

# The Landline

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

Hancock Repeater: 146.880 MHz (100.0 Hz)  
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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 September, 2008 meeting of the Copper Country Radio Amateur Association will be held on Tuesday, September 2, EDT at the Osceola Clubhouse in Osceola. It is located approximately 2 miles south of the Calumet High school, just off Hwy US 41 on Tower Rd. Tower Road is located between the Northwoods Christian Assembly Church and the Michigan State Police Post. **Fire Lane # 1702 Tower Rd**, or use the 911 address of **25103 E Tower Rd** at the clubhouse itself. Take Tower Road to the end (about one-half mile) and when you see the call sign on the clubhouse of W8CDZ you are there!

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AUGUST 5, 2008 MEETING

The August 5, 2008 meeting of the CCRAA opened at 7:02 pm EDT with 14 hams present. The reading of the minutes was dispensed with, as they were published in "THE LANDLINE."

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Was read, and it showed the club is solvent.

**PROPERTY REPORT:** This report was not read, due to the short meeting held in August, but was included in the August issue of the Landline. (which, for that meeting came after the August club meeting.) Unless there are any corrections, that report stands as read.

**OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:** There were no other committee reports.

### MICHIGAN'S OWN WEB PAGE:

Michigan now has its own Section Web pages at <http://www.arrl-mi.org/> Check these pages regularly for the latest happenings and news.

## **ADVANTAGES OF ARRL MEMBERSHIP:**

Delivery of QST, your monthly membership journal. You'll also continue receiving a host of other benefits and services for another year, such as:

1. Access to the members-only features of the ARRL Web site
2. Participation in the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service (@arrl.net)
3. Free technical help at your fingertips
4. Answers to your questions on FCC rules and regulations
5. Help with antenna, tower and zoning problems
6. Participation in DXCC and other ARRL contests and awards
7. Our outgoing QSL service
8. Low-cost equipment insurance
9. Preferred subscription rates for QEX, the ARRL Forum for Communications Experimenters

It's a snap to renew. Visit <http://www.arrl.org/join/WE1> to renew at our Web-Site with a credit card or download a membership application to mail. You can also call us toll-free to join at: 1-888-277-5289 (US Only). Please renew today.

## **NEW POSITION:**

Michigan welcomes our new Official Observer Coordinator, Keith N8KC. Keith is replacing Don N8NJE who has served as Michigan Section OOC for 10 years. Our most sincere thanks go to Don for his outstanding service and our warm welcome to Keith as he steps up to the challenges of the OOC position. Keith can be contacted at [n8kc@arrl.net](mailto:n8kc@arrl.net).

## **OBITUARY:**

Ruth Angove, 66, (Vice President of the CCRAA a few years ago), passed away Tuesday evening, August 12, 2008 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN where she had been a patient for the past two weeks. She was born on October 9, 1941 in Emmetsburg, IA, a daughter of the late Ralph Theodore and Amy Eleanor (Johnson) Peterson. As a child she attended local schools.

Ruth was active with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly in Hancock. She is survived by her husband Gary (AA8YL) of Ripley, daughters, Valerie (Thomas) Magurie of Berkley, MI, Kimberly (Jeffrey) Huhta of Clarkston, MI, Kristi Angove of Chicago, IL; seven grandchildren a sister Anita (Gordon) Bethune of Carroll, Neb a brother, Keith (Debbie) Peterson of Aryshire, IA and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held at 11am Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at the Memorial Chapel Funeral Home in Hancock, with William Fink of the Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship officiating. With burial in the Lake View Cemetery in Calumet.

**VANITY CALL SIGN INCREASE COMING:**  
ARLB009 FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 8 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$11.70 and is good for 10 years; **the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$12.30 for 10 years, an increase of \$.60.**

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site at, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html>.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50; the current fee of \$11.70 is the lowest the fee has been since the inception of the vanity call sign program. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$184,500 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal two years ago. Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC. The fee will increase 30 days after notice of the increase is published in the Federal Register.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS site at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>, and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

**WIRE ANTENNA HINT:**

Here's a helpful tip for those who hang wire dipoles from trees, which normally require a counter weight and pulley on one end. A quick and easy counter weight can be made from an empty 1 gal. milk jug. Filled with water (allow a little room at the top for freezing) gives about 7 lbs; with beach sand gives about 13 lbs; and with stamp sand about 15 lbs. The handles make it very easy to attach to any anchor line, and the jug is a good compact size.

*Submitted by: Roland, KB8XI*

**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. Material received later may or may not make it into that issue. 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)

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

**NEXT MEETING: Oct. 7, 2008**  
**LOCATION: DOLLAR BAY FIRE HALL**  
**TIME: 7:00 PM EDT**