

# The LANDLINE

The Newsletter of the  
 COPPER COUNTRY RADIO AMATEUR ASSOCIATION, INC.  
 P.O. BOX 217 - DOLLAR BAY, MICHIGAN 49922-0217  
 Visit us on the World Wide Web: [www.ccraa.net](http://www.ccraa.net)

## Meeting March 7, 2006, Dollar Bay Fire Hall 7:00pm

### SILENT KEY - REPORTING:

As the chairman of the CCRAA's Annual "U.P. Ham Directory" we find that many "Silent Keys" (SK's) are published each year, because they are unknown to us. Our information for the booklet comes from the FCC database, and if the FCC isn't notified by someone (a family member of the SK, a relative or a friend) they don't know about it, and the listing could possibly go on until the 10 year license is ended, and that could be a long time. I'm suggesting that each club form a committee that will get together with the family of a deceased "ham" and assist the families in getting the information to the FCC and the ARRL. A reasonable length of time after the SK passes should be allowed, and a personal visit to the family involved would be desired.

1. A family member should notify the FCC and should include either a death certificate or an obituary from the newspaper

Please assist the family by giving them the address of the FCC, (An addressed and stamped envelope to the FCC would be a kind gesture):

Send it to:

FCC  
 1270 Fairfield Rd  
 Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245

2. If the SK also holds a Commercial license, the FCC should also be sent the ORIGINAL (or a copy) of that license, or the number imprinted on it.
3. The ARRL should also be notified. (Kathy Capodicasa, N1GZO, Silent Keys Administrator, N1GZO@arrl.org).(Again an addressed, stamped envelope to the ARRL would be appropriate.)

Note: Silent Key reports to the ARRL must confirm the death by one of the following means:

- a. A letter or note from a family member
- b. A copy of a newspaper obituary notice
- c. a copy of the death certificate
- d. A letter from the family lawyer or the executor
- e. Amateur's name, address and call sign
- f. Allow several months for the listing to appear in the SK column in QST

magazine.

4. If your club isn't already doing this, it would be a good time to start such a program.

73, and thank you for taking the time to read this short article.

George R. Thurner, W8FWG  
 Chairman, CCRAA's "U.P. Ham Directory."  
 (906) 337-2542  
 E-Mail: [w8fwg@arrl.net](mailto:w8fwg@arrl.net)

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

Our congratulations to Gavrielah C.L. Hojnacki(KD8CTL) of Chassell on receiving her Technician class ticket. She took the test from the CCRAA/HARC Team on January 21 in Houghton and already had her license four days later! That must be some kind of record!!!! *Source: George(W8FWG)*

**MORE CONGRATULATIONS!:**

Our Congratulations to Gary Hansen, K8YSZ who successfully completed his Second Class Radiotelegraph (Commercial) radio examination on January 28, 2006 before a board of four Examiners from the National Radio Examiners of Dallas Texas. The local team who did the testing in Calumet is known as the UPRE (Upper Peninsula Radio Examiners), a newly formed team in the U.P. of Michigan. This is the ONLY team in the U.P. of Michigan, and there are only four others in the State of Michigan, all in the Lower Peninsula. Our thanks too, to the certified examiners, who ran the test. (Walt, W8ERB; Charles, WB8FCY; Danny, KB8W; and George, W8FWG) The 150 question test(s) were completed in less than 2 hours! Good work Gary, we're very proud of you!

P.S. Gary informed me just last night (Feb. 25, 2006, that he received his Second Class Radiotelegraph License in the mail!)

**FCC NONCOMMITTAL ON "MORSE CODE" PROCEEDING ACTION:**

Just when the FCC will act on the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. The Amateur Radio community has filed more than 3800 comments on the proceeding, and additional comments continue to show up, even though the formal comment deadline was last October 31 (with reply comments by November 14). The next--and most-anticipated--step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date.

"There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer told ARRL this week on background. "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention."

Beyond eliminating the Morse requirement, the FCC declined proposing any other suggested changes to the Amateur Service.

(FCC Non-Committal.....continued)

The proceeding began with 18 petitions for rule making--many just calling for the elimination of the Morse requirement but some asking for more far-reaching changes in the Amateur Service rules. The various petitions attracted a total of some 6200 comments. The FCC subsequently consolidated the petitions--including one from the ARRL asking the FCC to establish a new entry-level license class and to retain the Morse requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants--into a single proceeding designated WT 05-235.

The FCC has not proposed extending HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. In its NPRM&O the FCC suggested that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, "codeless Techs" could gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination.

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have \*no\* impact on either the current HF CW-only sub-bands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees.

Before it releases an R&O on the Morse code proceeding, however, the WTB wants to wrap up action in another Amateur Radio-related docket--the "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140, released April 15, 2004. A dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001, were consolidated in the Omnibus proceeding.

