

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 Calumet: 442.550 (+5 Mhz) No PL
(The 2 VHF repeaters(88 & 315) both 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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CCRAA FIRELANE: 1702 TOWER ROAD - OSCEOLA

CCRAA CLUBHOUSE ADDRESS: 25103 E TOWER ROAD – OSCEOLA

DOLLAR BAY FIRE HALL: 48649 MAIN ST. DOLLAR BAY

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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 October meeting of the Copper Country Radio Amateur Association will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, EDT at the Dollar Bay Fire Hall, 48649 Main St. Dollar Bay, MI**

THANKS TO BRYAN, WB8WKN:

He noticed that our new “440” (70 cm) repeater was not listed in the column at the top (or elsewhere) As of this October issue it will now be displayed. Thanks Bryan, for being so observant! It is 442.550 MHz, and does not require a PL tone for access.

MINUTES OF THE CCRAA MEETING OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 2009 CCRAA MEETING: Held September 1, 2009 at the Osceola Clubhouse

The meeting came to order at 7:00. There were twenty-four in attendance including the president, treasurer and secretary. The meeting followed a hot dog picnic.

The treasurer submitted a written report stating both the August beginning and ending balances were about \$4,300. There was a brief discussion on taxes but no action was taken.

The minutes of the August meeting were published in the Land Line. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as published.

In a written Property committee report, George, W8FWG pointed out that the IC-240 needs "a little work". It is expected that Gary, K8YSZ will fix it. The oil in the emergency generator needs changing. George requested help on that.

Everything else is operational.

Following the meeting, George gave a historical/introduction of the clubhouse site and contents.

George also reported on communications he had with Jack Dueweke regarding the 67 repeater. It seems that the DNR will remove its tower at Herman by the end of October.

The issue of holding a "swap and shop" this fall was tabled.

Stan, WB8QJZ will look into selling the club's accumulation of "CQ" magazines on E Bay.

Jack, N8WAV reported Mich. Tech's "Parade of Nations" will be September 18th and, as in the past, several Hams are needed for traffic control and organization. He also reported that a fellow ham, Joan KA3KSO, was injured in the Great Deer Chase -- an event hams were giving assistance. Joan was a racer.

Jack also reported that MTU's Public Safety Department may be requesting help from CCRAA and HARC at Winter Carnival. Also, there may be some new funds available for emergency ham operations through the EOC.

Doug, N8KSO asked for people interested in helping with this year's LSPR ("Lake Superior Performance Rally"), road rally to contact him. It will be run on October 16th.

A new member was voted into the club. He is: Jack Chamberlain, KD8RR, of Perry, MI (LP). Welcome Jack!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32.

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

HERMAN REPEATER HISTORY:

As most of you already know, the Herman “67” repeater is now out of service. Here are some further details.

The Herman repeater went into service approximately 30 years ago, at a site formerly called the Michigan Bell Microwave hut at Herman. When Michigan Bell abandoned their microwave system at this site, and went to fiber optic cable, it was taken over by the State of Michigan, and was then passed down to the Department of Natural Resources. (DNR). In the early days we paid one-month out of the year’s power bill to maintain our presence there. At some time the payment was stopped, but we remained at the site. Other agencies there included, Northern Michigan University, a microwave network, the Baraga Co. Road Commission, The Native American Indian Community, an ABC television network, and a few others.

Over the years it was rumored that eventually this site would be abandoned by the State of Michigan and torn down. That rumor circulated for many years and slowly, one by one, various agencies left this site and were moved to another site.

It wasn’t until recently that our Office Of Emergency Measures, (Jack Dueweke) in Houghton received notice that we should remove our equipment as this site was going to be torn down, tower and building within the next 60 days.

Jack then gave the directive to remove our equipment and on Monday September 21, 2009, the “67” repeater was turned off, and equipment removed.

A confirming letter from the DNR to Jack Duekweke showed (and we quote).....”THE DNR NO LONGER USES THIS TOWER, AND HAS NO BUSINESS REASON TO RETAIN IT. IT HAS ALSO BEEN DEAMED UNSAFE BY DIT PERSONNEL. FURTHER, THE FREQUENCY USED BY THE MICROWAVE LINK TO OUR BARAGA FIELD OFFICE THAT EXISTS ON THIS TOWER TO MONITOR THE LIGHT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO A PAGING COMPANY BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND IT MUST BE TAKEN OUT OF SERVICE SOON. THEREFORE, THE DIT PLANS TO DECOMMISSION AND REMOVE THIS TOWER.” (The full letter is published following this note.)

At this time, Jack, KC8NPI of the OEM in Houghton is asking that all members of the CCRAA be on the lookout for a new tower location, where we might place “67.” In the meantime, he is negotiating with Wisconsin Energy Systems for a site in the town of Covington, which is actually higher than the Herman site. To date, no information has been received from WE Systems.

