

# KBARA Gazette

Quarterly Journal of the Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association

Winter 2021

## Goodbye to Coronavirus 2020 and hope for a better 2021.

It has been an interesting year dealing with the Coronavirus. As I was compiling this newsletter at this time last year we hadn't even heard about it yet. As the winter went on we heard more and more about the new virus which included the first cases confirmed in the US right here in Washington. Pandemic movies became very popular and what we were seeing as work of science fiction was becoming science fact. Probably the best movie of all of them was Contagion. This movie portrays a woman, Gwyneth Paltrow, on a business trip to China. She contracts a contagious virus and brings it back to the states on her flight home. The same way the Coronavirus was spread.

Our usual ham radio events started getting impacted. The first was the Puyallup Hamfest. I attended the hamfest last year to sell radio equipment from a dear ham friend of 30 plus years who had become a silent key. They had signs every where recommending not to shake hands and stay apart if possible. About half of sellers pulled out and the attendance was greatly reduced as well. Anyone who has attended Puyallup Hamfests knows that the isles are usually packed for most of the day on Saturday. The next event impacted was the Seaside Hamfest, SeaPac. We had plans to attend and had reservations at an AirBnB condo not far from the convention center. This was to be the first hamfest in the newly remodeled center. Puyallup gets packed but Seaside you have always been packed in like sardines due to everything being crammed together. This was of course cancelled and this was just the start of event cancelations that continued during the spring and summer not only here in the northwest but all across the country. Following suit were local events, our new tailgate hamfest in July and the Spokane Hamfest. I kept watching the N7CFO web page for up-to-date information as I published the newsletters for spring, summer and fall. That web site is the best list for ham events in the area and I publish part of that list in each newsletter.

As I am compiling this issue I am seeing cancelations already, Salem Hamfair, Puyallup, Seaside Hamfests and continue to see more being cancelled. Considering here in Washington we have never moved past Phase 2 of the reopening plan and continued lockdowns for bars and restaurants it would make it hard to have a hamfest. We will see how the vaccine effects up coming events but I think we will still see more cancelations for the upcoming spring and summer as our ham radio events don't want to be dubbed super spreader events.

We have all missed the socialization aspect of our yearly events and the bargains that can be had as well. Our weekly breakfasts unfortunately have been a thing of distant memories until we can, hopefully, get back to what we knew as normal.

We are amateur radio operators and this quarantine and pandemic has been an opportunity to do what we all got into the hobby to do, talk on the radio. I have seen postings on social media dubbing amateur radio as the first social media.

73, wear your mask, socially distance, wash your hands, get vaccinated, be safe and healthy,  
Scott, KA7FVV



# From the Ham Shack of our President

## Kbara Members,

Well, hello again everyone. I have typically, commenced writing here today (Oct. 23), just a day or two after the last newsletter came out. The last issue was, by the way, an exceptionally fine one. I will have more to say on it here later.

For the time being, I am going to try and forget the pandemic and just hope all will be well and better soon. I've devoted a not inconsiderable amount of space to it in the last two newsletters. For now, suffice it to say I hope all have, in some peculiar way maybe, actually benefitted from it all – maybe in just being forced to slow down a bit, re-evaluate things, and maybe even acquire a whole new objective (s) in life to aim for. That is what it has done for me and I hope you all can, possibly in a similar vein, say more or less the same thing.

"We hope 2021 is a much better year for amateur radio activities around the Northwest." This appears on the "Upcoming Hamfests and Events" page of the newsletter. First, I would change "around the Northwest" to **EVERYWHERE!** Yes, I couldn't agree more. However, speaking at least for myself, let's not look upon 2020 as a total loss. I have found it to be, in a sense, somewhat relaxing and restful. The over-all "slowdown" has given me time to pause, and detach myself a little from the frenzied hurrying that seems to prevail in normal times – doing this, doing that—without giving any real thought to the why and wherefore of it all. 2020 has given me an opportunity to re-evaluate the reason (s) for my very existence.