In that NPRM, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus sub-bands and expanding portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF sub-bands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit). WT 04-140 further proposed to essentially do away with FCC rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters.

**SCANNER LAW UPDATE**

HB-4544, As Passed Senate, February 14, 2006

**SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4544**

A bill to amend 1931 PA 328, entitled "The Michigan penal code," by amending section 508 (MCL 750.508), as amended by 2002 PA 672.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Sec. 508. (1)

House Bill No. 4544 as amended February 9, 2006

A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF 1 OR MORE FELONIES DURING THE PRECEDING 5 YEARS SHALL NOT CARRY OR HAVE IN HIS OR HER POSSESSION A RADIO RECEIVING SET THAT WILL RECEIVE SIGNALS SENT ON A FREQUENCY ASSIGNED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES FOR POLICE OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE FIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL, FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL CORRECTIONS, OR HOMELAND SECURITY PURPOSES. THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PERSON WHO IS LICENSED AS AN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 1 YEAR OR A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000.00, OR BOTH.

(2) A PERSON SHALL NOT CARRY OR HAVE IN HIS OR HER POSSESSION IN THE COMMISSION OR ATTEMPTED COMMISSION OF A CRIME A RADIO RECEIVING SET THAT WILL RECEIVE SIGNALS SENT ON A FREQUENCY ASSIGNED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES FOR POLICE OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE FIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL, FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL CORRECTIONS, OR HOMELAND SECURITY PURPOSES.

A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS GUILTY OF A CRIME AS FOLLOWS:

(A) IF THIS SUBSECTION IS VIOLATED IN THE COMMISSION OR ATTEMPTED COMMISSION OF A MISDEMEANOR PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OF AT LEAST 93 DAYS BUT LESS THAN 1 YEAR, THE PERSON IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 1 YEAR OR A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000.00, OR BOTH.

(B) IF THIS SUBSECTION IS VIOLATED IN THE COMMISSION OR ATTEMPTED COMMISSION OF A MISDEMEANOR OR FELONY PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OF 1 YEAR OR MORE, THE PERSON IS GUILTY OF A FELONY PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 2 YEARS OR A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$2,000.00, OR BOTH.

(3) SUBSECTION (2) DOES NOT APPLY TO A PERSON WHO CARRIES OR HAS IN HIS OR HER POSSESSION A RADIO RECEIVING SET DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2) IN THE COMMISSION OR ATTEMPTED COMMISSION OF A MISDEMEANOR PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OF LESS THAN 93 DAYS.

(4) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE USE OF RADAR DETECTORS.

ENACTING SECTION 1. THIS AMENDATORY ACT TAKES EFFECT 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE IT IS ENACTED.

### **The Future of Amateur Radio;**

Talking points: Have them ready to go when someone gives you bad vibes about ham radio!

Recently, I had a chance to speak with a group about just what it is our Handiham program is about. As I usually do with any group, I talk just a bit about ham radio first, so that my audience will know that I am not working with commercial broadcast radio, or with something like citizens band or family service radio.

After the talk, I spoke with a gentleman from the group. He said, "I don't know how to make this not sound insulting to you, and I sure don't mean it that way, but isn't ham radio out of date, considering all the new computer technologies around?"

Of course I told him that ham radio is vibrant and very much alive with current computer-related technologies, and I gave him a DVD that would tell him more about our program. That part was easy enough, but I was troubled by the perception that others have about ham radio as an activity that is out of touch and outmoded. What gives people that idea? Could there be some truth to it, and if so, what could we do to change our image?

I'm not going to pretend that there have not been huge changes in technology over the past 10 years, when we have seen the meteoric rise of the Internet and personal computing. There has been a great deal of change, and not all ham radio operators have kept up to date. On the other hand, we have certainly gone from considering the personal computer a competitor to a partner! Every ham shack should include a PC, this most versatile piece of equipment that can do our logging, callsign lookups, transceiver control, DX spotting, and voice over Internet protocol to the world via EchoLink. On the workbench, the computer integrates with test equipment to help us design everything from filters to antennas. Serious operators would never be without a personal computer during a contest.

But there is an old saying: Perception is Reality. What it means is that the "truth" for a person depends on how they perceive something, filtered through the bias and preconceived notions (right or wrong) about any topic you might discuss. For example, if I strongly believe that the only fruit that tastes good is the apple, I am likely to turn my nose up when someone offers me an orange. Even if they tell me that oranges are sweet and good for me, I may not be willing to believe them, since I have no experience with oranges myself.