LETTER TO THE OEM IN HOUGHON RE: HERMAN REPEATER:
(This letter was received by Jack Dueweke from the DNR of the State of Michigan)

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JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

September 18, 2009

Mr. Jack Dueweke
Emergency Management Coordinator
Houghton-Keweenaw Emergency Management
401 E. Houghton Avenue
Houghton, MI 49931

Dear Mr. Dueweke:

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you this morning about the radio equipment your organization has on the Herman Hill tower located in SENE Section 1, T49 N, R33W, L'Anse Township, Baraga County, Michigan. We appreciate your understanding of the situation the state is in with regard to this tower. The tower was originally owned and operated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but was transferred to the Michigan Department of Information Technology (DIT) several years ago.

The DNR no longer uses this tower, and has no business reason to retain it. It has also been deemed unsafe by DIT personnel. Further, the frequency used by the microwave link to our Baraga Field Office that exists on this tower to monitor the lights, has been given to a paging company by the Federal Communications Commission, and it must be taken out of service soon. Therefore, the DIT plans to decommission and remove this tower.

The DNR still owns the land the tower sits on, and for liability reasons, an unsafe tower cannot be allowed to remain on state land. Unfortunately, this land cannot be sold, because the current Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) tower is immediately adjacent to this tower and on the same parcel of land.

Since this tower has been deemed unsafe, and it cannot remain on state [and, your agency will be required to remove your equipment by October 31, 2109.]

The DIT will consider requests to move your equipment to the nearest MPSCS tower. If you decide to do so, the MPSCS Co-location Coordinator is Mr. Gerald (Buzz) Leach at 517-333-5004 (voice) or 517-490-4148 (cell). You will be required by them to obtain a structural analysis, at your own expense, of the tower being considered to ensure it is capable of handling the additional equipment. The current shelter at the MPSCS tower is full, so you would need to construct an additional shelter.

Keith J. Charters. Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman Jr. • John Madigan. • Timothy L. Nichols. • J.R. Richardson. • Frank Wheelake. • STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING P.O. BOX 30026 LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528
www.michigan.gov/dnr .. (517) 373-2329
Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors!

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Mr. Jack Dueweke
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September 18, 2009

I apologize for the inconvenience this may cause you. If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 517-335-3348. My return address is Department of Natural Resources, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management, PO Box 30452, Lansing. MI 48909.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

Donald J. Johnson
Fire Management Specialist
Forest, Mineral, & Fire Management
517-335-3348

cc: Mr. Joseph Krenke, DIT
Ms. Lynne Boyd, DNR
Ms. Stacy Welling, DNR
Mr. Michael Paluda, DNR
Ms. Debbie Begalle, DNR
Mr. Don Mankee, DNR

[In accordance with this letter, and by the order of Jack Dueweke, KC8NPI, Emergency Coordinator for Houghton & Keweenaw Counties, we were instructed to remove our radio equipment at Herman ASAP. Chuck Savlolainen, WB8FCY, our Chief of Radio Operations, did remove all of the equipment at Herman on Monday September 21, 2009. Remaining on the tower is 300 feet of 7/8" Heliax transmission line and the antenna at

the top of the tower. These are both newly installed just two years ago[. Value of this line and antenna, approximately: \$2,900.00.] We would like to recover the feedline and antenna but Houghton County has no funding for us to remove same. A crew from Marquette County is coming up to remove antennas and feedlines of other agencies, but nothing was said about removing ours. It may be up to the radio club to absorb any costs involved.....we just don't know at this point.)

A REQUEST FROM W8FWG:

At the August meeting it was mentioned that it would be good if someone could operate W8CDZ (our club station at Osceola), on the “88” repeater each Wednesday night to “exercise” the equipment we have, and to be sure it is working. W8FWG (George) followed up on this suggestion and did operate the very next day from the clubhouse. I am looking for volunteers to continue this operation in the future. I have a scheduling calendar on the table, and would like to have at least five people to help out with this project. You would have to serve only once per month, and this net runs only about 10 minutes. Please call George, W8FWG at 337-2542 or E-Mail at: w8fwg@arrl.net if you can help. *(Editor's note: We now have five people to operate from this site using the W8CDZ callsign, and it will be manned each Wednesday night at 9 pm per the request of Jack Dueweke, OEM, Houghton, MI)*

FOR SALE:

48' ROHN HDX (Heavy duty) self-Supporting steel tower \$600.00
86' Andrew Superflex cable \$75
Bracket (Commercial Grade) \$25
G7 Hustler Antenna (Commercial Band) but works on 147.315 MHz 14' high \$50
Contact Stan Strangle, K8NYT AT (906) 827-3526

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@arrrl.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@qsl.net

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

NEXT MEETING: November 3, 2009
Dollar Bay Firehall
48649 Main St.
(Next to Richie's Market)