**PROPOSED FCC AMATEUR LICENSING FEES:** All I can find to say here is: well, what the heck! Everything else is rising or going up all the time – might just as well expect to see it happen here as well, sooner or later, eventually, whatever.

I noticed a piece in the newsletter – "The Mechanics of Nets on Linked Repeater Systems" written by none other than John W7OE. Yes, believe it or not, he was a net controller once. I missed his piece altogether on my first run through the newsletter, but finally spotted it on my second or third run. Also, it was not a recently-written piece, but a newsletter reprint from 2005 – nearly eight years before I had even gotten my license and become a KBARA net controller myself.

Anyway, this well-crafted piece outlines remarkably well the mechanics of conducting the hour-long morning (7:00 am) conducted by KBARA net controllers, i.e., calling for check-ins, what and what not to talk about, how to handle "doubling" and keep it to a minimum, things to avoid and stay clear of, etc., etc.. John covers it all so well that I feel no need to repeat any of it, except just to say I strongly recommend all of us KBARA controllers give it a careful read – not that any of us are doing anything terribly wrong – I'm not saying or implying that at all. But there are things we all (me included) sometimes lose sight of, forget, or maybe just need to be reminded of – John's article will do that for you splendidly.

One thing though – John made little or no mention of those "moments of silence," i.e., times when no check-ins are coming in and nothing reigns but utter silence over the airways. We all of us (controllers) do. I would suppose, develop our own way(s) of dealing with these silent interludes.



## From the Ham Shack of our President, continued

But, just for the fun of it, I'll tell you how I handle them. First, a silent time could be an excellent opportunity for you to initiate a little chit-chat on some topic that excited your interest when you listened to a check –in (and likely that of some other listeners as well), but, at the moment, there was just not sufficient time to explicate on it a little. When I say chit-chat, try to keep it limited to 1-2-3 minutes at the most before moving on to call for another round of check-ins. Also you can take advantage of "silent moments to just make an announcement, tell everyone about an experience you've had (keep it relevant to something that's already been talked about a little on the net), or even crack a short joke (no profanity or off—color, of course). Remember that one of mine about the frog out in the swamp who attended a frogs' convention? He got up front to make a speech, cleared his throat, and then said "excuse me folks, I must have a man in my throat." I have yet to hear any laughing yet, but it always seems to come out well.

Whatever you do, for heaven's sake do not ever steer things into politics, religion, race, or any such things. We generally try to stay clear of these things in amateur radio. They will more than likely cause you to lose more friends than they will ever make for you. Also never forget that, irrespective of all the humor, laughter, joking, and wisecracks you may hear on the net, we are all participating in a very serious activity – maintaining a viable net that will be ready to come into action one day when that catastrophe or emergency strikes us.

KBARA TECHNICAL UPDATE By Jim N7WRR. Boy-oh-boy-oh-boy – problems, problems, and more problems – parts ordered and the wrong ones come. Some parts no longer even being manufactured, trying to figure out which wires do what, shortages, and on and on. Well, do what you can Jim, and hope for the best. You've had successes, so keep at it. Enjoyed your article.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS and EVENTS. Well, things are picking up a little, but not yet nearly as many and varied as prior to the pandemic. How about another big Hamfest this year at University High School? Wait and see, I guess.





# KBARA Technical Update

by Jim, N7WRR

Quite a bit has happened over the last quarter and a number of projects are currently underway, as has been discussed on the Wednesday evening nets.

John W7OE owned all the KBARA repeaters at one time and has put a lot of time and money into the system. Over the last 25 years he has sold off interest in the various repeaters until he just held the Mica Peak 147.38 repeater. Mica was in need of a lot of work and required a significant expenditure. John no longer wanted the expense and responsibility of repeater ownership and put his interest in Mica up for sale. Betsy N7WRQ and I purchased it from him in order to keep the entire KBARA system together. A big thank you to John for all he has done for KBARA over the years. John will stay involved with KBARA helping with technical issues, but not have any ownership in the repeater system.

