Gonigam, AG8NT

Also present:

Zach Fryer, KE8OGR; Tony Richno, KI7DZQ.

And via Zoom:

Stan LaMuth, WB8QJZ; Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Vance Nelson, KC8RGO; Keith Almlj, KE8CPN; Pete Tikkanen KE8IGV.

Engineer's report:

Site visit: A trip to the Mount Horace Greeley site is coming soon, possibly the weekend of April 24.

EchoLink refresh: The Windows software for EchoLink has been updated for the first time since 2007, to version 2.1, and Bill has performed the upgrade. New features include a continuous sub-audible tone; as long as your finger is on the PTT, the repeater remains keyed up.

Winlink-packet: Vance suggests the purchase of a speedier sound card for the digipeater, which he offers to program. It can use the VARA protocol, enabling speeds up to 18 times faster than standard packet. He still wants to investigate how robust the gear will be in winter weather, as well as compatibility with older packet. Pending Vance's findings, Stan moves the club spend up to \$150 for the sound card plus cables, etc., Zach seconds. Motion approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's report:

End-of-quarter statement balance in the treasury is \$4,418.13. As of the meeting date, \$4,699.13, including the PayPal balance.

Only check written during the quarter was to Bill for the LattePanda powering EchoLink, \$137.

Technical/advisory committee report: (See engineer's report above)

Secretary's report:

Dave was not present for the January meeting, and there is no written record.

Old business:

Autopatch test: George Thurner, W8FWG conducted a successful test of the autopatch on Saturday April 3. [Also discussed: Although AT&T is moving the UP to 10-digit dialing, even to other 906 numbers, seven-digit dialing will continue to work on autopatch.]

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

New business:

Michigan QSO Party, Saturday April 17: Don will operate from his shack for Houghton County, Bill (using special call W8K) from his shack for Keweenaw County.

Website changes: Bill created a new application on the website for membership dues; the key change is an added checkbox for PayPal. The website itself is also updated, including a means to use PayPal via a QR code.

Keweenaw County EOC gear: At present, it's still at the home of Gary Hansen, K8YSZ, now living out of state. Until a new ARES Emergency Coordinator for Keweenaw County can be found, a stopgap solution for storing the gear might be with Chris VanArsdale, KD8RAV or Matt Miller, KD8OOS.

Field Day, June 26-27: Matt Wright, KB8VBL is taking the lead on organizing this year's activities at Brockway Mountain (new site); Bill and Don both have other commitments that weekend.

Lighthouses On the Air, August 7-8: The KCRA will activate Eagle Harbor. Stuart Kauppila, W8EEK might activate Lac LaBelle. We also have permission for Copper Harbor and Manitou Island, if anyone is interested in activating those sites. Special call K8L has already been approved. Jeff moves that Don buys 100 QSL cards, for up to \$45, Stan seconds. Motion approved by acclamation.

Friday night ARES net: Brief discussion about Don's popular once-a-month simplex nets away from the .315, and what to try next. Possibly a digital mode on HF, or perhaps phone on 75 meters instead of 40.

Adjournment:

Jeff motions to adjourn, Zach seconds. Meeting adjourns at 7:51 p.m. The next meeting is Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Post-meeting fellowship:

Much discussion of towers, both availability of tower sections and summer construction projects.