So it is with ham radio. Many people know just enough about it to have preconceived notions that are only partly correct, or maybe even completely wrong! Some will think it is the same as CB, or Citizens Band, used by truckers and not requiring a license. Others "know" that some guy in their neighborhood long ago was a ham operator and he interfered with everyone's TV reception. Many still assume that it is all about Morse code, which they associate with antique telegraphs that they have seen in movies about the wild West or the Titanic.

How do we change perceptions? It isn't easy, but there are a few basics that all of us can keep in mind:

1. Be prepared to tell people about some current ham radio technologies, and about how ham radio and the computer are now partners in communication.
2. Never miss an opportunity to invite others, non-hams, to your local radio club activities. Field Day can be fun for them, and also be a real learning experience!
3. Push public service. Schedule a SKYWARN class that is open to the public, then right after that class, offer a Technician Amateur Radio course through your radio club. That way, newcomers who are interested in SKYWARN see the value of ham radio communications.
4. Keep looking for ways to promote ham radio through the media. Ours is increasingly a media-driven world, and understanding that fact will help us to be ready with some good ways to tell the story of ham radio in a positive way.

Won't you join with me in pushing the frontiers of knowledge? Sure you will!

Patrick Tice <<mailto:patt@courage.org>>  
[patt@courage.org](mailto:patt@courage.org)  
Handiham Manager

**REPEATER REPAIR - 147.315;**

Our thanks to the following amateurs for their observations, on-the-air tests, and helpful suggestions RE: The KCRA's "315" repeater failure on February 21, 2006. W8FMR,(Terry) N8XJXS, (Dale) K9GIR (Denny), KC8DYG, (Lee) Howard (KD8ABP), KC8YDU (Mark) and George, W9FWG). The trouble was "cutting out".....and the problems found were two:

1. A defective heat sensor on the heat sink of the radio transmitter at the Mt. Horace Greeley site, and
  2. Low water level in the back-up storage batteries.
- Because of the "hostile environment" that repeater operates in, (unheated building) we are thinking of replacing the batteries (this summer) and doing some other minor field work at the Gratiot Lake site.

Howard (KD8ABP) and George (W8FWG) had the trouble cleared and the repeater operating at full capacity once again, the very next day, Wednesday, February 22, 2006. Thanks too, to the Keweenaw County Road Commission and to Sheriff Ron Lahti, for having the road plowed to the site, so we had access to it.

(Submitted by: Geo., W8FWG)

### **K.C.R.A. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Our sister club, the Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc. will hold its meeting on **Wednesday, April 12, 2006** at the Keweenaw Pines Apartments, in the Community Room, the Annex to Building "C." Keweenaw Pines Apts. are located just one-half mile north of the Cliff Drive Road near Mohawk. Time: 7:00pm EST. Visit our Web Page at [www.kcra-mi.net](http://www.kcra-mi.net) All persons interested in "ham" radio are invited to attend. Major door prize raffled! If you need further information before the meeting date, please call George Thurner, W8FWG (Sec.-Treas.) at (906) 337-2542.

### **WANTED & FORSALE:**

**Forsale** - Tri-Band Beam Wilson Antenna, Good condition. \$75.00. Stan W. Strangle(K8NYT) 906-827-3526

*Also visit our web site for more items: [www.ccraa.net](http://www.ccraa.net)*

### **Minutes of Last Meeting;**

CCRAA MEETING: Held February 7, 2006 at the Dollar Bay fire Hall.

The meeting was called to order by President Lee(KC8DYG) at 7:12. After self-introductions a moment of silence in honor of departed CC hams: Donald Perkins (W8WZA) and Frederick H. Anthony,(W0RKN) was observed.

There were applications submitted for three new memberships. Welcomed into the club were Gavrielah Hojnacki (KD8CTL) of Chassell and Richard and Janet Hanner (KC8VMV) and (KC8VMW) of Weidman, Michigan.

The minutes from the January meeting were published in the "Landline." The Treasurer reported beginning and ending balances of \$2161 and \$2422.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**PUBLIC SERVICE:** (Jack N8WAV) reported the 2M frequency used for local ARES events is now being used by the packet in Felch. ARES will look for a new frequency. Also, FEMA is requesting ARES volunteers sharpen skills by taking courses on the Internet. Finally, Jack informed the club of upcoming events that might need our help. They are the Jr. Olympics or Luge and the Great Bear Chase.

**RADIO OPERATIONS:** (Chuck WB8FCY) reported working with Jack KC8NPI to get the US Department of Homeland Security to replace the club's repeater equipment. Also, the 67 antenna problem persists.

**PROPERTY:** (George W8FWG) reported giving the emergency generator its monthly check and that the warm weather took care of the clubhouse snow problem. He also reported that the dual-band antenna is not working. Brandon Anderson N8PUM from Ishpeming has offered to look the situation over later this month along with installing a 70cm antenna. The 70cm station will still carry the W8CDZ call. George also reported “hearing” the DNR may move their Herman activities to the MSP tower. Such a move may not affect the club for five years.

