

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 32, No. 2

Second quarter 2022

In memory of Gary Hansen, K8YSZ

Meeting minutes — Wednesday, April 13, 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

Also present:

George Thurner, W8FWG; Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Antonia Burich, KE8SMB; Karen LaBell, KE8TXB; Danny Miller, KB8W.

Engineer's report

All is well, apart from the battery-life issue on the .315 discovered during the Dec. 16, 2021 windstorm. Once the snow melts, Bill, Jeff and Don will conduct testing to investigate a suspected loss in output power — something especially noticeable for mobile users. The MSR-2000 puts out an estimated 50-60 watts now, due to both age and the fact it was originally built for VHF business band. Bill spoke with Sheriff Pennala, who said just contact the Sheriff's office day-of and someone from his office will meet us at the site for access.

Treasurer's report

With PayPal, the balance in the treasury at the end of the first quarter was \$4,355.46. As of the meeting date, \$4,700.63.

Technical/advisory committee report

See engineer's report above.

Secretary's report

No changes or corrections.

Old business

Autopatch test: George conducted a successful autopatch test with Jeff (using 7-digit dialing) on Saturday April 9.

In addition, George has been in contact with Jonathan Hopper, AB8WU, to discuss the feasibility of 10 and 11-digit dialing — useful for newer hams with mobile phone numbers that don't have a 906 area code.

New battery: After discussion of the available options, a consensus formed around a pair of golf-cart deep-cycle 6V batteries, 260 amp hours, cost \$181 each. Danny moves to approve, George seconds, and the motion carries by acclamation.

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

New business

A warm welcome to all the new hams who passed their exams on Saturday January 29 at the conclusion of Don's classes.

A sad goodbye to former KCRA president Gary Hansen, K8YSZ, who became a SK on February 7. His name and call appears on the Silent Keys page of the May QST.

DMR: Along with Danny, Stan LaMuth, WB8QJZ and Vance Nelson, KC8RGO have been using DMR on their out-of-state travels. The KCRA's 440 MHz Fusion repeater could be made DMR-capable with a \$275 plug-in board and a \$40 cable. Expense not an issue, but manpower/time is. Danny moves to allocate \$350 to add DMR capability, Antonia seconds. Motion carries.

Search and rescue: Bill and George attended a meeting the previous evening to discuss the formation of a Keweenaw County search and rescue team. About 50 people attended, many of them first responders. Sheriff Pennala said the biggest need was for volunteers, especially for high-angle climbing. There will be need for additional communications capability as well; Bill offered up the club's equipment in the event it's needed.

CopperDog went off smoothly. At special-event station K9C, Jeff was able to make many contacts despite contest activity and poor conditions on 40m.

The Michigan QSO Party is set for Saturday April 16. Special event call W8K has been reserved. Operators are welcome at Don's place, noon-midnight.

Adjournment:

Danny moves, Jeff seconds, the meeting adjourns at 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting:

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