

KCRA Minutes

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 35, No. 1

First quarter 2025

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

Saturday, January 11, 2025

Call to order at 11:54 a.m.

Roll call of officers, all present:

President/Treasurer Bill LaBell, KD8JAM

Vice President Don Lafreniere, W8PSP

Secretary Dave Gonigam, AG8NT

Also present:

Mary Sears, KE8FEU; Tim Sears, KE8GRW; Logan Johnson, KD8VRD; Antonia Burich, KE8SMB; Joe Dowd, KE8DUP; Kelly Dowd; Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Karen LaBell, KE8TXB; Kelly Porter, Stuart Kauppila, W8EEK; Mike Hicks, KL2YE; Simon Lafreniere, KE8TXD; Bob Wareham, license pending; Betty Antilla; Amber Kraft, KD9KKY; John Applin, W8WU; Amy Applin, KE8OZX; Richard Brooks, KB8FCX; Karen Brooks; Kevin Kirschke, N8ZGO; Cristy Kirschke, KC8SGQ; Matt Miller, KD8OOS; Wayne (Jim) Siira, KE8PSS.

Engineer's report

The .315 has been working well through the winter. However, the 449.315 cross-band link on the MTU campus is having audio issues when transmitting. Don is looking to move it to a different part of the Great Lakes Research Center building as time allows.

Treasurer's report

Balance in the treasury is \$5972.18 as of December 31, 2024. As of the meeting date, \$6142.95. Annual dues payments/donations are rolling in. **Reminder:** If you are making a sizeable donation, please do so via personal check unless you want PayPal to take a huge cut.

Secretary's report

No changes or corrections to the October minutes.

Upcoming events

Winter Field Day, January 25-26. As was the case last year, this will be held at the CCRAA clubhouse, operating with the callsign W8CDZ. Operations start 11:00 a.m. Saturday, continuing through 4:59 p.m. Sunday.

CopperDog: February 28-March 2. Volunteers needed; contact Bill. Jeff has reserved the callsign K9C.

Superior Fab Lab Makers Fest, March 15. Like last year, this takes place at Houghton High School from noon-5:00 p.m. Hands-on soldering and antenna-building, among other

projects. Don will make arrangements so that participants can reach the .315; hams not at the event are urged to make themselves available to answer calls.

Michigan QSO Party, April 19. Jeff is opening up his QTH for participants this year; as usual, the event runs from noon-midnight. Jeff has reserved the callsign W8K.

ARRL Field Day June 28-29. As was the case last year, local participation will be at the Houghton County Historical Society in Lake Linden.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, August 16. Once again this will be held at the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse. Most operations will take place midday using the callsign K8L.

U.S. Islands QSO Party, August 30. This will be a first for our area, now that Don has demonstrated to the organizers' satisfaction that Copper Island does in fact exist! Location TBA; might be held in conjunction with a Parks On the Air event.

Old business

Exams: The most recent session on January 4 resulted in one new Technician (Bob Wareham, in attendance!); one recent Technician came very close to his General. An on-demand session held on December 5 resulted in three new Techs — two of them age 12. Next regularly-scheduled round of exams April 5.

General-level classes: Several Technicians in attendance expressed interest in classes to augment their studies for an upgrade to General. Details to follow.

Copper Country HF net: Up and running now on 75m phone — Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. on 3812 kHz.

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

New business

National license stats: Per figures from ARRL headquarters, the number of new ham licensees nationwide grew 23% between 2023-2024, while upgrade activity grew 12%. VEs served nearly 25,000 exam applicants using the ExamTools online exam system, with 88% of candidates earning a new or upgraded license.

Hands-on antenna project: Stuart gauged interest in an antenna-building project — a small Yagi suitable for ham satellites. Enough people expressed interest that Stuart will price out parts and report back. Mary is amenable to hosting at Franklin Township Hall, but we'll need some sort of protective surface for the tables.

Adjournment

Antonia moves, Karen seconds. The meeting adjourns at 12:16 p.m.

Post-meeting fellowship

A bountiful potluck is enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone for their contributions and thanks to Mary for being our host!

Next meeting

Saturday, April 12 at 11:30 a.m. Location TBA.