

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 July meeting of the Copper Country Radio Amateur Association will be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, EDT at the Dollar Bay Fire Hall.

MINUTES OF THE CCRAA MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2009

CCRAA MEETING: Held June 2, 2009 at the Dollar Bay fire hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. There were eight in attendance including three officers. The secretary's report was published in the Landline. It was moved, seconded and past to accept the report as published.

Treasurer Glen, WA8QNF reported a beginning monthly balance of \$4,325 and an ending balance of \$4,272.

Other than that, the treasure's report consisted mostly of a discussion of the why's and why not's of being incorporated. No action was taken.

Jack, N8WAV discussed the upcoming U.P. ARES/RACES EC/RO meeting with the U.P. county Emergency Managers where ham radios in the EOCs would be discussed along with the role of ARES/RACES in Emergency Management. There is a possibility that our Laurium EOC will get HF, VHF, and UHF equipment. If so, we hope to be able to use it weekly to stay current on its operation.

Bridgefest will not come to Houghton. Radio help is expected to center around traffic problems for the fireworks.

Field Day will be June 27th and 28th. Members wishing to participate should contact Doug, N8KSO (296-9686).

It was decided to have meetings at the Dollar Bay fire hall until decided otherwise.

Wednesday night (third Wednesday) net needs a new net controller.

The next VE test will be 9am, July 11, 2009 in room G32 Wads. Park in lot 8.

Andy Kangas N8ZBJ submitted the following report on spreading Paul Christensen's ashes:

"On Sunday May 10, 2009, fifty of Paul's friends gathered at 2 PM. on top of Brockway Mountain to pay their respects.

"A few words were spoken in praise of Paul and a young girl played a flute solo. His ashes were then spread over the cliff.

"A Vollworths natural casing hotdog cookout followed. Everyone present was allowed to pick a model collectors car to keep. On one of the white posts on the southwest corner of the parking lot a small brass plate with Paul's name inscribed was mounted. This was the area that Paul used to watch his beloved eagles."

(Secretary's personal note: Through contacts at the Houghton County Historical Museum, a fine picture of Paul at a tractor event was obtained. It has an honored spot at Carla's north of Baraga on US 41. Those knowing Paul will know where and why.)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

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

APRS CHANGES ON THE KEWEENAW:

Some recent changes were made (call signs only) to the Copper Country APRS stations (Automatic Position Reporting System). The changes were made for the betterment and continued operation of these systems. ARRL insurance will cover these stations under one policy listed with the Keweenaw County Repeater Association. Howard (KD8ABP) and George (W8FWG) have donated their equipment to the Keweenaw County Repeater Association and this change becomes effective with a motion that is carried by the KCRA, Inc.

(More on Page 3.....)

OLD CALL SIGN	NEW CALLSIGN	LOCATION	COUNTY
KD8ABP-7	K8MDH-1	Mt. Horace Greeley	Keweenaw
W8FWG-6	K8MDH-2	L'Anse (Herman)	Baraga
W8FWG-8	K8MDH-3	Calumet (Osceola)	Houghton
W8FWG-7	K8MDH-4	Ontonagon (Green)	Ontonagon *

*Pending

All of these changes need ratification by the members of the KCRA at their July 15, 2009 meeting.

APRStt:

We first demonstrated the APRStt concept back in 2001 at Dayton using hardware DTMF decoders and a parallel port voice synthesizer, and now Rick Ruhl W4PC of CSS has finally implemented a version for Windows using soundcards that he calls Radio Spotter. Run it on a PC with nothing but a dual band radio (or pair of radios), and this establishes a local APRStt zone where any nearby HT that ID's itself by DTMF memory will be converted to APRS at that location. or they can enter their position data too.

APRStt BACKGROUND:

APRStt, (APRS Touch-Tone(tm) is an APRS protocol for a two-way DTMF-to-APRS gateway to permit the other 95% of ham radio operators with voice-only radios to exchange information and data with the APRS system and users. Not only can they "check-in" or send any APRS data from their DTMF keypad, but they can also monitor the APRStt voice output channel for all the voice responses which speak APRS information back to these voice users. They can also query any information and receive voice response. This is just another part of the Global/Local Ham Radio Text Messaging/Contact Initiative. .

APRStt allows all ham radio operators to participate in the APRS information system, not just those with the specialized APRS radios (D7, D700, D710, VX8R, HAMHUD, etc) or those with TNC's and mobile laptops. With APRStt, anyone can enter information, Let everyone know their operating frequency or show up on the local map and hear what is going on. To help us understand the baseline of existing DTMF capability See the DTMF radio capabilities list.

(Editor: This promises to be something BIG!) For the full story go to: www.aprs.org/aprstt.html for more information

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

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POB 217

NEXT MEETING: August 4, 2009
DOLLAR BAY MI 49922-0217