

# **KCRA Minutes**

**Keweenaw County Repeater Association**

**Vol. 35, No. 2**

**Second quarter 2025**

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

**Saturday, April 12, 2025**

**Call to order at 11:45 a.m.**

**Roll call of officers:**

President/Treasurer Bill LaBell, KD8JAM: Present

Vice President Don Lafreniere, W8PSP: Absent

Secretary Dave Gonigam, AG8NT: Present

**Also present:**

Jim Bastian, KF8DPJ; Richard Brooks, KB8FCX; Karen Brooks; Joe Dowd, KE8DUP; Kelly Dowd; Amy Gonigam; Mike Hicks, KL2YE; Logan Johnson, KD8VRD; Liena Johnson, KR8VEN; Amber Kraft, KD9KKY; Stuart Kauppila, W8EEK; Bill Lahti, KE8CPF; Karen LaBell, KE8TXB; Kelly Porter; Tim Peters, W3TLP; Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Bob Wareham, KF8DDV; Betty Antilla; Matt Wright, KB8VBL.

**Engineer's report**

Everything in good working order apart from the battery backup. The battery failure was discovered amid a winter storm and power outage during the hours leading up to the start of CopperDog on February 28. Cause unknown but Bill and others will make a site visit to investigate once the snowpack melts further.

**Treasurer's report**

Balance in the treasury at the end of March \$6432.47.

**Secretary's report**

No changes or corrections to the January minutes.

**Old business/recent events:**

**Winter Field Day, January 25-26.** Participation by 10 hams and 7 others, all of whom got hands-on radio experience.

**CopperDog, February 28-March 2.** A total of 14 hams and 2 others served as radio operators. All went well; commercial power was restored to the repeater site around the time the race began.

**Superior Fab Lab Makers Fest, March 15.** Participation by 13 hams. The KCRA/CCRAA booth was voted the best venue by attendees, many of whom got hands-on soldering experience with a basic flashlight kit. Next year the two clubs will request separate booths for more elbow room.

**Exams:** The most recent session on April 5 resulted in two new Technicians, three upgrades from Technician to General and one upgrade from General to Amateur Extra. Next regularly-scheduled round of exams July 5.

**Hands-on antenna project:** Stuart is perfecting a Yagi covering as much of the 2m band as possible — or at least the upper end of the band as well as the International Space Station frequencies. Once he's got something that works to his satisfaction he'll assess parts pricing and report back.

**Reminder:** The Copper Country HF net is up and running on 75m phone every Saturday at 9:00 a.m. on 3812 kHz LSB.

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

### **New business/upcoming events:**

**Michigan QSO Party, April 19.** Next Saturday after lunch, all are invited to Jeff's QTH for participation in this year's event. Operation continues through midnight; Jeff has reserved the callsign W8K.

**ARRL Field Day June 28-29.** Bill reports that leadership at the Houghton County Historical Society in Lake Linden is eager for a follow-up to last year's successful Field Day outing. Setup begins around 6:00 p.m. on Friday June 27.

**International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, August 16.** Once again this will be held at the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse. Setup begins around 9:00 a.m. 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. The most likely prospect right now is Agassiz Park in Calumet.

**Discussion follows** about Agassiz Park as a suitable venue for outdoor on-the-air activities in conjunction with the Saturday lunch gatherings. Details to follow.

### **Adjournment**

Karen moves, Jeff seconds. The meeting adjourns at 12:04 p.m., immediately followed by the CCRAA meeting and a bountiful potluck. Thanks to all for the eats — and thanks to Mary Sears, KE8FEU for the use of Franklin Township Hall.

### **Next meeting**

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