

# **KCRA Newsletter**

**Keweenaw County Repeater Association**

**Vol. 33, No. 1**

**First quarter 2023**

***In memory of Gary Hansen, K8YSZ***

**Meeting minutes — Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

**Call to order at 7:11 p.m.**

**Roll call of officers, all present:**

President/Treasurer Bill LaBell, KD8JAM

Vice President Don Lafreniere, W8PSP

Secretary Dave Gonigam, AG8NT

**Also in attendance:**

Antonia Burich, KE8SMB; Matt Miller, KD8OOS; Logan Johnson, KD8VRD; Mike Musiel, K9SJ; Karen LaBell, KE8TXB.

**Attending remotely:**

Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Stan LaMuth, WB8QJZ; Jonathan Hopper, AB8WU; Danny Miller, KB8W.

**Engineer's report:**

Shortly after the October meeting, the Yaesu DR-2X repeater was put into service. With the power amp there's approximately 200 watts output, but that's only an estimate without a working wattmeter.

At this time, receive capability is not as robust as the Motorola MSR2000. In part, that's because it takes more power to open the squelch. In addition, there may be an issue with the feedline into the receive antenna — something that can be inspected in the spring. (That said, Jeff says in recent days his HT is reaching the .315 more reliably.)

Remote control using the DR-1X (the unit that was previously in service for the UHF repeater) is proving problematic. Bill is investigating.

**Treasurer's report:**

Balance in the treasury is \$4,139.68, plus just under \$60 in PayPal. Dues and donations are coming in with the start of the calendar year.

**Technical/advisory committee report:**

While some members express a continued interest in DMR capability on the .315, the consensus is that other matters are more pressing at this time.

### **Secretary's report:**

See the October 2022 minutes. Stan moves to approve, Jeff seconds, the motion carries.

### **Old business:**

**Autopatch:** As noted in the October minutes, autopatch capability was disabled with the installation of the new repeater. Longer term, a resumption of that capability is possible once the remote-control issues are resolved.

**Thanks as always** to [pasty.net](http://pasty.net) for covering the club's telephone and electric costs.

### **New business:**

**Ham classes, January 28, February 4 and 11:** Much like last year, Don will lead three weeks of Technician-level instruction at Franklin Township Hall starting Saturday Jan. 28 — which happens to be Winter Field Day, so there might be some show-and-tell opportunities not possible otherwise.

Class will continue the following two Saturdays, concluding with an exam session on February 11. Lunch will be served on the 11th before exams; a \$10 lunch charge will be tacked onto the customary \$15 exam fee. There's one Yaesu FT-4XR left over from last year's HT giveaway; a drawing will be held among the under-18 candidates to determine a winner this year.

**CopperDog, March 3-5:** Many details are still in the works, but there are several changes to the trail routes this year. Four races will be held, three of them starting Friday night in Calumet and a fourth race of 13 miles in length on Saturday afternoon. Jeff says the K9C special call sign is already approved; Don will order QSL cards because last year's batch is exhausted.

**Closer coordination with CCRAA/more ham involvement:** In a continuation of a discussion that began at the January 4 CCRAA meeting, the two clubs seek to pool resources with an eye toward encouraging members to become more engaged with the hobby in general and the clubs in particular. The major development here is that the two clubs have agreed to hold their meetings on the same evening in the same location, six nights a year.

In addition, both clubs will aim to make the CCRAA clubhouse a venue where more hams want to operate. Several in attendance agreed to scout out the clubhouse to help set priorities. This expedition is tentatively scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday March 1 — an hour before the next meeting of both clubs at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Township Hall.

Later in the spring, Bill will host interested hams for the Michigan QSO party on Saturday April 15. The end goal of all these efforts is a substantial turnout at the CCRAA clubhouse for Field Day on June 24-25.

**UP Ham Radio Directory:** In consultation with George Thurner, W8FWG, Dave proposes an update to the hard-copy spiral-bound UP Ham Radio Directory, last issued in 2016. George has already recruited several people for this effort including Antonia; Erik Lee, KE8RBC; and Bryan Suits, WB8WKN. (Bryan downloaded the FCC data last time out.) Karen has also agreed to join in the effort as needed.

The 2016 print job was performed by Copper Island Printing in Calumet; Dave will report back to the club at the next meeting (no later than the May meeting) to propose a dollar amount to spend on the project.

**Adjournment:**

Jon moves to adjourn, Antonia seconds. The meeting is adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

**Next meeting:**

Wednesday March 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Township Hall, 49850 U.S. Hwy. 41, Hancock.