**EDUCATION:** George reported that ten students are in Mr. Benda’s radio class at Jeffers High School. Also, there was one person (KD8CTL) who passed an exam in January. The next local VE exam will be April 8, 2006 in room G04 Wadsworth Hall. The testing fee is \$14.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

George reported efforts to publishing the UP Ham Directory are in full swing. Enough ads have been sold to nearly cover the up front expenses. Sixty-three names were added and 62 were removed. Twenty-Five UP clubs were notified of the publication. Price: \$3 (plus postage).  
For privacy, members’ names have been taken off the club’s website.

The nominating committee reported the following slate of officers for next year:

**President:** Glenn Ekdahl WA8QNF **Vice President:** Paul Kemppainen C8FLK  
**Secretary:** Andy Kangas W8ZBJ **Treasurer:** Paul Christensen W9VLM

Voting takes place at the meeting next month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The club wants to continue the Swap and Shop, wishing it to be April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Glenn will check on the availability of the Chassell fire hall. Howard agreed to help haul the excess club equipment (listed in last month's E Landline and repeated below) to the S&S.

AMPLIFIER AUDIO (PA SYSTEM) BOGEN MODEL L330 30WATT  
AUDIO OSCILLATOR HP MODEL 200CD  
BPF (155 BAND) (2)  
COMPUTER DTH DATA 1000  
DUPLEXERS (4) 155 BAND  
FREQUENCY METER, GERTSCH MODEL FM3  
OSCILLOSCOPE, DUMONT MODEL 304A  
**SIGNAL GENERATOR HP MODEL 608E, TUNES 10-480 MHZ \*\*\*\*\***  
**(note: equipment sold)**  
SILENT 700 COMPUTER (ACOUSTIC COUPLED)  
SCANNER (COMPUTER)  
SIGNAL GENERATOR MFG: STANDARD MODEL T60FM , (130-960  
MHZ)  
TRANSCEIVER (2M) REGENCY MODEL HR-212 CRYSTALS (12)  
TRANSCEIVER, (HF) SWAN 500/117XCPS/D-104 MIC.  
TRANSCEIVER, (HF) YAESU, FT301D /FP3010 PS/MIC  
TYPEWRITER, IBM  
VTVM HP MODEL 400C

\*\*\* It was moved and supported to suspend the club policy on equipment disposal and sell the **608E** to Roland KB8XI for \$10.

George told the club that a long time ago, the club had a committee who's responsibility it was to assisting families of members who die with ham related concerns – for example: disposing of radio equipment, and notifying FCC and ARRL. George agreed to serve on the committee if it were reorganized. It was moved and supported to do so as a special committee. Glenn (WA8QNF) and Chuck (WB8FCY) agreed to also serve.

Joe Lett, KC8BSP attended the meeting offering for sale a Motorola Transceiver and a Tower Rotor. Joe can be reached at 482-0366.

(Send "For Sale" notices to Howard, msgklann@pasty.net for inclusion in the E-mail Landline.)

The UP hamfest will be in Escanaba this August.

Seventeen people, including three officers, were in attendance. The next meeting will be on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Dollar Bay Fire Hall. Adjourned at 8:03.

**Editor's Comment:**

In this world wide web environment, please send any e-mail changes or corrections to Howard (KD8ABP), msgklann@pasty.net or KD8ABP@arrl.net.

We accept "WANTED" and "FORSALE", space available when permitted limited for Amateur Radio related equipment.

Also available is the CCRAA web site for ads POC George(W8FWG) 906-337-2542, W8FWG@arrl.net.

\*Note: please provide a update on the status of your ad so that we may remove it from our web site.....

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. Material received later may or may not make it into that issue. The LANDLINE Editor is Howard F. Klann, KD8ABP. If you have a question or a comment I can be reached at: (906) 337-2168 or E-mail to: msgklann@pasty.net. E-Mail copies are sent by Howard, KD8ABP. Complimentary copies to other radio clubs and the USPS copies are mailed by George, W8FWG. Please refer any delivery problems to the Editor (Howard, KD8ABP) at (906) 337-2168/ Fax (906) 337-0599. 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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**LATE BREAKING NEWS:**

**Commercial radio licensing examinations start March 11, 2006. (Second Saturday of March) at the CCRAA's Clubhouse, two miles south of Calumet, just off Hwy U.S. 41, (behind the new Michigan State Police Post 90). Admittance by appointment only. Call George Thurner, W8FWG at (906) 337-2542 or E-Mail: [w8fwg@arrl.net](mailto:w8fwg@arrl.net). PLEASE NOTE.....THIS IS COMMERCIAL EXAM TESTING ONLY (NOT AMATEUR RADIO.)**