

The Landline

Newsletter of the
Copper Country Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
POB 217
Dollar Bay, MI 49922-0217

Hancock Repeater: 146.880(-) MHz Herman Repeater: 146.670(-) MHz

KCRA Repeater: 147.315 (+) MHz

(All 3 repeaters require a PL 100.0 Hz tone for access)

146.520 MHz Nationwide SIMPLEX

Other Simplex: 146.49, 146.55, 146.58 MHz

Packet Radio (AX.25) 145.09 MHz

APRS Radio: 144.390 MHz

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CLUB MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

Club meetings of the CCRAA are always held the first Tuesday of each month, unless notified of a change, in this newsletter. The August meeting of the Copper Country Radio Amateur Association will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, EDT at the Dollar Bay Fire Hall.

MINUTES OF THE CCRAA MEETING OF TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009

CCRAA MEETING: Held July 7, 2009 at the Dollar Bay Fire Hall

The meeting came to order at 7:07. There were eight in attendance including the secretary and treasurer. Lacking a quorum, because neither the president nor the vice president was there, a motion was made to suspend the Club's quorum rules for this meeting and proceed. The motion passed. Secretary Rich, KB8FCX conducted the meeting.

Treasurer Glenn, WA8QNF reported a beginning monthly balance of \$4,272 and an ending balance of \$4,297.

George, W8FWG reported two broken items at the clubhouse. The gauge on the LP tank is broken and the feed-line to the dipole (wire) antenna is broken. The gauge belongs to Ferrell Gas. They have been notified. Fixing the feed-line is a "from the ground" job, but George would like some help doing it. He also needs some help installing two window shades.

George also offered to donate to the club two entire APRS stations (less one antenna). The two stations are located at Osceola and Herman. The club has a spare antenna to make the two stations complete. Antenna climbing is involved to bring the stations to operating condition. Offers to “climb for gas” have been received. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept George’s offer(s) and to pay for the climber’s gas.

At Osceola Alltel has become Verizon.

Glenn reported the next VE test was to be held Saturday, July 11, 2009 in Douglas Houghton Hall, Room G32, (The Ballroom). at 9am. Park in lot 8. (*Editors note: No applicants were there, and so there was no exams given*)

UP Ham Fest will be August 1, 2009 in Escanaba.

Howard Klann, KD8APB is in the hospital. The Secretary asked George if he would send him a get well card.

It was decided to hold the August meeting again at Dollar Bay

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41.

Submitted by: Richard Brooks, KB8FCX, Secretary, 201-0849

GUEST EDITORIAL:

FROM THE HOUGHTON/KEWEENAW OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEASURES:

“I learned recently that the Copper Country Radio Amateur Association decided to hold all of its meetings at the Dollar Bay Firehall, which has historically been our home for the “non-summer” months. (Thank you, Dollar Bay for hosting our meetings for the rest of the year!). I do have a couple comments regarding that proposed summer change in venue.

For years, the club has conducted summer meetings at our CCRAA Clubhouse, where members and guests enjoy a picnic lunch in a more rustic setting. Using the building for those meetings also allowed members to see, re-familiarize themselves with, and maybe exercise the equipment there. Because the county long ago felt that HAM radio operators provided a very valuable service to the community, they paid (and continue to pay) electric costs at the facility and also Telco costs associated with that link on the “88” repeater. Over the last couple years the county, as a part of our Homeland Security grant allocation, also put a lot of money in re-outfitting the “88” and “67” sites as well. That money could have been spent for many other necessary projects that didn’t get done which didn’t involve our HAM community. In my mind, I could always justify the costs associated with improving and maintaining our capability at that facility and those sites because it provided the county with a reliable **alternate** communications capability staffed by knowledgeable people. While having a meeting or four doesn’t ensure that people are knowledgeable, it does “force” folks who might otherwise not even know what’s up there to be more familiar with the facility and the equipment. If that building is

used by a member or two once in a blue moon it would be hard to justify the cost to keep it.

Unless there is a compelling reason why we shouldn't use our clubhouse for meetings I am suggesting that you reconsider your decision and continue to use it for those few months in the summer.

Sincerely,

Jack Dueweke, B.S., R.R.T., PEM
Emergency Coordinator Houghton and Keweenaw Counties
KC8NPI"

MINOR ANTENNA DAMAGE:

Our doublet antenna at Osceola (Clubhouse) sustained minor damage to its feedline, due to high winds that we had during the month of June. Repair is underway, and this antenna should be as good as new, in the next few weeks.

PACKET RADIO UPDATE:

Despite the newer system called APRS, the older AX.25 Packet Radio System is still alive and well. Improvements made by Steve, N8MLI in Ishpeming indicate we now have a route to Iron Mountain, but there is no connection at the Iron Mountain end at this writing, but we hope the good people of the Mich-A-Con club will be working on that allowing us a link out of Marquette County, and out of the Copper Country. The installation of W8FWG's (W8FWG-2), is still in place at Mt. Horace Greeley and the Calumet (Osceola) installation is also intact.)

