

# KCRA Minutes

Keweenaw County Repeater Association

Vol. 36, No. 4

Fourth quarter 2026

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

**Saturday, October 10, 2026**

**Call to order at 11:40 a.m.**

**Roll call of officers:**

President/Treasurer Bill LaBell, KD8JAM: Present

Vice President Don Lafreniere, W8PSP: Present

Secretary Dave Gonigam, AG8NT: Present

**Also present:**

Jeff Stricker, W9GY; Tim Peters, W3TLP; Bill Lahti, KE8CPF; Antonia Burich, KE8SMB; Rosalind Marie, KM4VAR; Joe Dowd, KE8DUP; Kelly Dowd; Jim Bastian, N8KWC; Mike Hicks, KL2YE, Bob Wareham, KF8DDV; Betty Antilla, KF8FNI; Simon Lafreniere, KE8TXD

**Engineer's report**

New receive antenna works great. Contacts as distant as Rhinelander and even Almon, Wisconsin (Shawano County) — and 5 watts from Ishpeming. (Further details under old business.)

**Treasurer's report**

Balance \$6,814 at end of September. As of the meeting date, \$5,845. (Receive antenna details under old business.)

**Secretary's report**

See the minutes from the July meeting. (One correction: October meeting is Oct. 10, not 11.)

**Old business/report on previous events**

**New receive antenna:** Installed September 19. Thanks to all who took part. Hardware cost \$1,904.26, plus \$300 for the tower climb by Todd at pasty.net.

**International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend,** Eagle Harbor Lighthouse, August 15-16. Good turnout, good camaraderie, not-so-good propagation.

**U.S. Islands QSO Party**, Agassiz Park in Calumet, August 29-30. Likewise.

**Copper Country Hamfest**, KBIC Senior Center in Baraga, October 3. All told, 50 people on the sign-in sheet and 15 tables. Total take \$330, split among KCRA, CCRAA and BCRA. Thanks to Joe and Kelly for arranging the venue and to Kelly for lining up all the food on offer.

**Exams:** Four candidates took part in the quarterly session held on Saturday Oct. 3 during the Copper Country Hamfest. Congratulations to new Technicians Colin Roth, KF8HMD and Donovan Holley, KF8HMR. Congratulations also to Martin Wilkens, KF8APG, who upgraded from Technician to General.

This was our first session using the ExamTools platform implemented this year by the ARRL. For the most part all went smoothly; thanks to Jim for applying the know-how he's picked up administering online exams. Future sessions will give candidates the choice of taking the test on their phone, laptop computer or via an old-fashioned answer sheet that can now be graded in seconds with a laptop camera.

**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 (time-sensitive items in red)**

**Weather spotting:** In addition to the usual spring weather spotter training, the National Weather Service forecast office in Marquette is coming to Houghton for a fall session this year — next Wednesday Oct. 14 at 6:00 p.m. on the MTU campus, Fisher Hall, Room 138.

**Volunteer opportunity:** Tim says volunteers are needed for Treat Street in Houghton next Saturday Oct. 17. Sheldon Ave. is shut down to traffic for this event, turning Montezuma Ave. into a two-way street. Anyone interested can contact Matt Miller, KD8OOS at [mthwml@gmail.com](mailto:mthwml@gmail.com).

**2027 CopperDog 150:** Dates are set, Feb. 26-28. Details to follow.

**Exam reminder:** Quarterly exam sessions are moving to the second Saturday of the month, to be held in the morning the same day as the midday KCRA meeting. The one exception is October, when exams are administered at the Copper Country Hamfest. Next session Saturday Jan. 9.

### **Adjournment**

Tim moves, Antonia seconds. The meeting adjourns at 12:07, followed by our potluck. Thanks to all who contributed!

### **Next meeting**

Saturday January 9, 2027 at the Franklin Township Hall, 11:30 a.m.