

KCRA Newsletter

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 34, No. 4

Fourth quarter 2024

In memory of Gary Hansen, K8YSZ and George Thurner, W8FWG

Meeting minutes — Saturday, October 26, 2024

Call to order at 11:25 a.m.

Roll call of officers, all present:

President/Treasurer Bill LaBell, KD8JAM

Vice President Don Lafreniere, W8PSP

Secretary Dave Gonigam, AG8NT

Also present:

Karen LaBell, KE8TXB; Simon Lafreniere, KE8TXD; Stuart Kauppila, W8EEK; Nancy Kauppila; Cristy Kirschke, KC8SGQ; Kevin Kirschke, N8ZGO; Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Danny Miller, KB8W; Antonia Burich, KE8SMB; Mike Hicks, KL2YE; Mike Musiel, K9SJ; John Applin, W8WU; Amy Applin, KE8OZX; Karen Ulicny.

Engineer's report

Everything in good working order. Bill and Jeff expect to make one more visit the repeater site soon to make sure everything is buttoned up before the snow flies.

Treasurer's report

End-of-quarter balance \$4226.08. Balance as of the meeting date \$5997.18. Recent expenses include insurance (\$249), state incorporation license (\$20), lunch/plates/plasticware for the August lighthouse activation in Eagle Harbor, tone encoder.

Proceeds from food/table fees/entry fees at the October hamfest — split equally among the KCRA, CCRAA and BCRA — work out to \$71 per club.

Housekeeping note: On the club's account at Superior National Bank, the name of Howard F. Klann, KD8ABP (SK) has been removed and the name of Donald J. Lafreniere, W8PSP has been added.

Secretary's report

No changes or corrections to the July minutes.

Old business

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (Aug. 17-18): Good turnout at Eagle Harbor. 59 contacts total, including 42 on phone and 7 on CW.

Copper Country Hamfest 2024 (Oct. 5): Great turnout, great venue. Door count at least 25 (those taking exams were not charged for admittance) plus 17 volunteers. Tables sold to 5 people.

One hitch was that ARRL did not publicize the event; apparently our notice got lost in the shuffle at the time the League was under a cyberattack. Assuming no repeat of that snag next year, we can expect better turnout from Marquette County hams. Special thanks to Kelly Dowd for her meticulous planning!

Exams: An on-demand session held on Saturday Sept. 28 resulted in two new hams. Exams held at the hamfest on Oct. 5 resulted in four new hams, including one who earned his General.

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

New business:

Lighthouse weekend conflict: It's always the same weekend as Pasty Fest. After discussion, the consensus is to carry on with the event at Eagle Harbor — especially because in Pasty Fest's current configuration, foot traffic at Agassiz Park is limited. That said, the club will explore possibilities for another weekend in 2025 when a POTA activation at Agassiz Park would attract bystanders.

HF net: Jeff suggests launching an HF net to complement the Friday night VHF net on the .315. Tentative plans are for a Saturday morning session, at a time and 75-meter frequency to be determined.

Upcoming on-demand exam: Don has been conducting a ham class for kids on Friday evenings this fall. VEs can expect a call for three candidates to take their Technician exam sometime around Thanksgiving.

Donation: The club extends its sincere thanks to Mary Ellen Crider for the donation of the radio estate belonging to Cecil Crider, WE8D (SK).

Adjournment:

Antonia motions, Stuart seconds. The meeting adjourns at 11:49 a.m.

Next meeting:

We're back on our usual schedule next time — Saturday Jan. 11 at 11:30 a.m. at The Hut in Kearsarge.