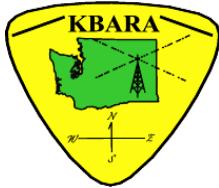
All of the radio equipment and the controller at Mica need replacing. Betsy and I have bought 2 new 70cm Bridgecom repeaters with duplexers for the east and west links and a new 4 port controller. Glen K1RR is loaning us fairly new radios for the 1.25cm link radio and the 2m repeater to get it up and going. These will be purchased or replaced over the next year or so. Glen is also spending a lot of time in putting it all together and getting it working here in Spokane before we take it up to site. There is a lot of work to do in building up a linked repeater system, lots of programing of radios and controllers, building up cables and getting it all working together; it's not an easy task. A big thank you to Glen for all he has done and is doing for KBARA, we really depend on him a lot. We hope to get the new equipment installed up on Mica over the next month or so if all goes well. The road is reported to be plowed to the site during the winter. Once the new equipment is installed, we should be able to connect into Naneum and Lookout again, have a better link to Stensgar and IRLP, and just be a better sounding system.



Scott KA7FVV is working on the Motorola MTR2000 70cm link repeater KBARA bought for the Lookout 147.02 repeater. There is a fair amount of work in converting a commercial repeater over for our use and Scott has agreed to the challenge and is working on getting programing software and cable for it and attempting to adapt a system to connect it to the controller via its 96 pin connector to the controller's 9 pin connector. There are a lot of technical challenges in programing and getting these things up and going. Glen is also working on repairing the Lookout 70cm antenna. We won't be able to get Lookout connected until after the rebuild of Mica, but we want to be ready to go.

Another project under way is to be able to have a system where we can have user codes to turn links on and off like in the old days of KBARA, and also to have a system of control codes that can be used by control operators over the linked system to any of the KBARA repeaters. Currently we can only access Pikes Peak 147.28 over the link, all the other repeaters require direct access of the control codes. This requires some very involved and complex programing and will be an ongoing project over the next summer since access to the sites is required.

Also of note, Karl AK20 and Rick KJ7LVD made a trip to Stensgar to do some work on the 1.25m hub repeater the end of October, they also did some tests on the 147.36 we requested. They had to



# KBARA Technical Update, continued

by Jim, N7WRR

chain up but were able to make it there and back safely. Karl's hub which links Stensgar 147.36 with Mica 147.38, Pikes Peak 147.28, and IRLP and EchoLink has been working well since. Betsy and I have been updating all the frequency coordination paperwork with IACC to protect and maintain all of the KBARA system frequencies. Many of them hadn't been updated in many years.

We really appreciate all the time people are putting into keeping the KBARA system going. I also want to invite more of you to join us on the Wednesday evening nets to keep up to date with what we are doing. In addition to keeping informed on KBARA activities, it is also a good place to ask questions about the system and for members to have a voice in KBARA. 73 Jim N7WRR

## Motorola MTR2000 Update

by Scott, KA7FVV

I have acquired the programming software, programming cable and power cord. The software has to run on an old operating system. Luck would have it, it runs on the old Dell laptop with Windows Vista that I used to program the Motorola repeater that used to be on West Twin. Of course Motorola has to be different. Since the MTR2000 has it's own internal power supply it is powered by 110 volts. Input looks like an ordinary computer cable will work. Stopped cold when I try to plug one in, Motorola has added a rib in the middle of it requiring a cable with a slot opposite the ground pin. Cheap enough on Amazon and here in two days but annoying just the same. Continue to work on programming for the link from Lookout to Mica Peak. Here is what the project looks like on my work-bench.



