

KCRA Minutes

**Keweenaw County Repeater Association
Vol. 36, No. 1
First quarter 2026**

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

Saturday, January 17, 2025

Call to order at 11:38 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; Kelly Porter; Tim Peters, W3TLP; Mike Hicks, KL2YE; Kevin Kirschke, N8ZGO; Cristy Kirschke, KC8SGQ; Bob Wareham, KF8DDV; Betty Antilla, KF8FNI; Jim Bastian, N8KWC; Amber Kraft, KD9KKY; Matt Miller, KD8OOS.

Engineer's report

Receive and transmit both in good working order. Improvements can be pursued once the snow melts.

Treasurer's report

Balance in the treasury at the end of December, \$6008.76; as of the day before the meeting, \$6293.78. With the start of the new year, dues are coming in; donations are welcome.

Secretary's report

One correction to the October minutes: The scheduled date for rededication of the sign commemorating Calumet's sister-city relationship with the Cornish town of Camborne is June 12, 2026. Antonia will continue to look into setting up a sked for a Calumet-Camborne ham radio contact.

Old business

Exams: The January 3 exam session resulted in two new Technicians while Bob upgraded to Amateur Extra. Congratulations to Betty as well for earning her Technician license. See new business for details of an additional exam session later in January.

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., most weeks on 3.813 mHz LSB.

New business/upcoming events

Exam session and Winter Field Day, January 24: An additional exam session will be administered on Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Franklin Township Hall; all license classes will be available for testing. Following lunch at The Hut at 11:30, it's on to the CCRAA clubhouse for Winter Field Day.

CopperDog, February 27-March 1: Volunteer signup is underway; if there's a crossing you want to cover, please let Bill know.

MakerFest, March 14: Plans are to return to this event, noon-5 p.m. at Houghton High School. The hams were voted the most interesting booth last year; a flashlight kit project met with a 50% success rate. (To boost this year's success rate, Bill ordered a set of simpler kits with only four components.)

Field Day, June 27-28: Bill will reach out to the Houghton County Historical Society about once again setting up shop in Lake Linden.

.315 controller: Bill resolved an issue with the repeater controller. The phone at the Mt. Horace Greeley site runs on VOIP and a Linksys adapter, which can lock up unless recycled periodically. Bill made a circuit with a timer and relay that recycles every 24 hours around midnight. All working well now (including the automated weather alert, meeting announcements, etc.).

New 11m net: Tim has organized a new CB net taking place every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. on Ch. 14 (27.125 mHz), AM mode.

Adjournment

Tim moves, Mike seconds. The meeting adjourns at 11:48 a.m., followed by a potluck. Thanks to all for the eats!

Next meeting

Saturday, April 11, 2026 at the Franklin Township Hall, 11:30 a.m.