

# 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 June meeting of the Copper Country Radio Amateur Association (originally described as being held at the Osceola Clubhouse), will be held on the **First Tuesday, June 2, 2009, EDT at the Dollar Bay Fire hall in Dollar Bay.** At this June meeting it will be decided where to hold future meetings.

## MINUTES OF THE CCRAA MEETING OF THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. There were eight in attendance including two officers. The secretary's report was published in the Landline. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the report as published. There was no treasurer's report.

Jack, N8WAV reported on Senior Walk, Parade of Thanks, Search and Rescue, MARS, Bridge fest, Chain Drive and Digital HF.

Senior Walk took place without notable mishap; however, the walk took on a different look as perhaps as many as half the walkers walked on Saturday.

Parade of Thanks will be only in Hancock this year. Radio help will be needed and Andy KC8YMR will be coordinating the effort.

Search and Rescue groups here, in Baraga County and in Ontonagon County will be getting special "packs" to help in those programs.

MARS is recruiting. Hams with HF experience, wanting to help should see Jack.

Bridge fest will not come to Houghton. Radio help is expected to center around traffic problems for the fireworks.  
Radio help for Chain Drive is unknown. Cell phones have substituted for radios recently. Digital HF tests will be conducted the weekend of May 9th.

Radio Operations reported that Chuck is working to get the 440 antennas tested and working.

Glenn, WA8QNF reported there were three successful test-takers at the last VE test.

The proposed CCRAA By-Laws was adopted on a 5 to 2 vote.

Field Day will be June 27th and 28th. The club will change the emphasis this year from bring your radio and we'll have a picnic to we'll have a picnic and bring your radios.

It was decided to have the June 2nd meeting again at the Dollar Bay Fire Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48.

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

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### **FCC CRACKDOWN:**

May 21, 2009

You may not know it, but if you have a wireless router, a cordless phone, remote car-door opener, baby monitor or cell phone in your house, the FCC claims the right to enter your home without a warrant at any time of the day or night in order to inspect it.

That's the upshot of the rules the agency has followed for years to monitor licensed television and radio stations, and to crack down on pirate radio broadcasters. And the commission maintains the same policy applies to any licensed or unlicensed radio-frequency device.

"Anything using RF energy - we have the right to inspect it to make sure it is not causing interference," says FCC spokesman David Fiske. That includes devices like Wi-Fi routers that use unlicensed

➤ spectrum, Fiske says

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### **APRS UPDATE:**

NOTE: The U.P. is in need of APRS digipeaters! Consider converting your old 145.01/145.09 BBS or packet node to an APRS node on 144.39 MHz using the WIDEN-N format. No matter where you live, It would be additionally helpful (although not absolutely necessary to help us out) if you interfaced your over the air node with your broadband Internet connection using UI-View , a free download. This would GREATLY

help fill in the multiple holes in the coverage in the U.P. and enable better posting of information to the Internet.

We especially need stations near:  
Nestoria/Michigamme/Republic  
Munising/Wetmore/Shingleton  
Scandia/McFarland/Trenary  
Escanaba/Gladstone

*(Late breaking news: Saturday, May 30, 2009.....3 pm..... Mark, KC8YDU, has installed a new APRS digipeater in the vicinity of Iron River, MI, and its SSID is KC8YDU-10 Thanks Mark, for helping improve the APRS coverage in Iron County)*

We've also heard (via the "grapevine") that the Delta County Club (DCARS) is planning a digipeater in their area.)

And....another new "digi" is being planned for the Mass City area. (Ontonagon Co.)

Plus, George, W8FWG, is planning an APRS installation in Baraga Co. (hopefully the Herman tower site!)

### **CQ VHF CONTEST:**

N9LR and K9CT will be setting up on Mt. Brockway in Grid EN67 for the CQ VHF contest again this year. We plan on setting up on July 17th and operating the 18 and 19th for the contest. We will be on 6 and 2 using CW, SSB and WSJT. This year we will be using my call, K9CT. We will also have a new ham and contester, KC9LNH with us.

Last year we enjoyed the hospitality of the area hams and look forward to eyeball QSO's again this year. We discovered pastys and thimbleberry jam!

We are bringing some additional and different equipment this year. We will have a K3 on 6M with a SPE amplifier. On 2M we will have more power and a new antenna.

If you could add this to your club newsletter, that would be great.

73, Craig K9CT  
[www.k9ct.us](http://www.k9ct.us)

## **ARRL FIELD DAY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES THAT EVERYONE CAN USE**

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.

2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.

3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.

4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.

5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.

6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."

7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."

8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.

9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.

10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

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## 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.”

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## 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, and the Associate Editor is David O. Torrey, KD8GBH. If you have a question or a comment George can be reached at: (906) 337-2542 or Dave can be reached at: (906) 483-4885 or use the E-Mail addresses listed below to contact either of us. 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](http://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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:w8fwg@arrl.net)

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**NEXT MEETING: UNKNOWN**  
**LOCATION AND TIME AT THIS**  
**WRITING.**