

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 32, No. 1

First quarter 2022

Meeting minutes — Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Call to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll call of officers, all present:

President/Treasurer Bill LaBell, KD8JAM

Vice President Don Lafreniere, W8PSP

Secretary Dave Gonigam, AG8NT

Attending remotely:

Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Vance Nelson, KC8RGO; Jonathan Hopper, AB8WU; Stan LaMuth, WB8QJZ; Joe Dowd, KE8DUP

Engineer's report

Everything up and running. Battery power didn't last as long as expected when electricity was knocked out to large sections of Keweenaw County during the Dec. 16 windstorm. After the power supply was swapped out a few years ago, the new one lacks the power-out beeps that alert users to an outage on-site.

Extensive battery testing is planned for the spring, followed by an attempt to address the power-out beeps in the summer.

Treasurer's report

Balance in the treasury is \$4,456.08. Of that total, \$4,329.05 is in the bank and \$127.03 in PayPal. 2022 Dues payments are set for deposit this week.

Technical/advisory committee report

(See engineer's report above.)

Secretary's report

No changes/corrections to the October 2021 minutes. Stan moves for approval, Jeff seconds, motion carries.

Old business

CopperDog: The special-event callsign K9C will be in operation Friday March 4 through Sunday March 6; info has been updated at QRZ.com. Meanwhile, routes will differ from what was customary through 2020 — notably the 150 mile race now ending on Sunday in Eagle Harbor. Bill is assessing needs for volunteers to cover the revised routes.

Ham classes: Don begins Technician-level instruction Saturday, Jan. 15, continuing for three Saturdays through the 29th, concluding with an exam on the final day. More than 30 people have expressed interest in attending, from as far away as Escanaba and Eagle River, Wisconsin. Don's agenda is as follows:

Week 1: What the hobby is about, rules and regulations, a little bit about modes and antennas

Week 2: This is the most technical week, including electronic theory. To offset the nerdy stuff, Don will ask a handful of hams to do hands-on demonstrations, science-fair style, where folks can wander the room and explore what looks most interesting to them

Week 3: Final session followed by exams. Don suggests a lunch break in-between

Follow-up session, Saturday Feb. 19: Hands-on help for new licensees — programming HTs, etc.

After a discussion about providing lunch for Week 3, Jeff moves that \$200 be spent to buy lunch for the students, a sum to be split with the CCRAA. Jon seconds and the motion carries.

After a discussion about furnishing gear to new licensees, the consensus settles on buying a Japanese-brand HT for each of the kids who pass the exam. Vance moves that \$400 be spent for that purpose, again to be split with the CCRAA. Jeff seconds and the motion carries.

Autopatch test: George Thurner, W8FWG, conducted a successful test of the autopatch on Jan. 11, discovering that seven-digit dialing still works for local numbers even after AT&T's switch in October. Jon, meanwhile, is looking into the feasibility of dialing numbers outside the 906 area code.

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

New business:

Field Day this year is Saturday June 25. Bill and Don both have obligations that weekend. There was discussion about possibly holding a Parks On the Air (POTA) event somewhere in the area this year.

Adjournment:

Stan moves, Jeff seconds, and the meeting adjourns at 7:53.

Next meeting:

Wednesday April 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Bill's place 59897 Apple St. in Allouez