

KCRA Minutes

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 36, No. 2

Second quarter 2026

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

Saturday, April 11, 2026

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:

Joe Dowd, KE8DUP; Kelly Dowd; Karen LaBell, KE8TXB; Kelly Porter; Mike Hicks, KL2YE; Kevin Kirschke, KE8ZGO; Cristy Kirschke, KC8SGQ; Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Antonia Burich, KE8SMB; Jim Bastian, N8KWC; Danny Miller, KB8W; Stuart Kauppila, W8EEK; Tim Peters, W3TLP; Jon Hopper, AB8WU; Bill Lahti, KE8CPF; Simon Lafreniere, KE8TXD; Logan Johnson, KD8VRD; Amber Kraft, KD9KKY, David Merrifield, KF8EPN.

Engineer's report:

Battery issues cropped up at the end of February on the .315. Bill acquired new batteries and together with Bruce Jackson, KE8DCJ, snowshoed up to the site to replace the old ones. It appears the old ones froze.

Intermittent issues cropped up with the receive antenna (which was previously used for packet). Is likely a loose connection at the bottom of the antenna, but that can't be diagnosed for sure until there's more melt. As for a permanent replacement, Bill is researching the most appropriate solution.

The club has relinquished its former UHF frequency.

Treasurer's report

Balance as of the meeting date \$6,084.

Secretary's report

See the January minutes.

Old business/report on previous events

CopperDog, February 27-March 1: All went well; thanks to everyone who took part.

MakerFest, March 14: Fourteen hams took part in this year's event at Houghton High School; thanks to Karen for shepherding several young participants through a flashlight soldering project.

Exams: Six candidates took part in the April 4 session — resulting in three new Technicians, one upgrade to General and two upgrades to Amateur Extra. The KCRA and CCRAA are in the process of adopting the ExamTools platform that the ARRL is implementing; Jim already has insights from serving as a VE for online-only exam sessions administered nationwide by a club in Tennessee.

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

Field Day, June 27-28: Once again we're good to go at the Houghton County Historical Society in Lake Linden.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, August 15-16. Will contact management at Eagle Harbor lighthouse for a return engagement.

U.S. Islands QSO Party, August 29-30. Likely returning to Agassiz Park in Calumet, combined with a POTA activation. Ideally we'll be closer to the street this time to attract more foot traffic.

Copper Country Hamfest, October 3. The date is confirmed for a return to the KBIC Senior Center in Baraga. ARRL has already been notified for publication in *QST*. Exams will be administered.

Calumet-Camborne plaque rededication: Antonia reports that this event originally planned for last year is now tentatively set for June 12, but still subject to change and the venue still uncertain. Antonia continues to gauge interest from hams in Cornwall for a commemorative contact.

Adjournment

Jon moves, Antonia seconds. The meeting adjourns at 12:15 p.m., followed by a potluck. Thanks to all for the eats!

Next meeting

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