

KCRA Minutes

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 35, No. 3

Third quarter 2025

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

Saturday, July 26, 2025

Call to order at 11:47 a.m.

Roll call of officers, all present:

President/Treasurer Bill LaBell, KD8JAM

Vice President Don Lafreniere, W8PSP

Secretary Dave Gonigam, AG8NT

Also present:

Simon Lafreniere, KE8TXD; Stan LaMuth, WB8QJZ; Janet LaMuth; Danny Miller, KB8W; Joe Dowd, KE8DUP; Kelly Dowd; Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Mike Hicks, KL2YE; Karen LaBell, KE8TXB; Kelly Porter; Richard Brooks, KB8FCX; Karen Brooks; Antonia Burich, KE8SMB; Stuart Kauppila, W8EEK; Nancy Kauppila; Bob Wareham, KF8DDV; Betty Antilla; Rosalind Marie, KM4VAR; Jon Hopper, AB8WU; Elix Grenier Sewell, KF8CZS; Heather Sewell; Vance Nelson, KC8RGO; Winnie Nelson, KE8HWS.

Engineer's report

The .315 receive antenna is still problematic, so for the moment we're back on a single transmit/receive antenna with a duplexer. Bill and Jeff's troubleshooting has so far come to naught, so the next step is a tower climb by Todd from Pasty.net. (Most likely culprit: Water in the coax or something similar.) In the meantime, it requires a little more power to be heard relative to the receive-only antenna.

Treasurer's report

Balance in the treasury at the end of the second quarter was \$5730.76. As of the meeting date, \$5481.24.

Recent expenses include two new batteries for the .315 to replace the ones that failed over the winter; flyers for Field Day; \$238.27 to Jim Bastian, N8KWC for Field Day food/beverages (CCRAA is covering the other half of the total cost); approximately \$250 for 12 months' insurance of the club's equipment.

Secretary's report

No changes or corrections to the April minutes. Stan moves to approve, Jon seconds. The motion carries by acclamation.

Old business/recent events:

ARRL Field Day June 28-29: Another successful outing at the Houghton County Historical Society in Lake Linden despite rain for setup on Friday night. About 44 people signed in to participate on Saturday.

Exams: The most recent session on July 5 resulted in one new Technician licensee and one upgrade to General. Next session October 4 in Baraga (see New Business below).

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

Thanks also to Franklin Township Supervisor Mary Sears, KE8FEU, for the use of the Franklin Township Hall as our meeting/potluck venue.

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

New business/upcoming events:

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. More info posted on the KCRA and CCRAA websites.

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! After Stuart consulted with Calumet Village Manager Megan Haselden, we're clear to gather at Agassiz Park. Setup around 10:30 a.m., wrap-up sometime mid-afternoon, weather depending.

Copper Country Hamfest, October 4. For a second year running, we'll gather at the KBIC Senior Center in Baraga from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and exams will be administered. Admission \$5, tables \$10. Jeff will update the flyers from last year's template and distribute them to other U.P. ham clubs in the coming week.

Also: Antonia informed the group that on Friday August, 15, the Village of Calumet will rededicate a sign at the Calumet Theatre commemorating Calumet's sister-city relationship with the Cornish town of Camborne. Antonia and Bob are the only hams involved in this effort and Antonia wondered about the feasibility of a ham radio contact between Calumet and Camborne on this day. After discussion, the consensus was that Echolink or DMR would be the most expedient. Antonia will reach out online to gauge interest on the part of hams in Cornwall.

Adjournment

Antonia moves, Karen seconds. The meeting adjourns at 12:04 p.m., immediately followed by a bountiful potluck. Thanks to all for the eats!

Next meeting

Saturday, October 11 at 11:30 a.m. Location TBA.