

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 33, No. 2

In memory of Gary Hansen, K8YSZ

Meeting minutes — Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Call to order at 7:09 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:

Bill Lahti, KE8CPF; Jack Swift, N8WAV; Tim Sears, KE8GRW. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Copper Country Radio Amateur Association, whose officers were all present: Logan Johnson, KD8VRD; Matt Wright, KB8VBL; Amber Kraft, KD9KKY; and Matt Miller, KD8OOS.

Secretary's report:

See the January 2022 minutes. Don moves to approve, Bill Lahti seconds, the motion carries.

Treasurer's report:

Balance in the treasury is \$4,614.71. Expenses since the last report include \$116.38 for pizza at the Feb. 11 exams; \$4.66 for plasticware from Family Dollar; \$50 in refunds to two ham class attendees who didn't stay for pizza or exams; \$65 to Don for K9C CopperDog QSL cards; and \$40.80 to George Thurner, W8FWG for postage as he compiles a comprehensive list of UP ham clubs for the next UP Ham Radio Directory.

Engineer's report:

All's well with the .315. For a couple of weeks, the squelch tail was unusually long — but for now, the issue appears to have resolved itself. Echolink is fine; the LattePanda was proving problematic, so Echolink is now running off the Windows computer in Bill LaBell's shack.

Old business:

Ham classes, January 28, February 4 and 11: Thirteen candidates took the Technician-class exam on Feb. 11, ten passed. As of the meeting date, nine of the 10 have received their call signs. Thanks to Don for leading the way as instructor for another successful round of classes.

CopperDog, March 3-5: Bill LaBell says all radio volunteer slots are filled; a handful of operators are on a waiting list and will shadow more experienced operators this year.

Great Bear Chase, March 11: Matt Miller is still awaiting word from Portage Health Foundation about radio needs here.

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

Thanks going forward to Franklin Township Supervisor Mary Sears, KE8FEU for agreeing to host the KCRA's meetings at the Franklin Township Hall.

Joint KCRA/CCRAA functions:

Workshops: Matt Wright moves and Amber seconds to form a committee for hands-on workshops; the motion carries. Matt will serve as chair; Don and Bill LaBell will help out with the first workshop, to be held in conjunction with the next CCRAA meeting (see New Business below) on Wednesday, April 5. This workshop will be geared toward getting new licensees on the air. Matt will order SO-239 and PL-259 connectors. Amber will email new licensees with details about the workshop.

Field Day, June 24-25: Matt Wright moves and Amber seconds to form a Field Day committee; the motion carries. Matt will serve as chair; Amber and Logan will help out. Matt Wright moves and Bill Lahti seconds to hold Field Day at the CCRAA clubhouse; the motion carries. Matt will reach out via email to line up more committee members.

CCRAA clubhouse cleanup: One interior wall of the main room was cleaned, scraped and painted last year; the others are next. A weekday evening or Saturday afternoon cleanup event and cookout will be scheduled once the snow melts.

New business:

Closer coordination with CCRAA/meeting frequency: The CCRAA has decided to continue meeting monthly. However, formal business meetings will be reduced to every other month, starting in May and continuing in July, September, November, January and March. The other months will be more workshop-oriented (see above) although members can still motion for expenses, activities, etc. at those meetings.

The KCRA will continue to meet quarterly, but at the same time/place as the CCRAA meetings. Logistically, however, it will be simpler to hold the next meeting on

May 3. We'll get back on the familiar January-April-July-October tempo in July. It will not require a change in the bylaws to move the meeting venue.

Adjournment:

Don moves to adjourn, Matt Wright seconds. The meeting is adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Next meeting:

Wednesday May 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Township Hall, 49850 U.S. Hwy. 41, Hancock.

Reminder:

Bill LaBell will host interested hams for the Michigan QSO party on Saturday April 15. Details to follow via email.