NEW APRS INSTALLATION AT HERMAN:

Thanks to our club, The Copper Country Radio Amateur Association, we have obtained a 6 dB gain fiberglass antenna for use at the Herman APRS installation. This APRS station will be renamed as W8CDZ-1 and will operate on a frequency of 144.390 MHz. The station, consists of a VHF transceiver, power supply, charger, transmission line, KPC3+ TNC and protective equipment, all donated to the club by W8FWG. If we replace the 155.415 MHz antenna (given to us by the DNR) with a "ham type" (144-148 MHz) we would have an antenna that is about 2/3 of the way to the top of that 300 foot tower. Alternately, we could mount the fiberglass antenna about 75 feet up on one of the tower legs, giving us an improved antenna system for APRS in Baraga county in hopes of bettering serve the entire ham community. This new installation will serve hams throughout the U.P. and surrounding states. With this higher gain antenna and new height above the old level (ground level!).....we should see a better signal through Herman. Thanks to Brandon, N8PUM, Howard, KD8ABK (who donated the original Ringo II antenna for APRS use) and Bill, KD8JAM for their assistance in getting this new installation operating at Herman.

OTHER GOOD NEWS FROM HERMAN:

We were given several antennae at Herman (commercial grade), one cut for the 155 MHz band, a corner reflector (pointed west) that resonates in the VHF portion of the ham bands (144-148 MHz) and another near the top that is positioned right in front of our 146.670 MHz voice repeater antenna. We are given permission to remove that antenna if we feel it interferes with the operation of "67" as it is no longer being used by the DNR. We are hoping to change out one of these antenna systems with a commercial "ham" type antenna (144-148 MHz), and that would give us added coverage for the APRS system. All of this is still pending.

THANK YOU:

Our thanks to Howard, KD8ABP, David, KD8CGA, and Bill, KD8JAM for the excellent brush removal from inside the fence area at Herman, it was so badly grown in, that one could barely distinguish there was a building there! Thanks very much for your good work!

HOSPITALIZED:

Charyl, W8QLT was recently hospitalized on Sunday July 5, 2009 after an automobile accident on Hwy U.S. 41 near the airport road between Hancock and Calumet. Both drivers were not seriously injured and were treated and released at Portage Health Center in Hancock. and are recovering at home, at this writing.

Howard, KD8ABP was hospitalized briefly on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, in Bell Hospital in Ishpeming.

"315" STATUS REPORT:

Our Daily Mining Gazette of Houghton carried a story on Tuesday night about the Federal government taking back a small portion of the old Calumet Air Force Station. "Hams" were concerned how we would be affected. The answer was: "No change" for us, and the 147.315 MHz repeater will continue operation at that site.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY PROBLEMS:

If you have a change of your residential address or your E-Mail address, please notify the Newsletter Editor of the club (W8FWG) at (906) 337-2542 or E-Mail him at: **w8fwg@arrl.net**. If you know of someone missing the newsletter, please have them get it touch with the Newsletter Editor also. Thanks! If you are a “snowbird” (go away for the winter) please give us your winter address so that you can keep up on the goings-on, in our club. We’ll be happy to send your copy to you at your winter address, and don’t forget to notify us again, when you return, so you can continue receiving the “Landline.”

OFFICER LISTING

The “LANDLINE” is published monthly by the Copper Country Radio Amateur Association, Inc. Contributions for use in the LANDLINE, relating to the amateur radio service and to the CCRAA are welcomed at any time. Please submit your contributions directly to the editor, and they should be received by the 25th of the month before the meeting. The LANDLINE Editor is: George R. Thurner, W8FWG. If you have a question or a comment George can be reached at: (906) 337-2542 or use the E-Mail address of w8fwg@arrl.net. Complimentary copies are sent to other radio clubs in the U.P. of Michigan monthly. Please refer any delivery problems to the Editor (George R. Thurner) To find out more about the CCRAA Inc. or the Amateur Radio Service, please contact one of the officers listed below or write to the CCRAA, POB 217, Dollar, Bay, MI 49922-0217 or visit us on the web: www.ccraa.net Ask for our new FREE booklet for new prospects to ham radio, for your friends who may be interested in ham radio. It’s available in Adobe E-Mail format or via USPS.

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OUR POLICY:

Members and Associate members will receive one copy per family of the “LANDLINE.” If you hold a valid E-Mail address, an electronic copy will be sent to you at your E-Mail address. If you don’t have an E-Mail address, you will receive the “LANDLINE” by USPS. This method saves both the club and the editor the time and expense of USPS deliveries. We welcome input from all club members, and your information should reach the editor’s desk NLT than the 25th of the month preceding this date. Your information may be edited for space in the “LANDLINE.” The delivery date for the “LANDLINE” will be on or before the first of the month.. If the first Tuesday (Meeting night) happens to be on the first of the month, your copy will arrive approximately 3 to 5 days prior to the first. If you have a change of either E-Mail address or USPS address, please notify the Secretary of the club, in order to insure continuous coverage of the “Landline” to you. If you have any questions concerning this delivery, please contact the Secretary (George R. Thurner, W8FWG) at: (906) 337-2542 or to the E-Mail address of:w8fwg@arrl.net

CCRAA, INC.
POB 217
DOLLAR BAY MI 49922-0217

NEXT MEETING: Sept. 1 2009
Dollar Bay Fire hall
48649 Main St.
Dollar Bay, MI 49922
(Next to Richie’s Market)