

KCRA Minutes

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 36, No. 3

Third quarter 2026

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

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Call to order at 11:38 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:

Mike Hicks, KL2YE; Stan LaMuth, WB8QJZ; Janet LaMuth; Antonia Burich, KE8SMB; Jim Bastian, N8KWC; Tim Peters, W3TLP; Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Danny Miller, KB8W; Logan Johnson, KD8VRD; Bob Wareham, KF8DDV; Betty Antilla, KF8FNI; Matt Miller, KD8OOS

Engineer's report

All's functioning well, although the receive antenna's performance still isn't fully up to par. A trip to Mt. Horace Greeley is in the works to investigate.

However, even if there's an easy fix, the antenna is on loan from the CCRAA. Discussion follows about purchasing a permanent replacement. Typical cost is \$3,000 plus \$300 shipping — but Bill has identified a comparable model for about half the cost.

Stan moves to authorize the executive committee to pursue a replacement now — so it can be purchased before the October meeting and installed before the snow flies. Antonia seconds and the motion carries by acclamation.

Treasurer's report

Balance on June 30 was \$6,082.77. As of the meeting date, \$5,924.64. Field Day food expenses totaled \$308.75, of which the CCRAA will reimburse the club \$154.48.

Secretary's report

See the minutes from the April meeting. Stan moves to approve, Tim seconds.

Old business/report on previous events

Field Day, June 27-28. All told, 52 visitors on the sign-up sheet, both hams and non-hams — up from 45 last year.

Exams: No takers for the July exam session held earlier the morning of the meeting. For ease of logistics and to avoid conflicts with holiday weekends, future quarterly exam sessions will be held on the *second* Saturday of January, April and July preceding the KCRA meeting. The October exams will continue to take place on the first Saturday in conjunction with the Copper Country Hamfest. (This year, that's October 3.)

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 15-16. Bill will hit up his contact at the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse about a gathering there on Saturday the 15th. As in past years, setup will start around 9:00 a.m. Jeff has registered the K8L special event callsign.

U.S. Islands QSO Party, August 29-30. The plan is to return to Agassiz Park in Calumet on Saturday the 29th, this time in closer proximity to the Farmers Market. Bill will notify Calumet village hall. As before, the event will also serve as a POTA activation.

Copper Country Hamfest, October 3. For the third year running, we'll gather at the KBIC Senior Center in Baraga. Setup at 8:00 a.m., doors open at 9:00 a.m., exams begin at 10:00 a.m. Jeff has notified ARRL for publication in QST.

Insurance: Club equipment is currently covered for premiums totaling about \$150 a year — but with a \$1,000 deductible and a burdensome claims process. Bill proposes dropping the property insurance and pursuing liability insurance instead, to cover the growing number of public events sponsored by the club. After discussion, Bill will investigate the cost of liability insurance through ARRL.

HARC update: Tim informs the club of recent progress made by the Husky Amateur Radio Club — including an imminent move of the ham shack currently located at Wadsworth Hall, plus tentative approval to erect a new tower on the MTU campus.

Adjournment

Antonia moves, Betty seconds. The meeting adjourns at 12:03, followed by our potluck. Thanks to all who contributed!

Next meeting

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