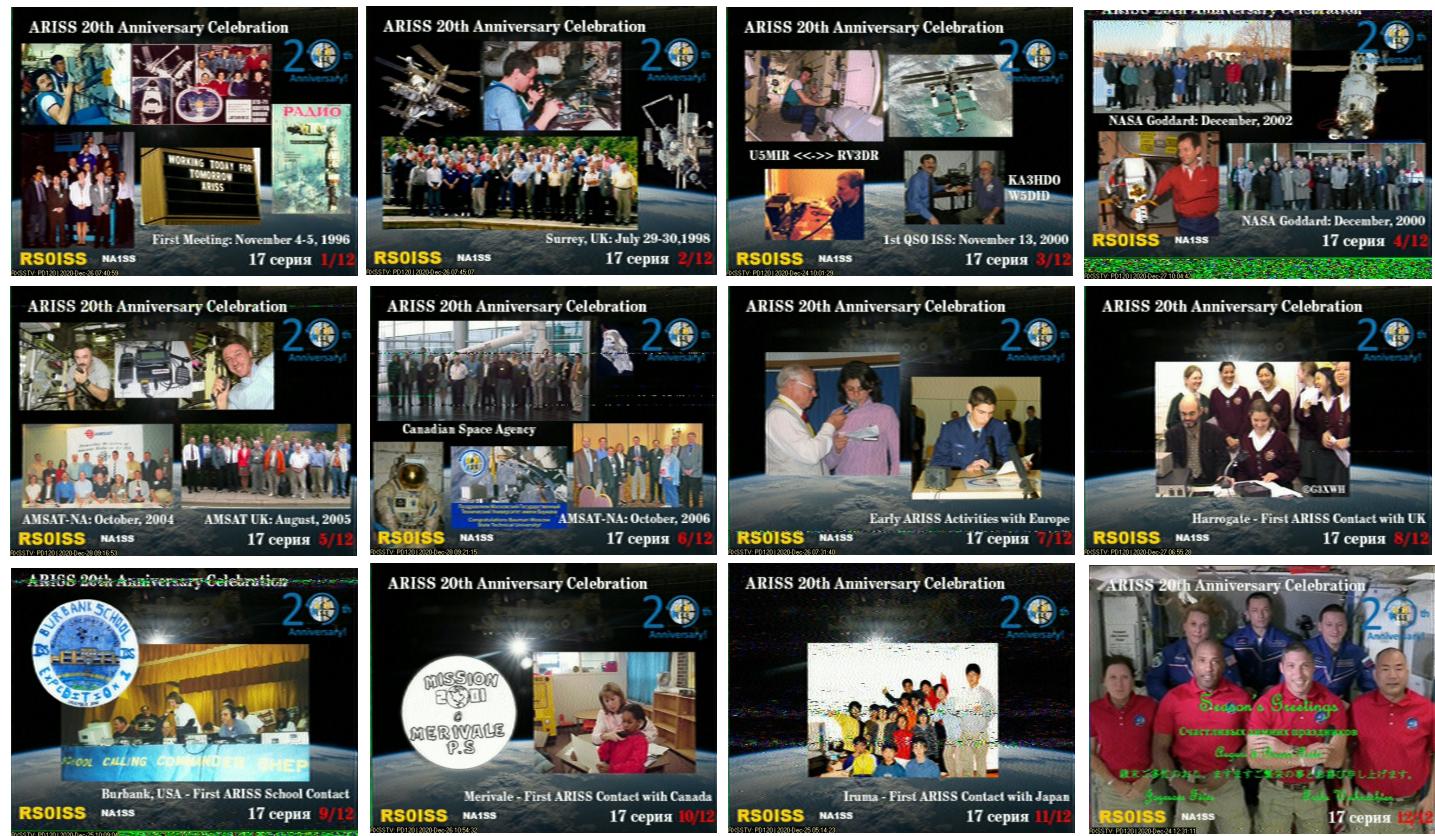


# ARISS 20th Anniversary Celebration

by Scott, KA7FVV

We have not only celebrated 20 years of continuous human habitation in space aboard the International Space Station in 2020, but amateur radio also has it's 20 year milestone aboard ISS as well. This was commemorated with a special SSTV event from December 24th to 31st. A set of 12 pictures highlighting events over the last 20 years.

ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) started out as SAREX (Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment) with Owen Garriott, W5LFL (SK), First Ham in Space aboard Space Shuttle Columbia and the STS-9 mission. His first contacts were on December 1, 1983. Using a Motorola handheld and a window mounted antenna. His first contact was with Lance Collister, WA1JXN in Frenchtown, Montana. Amateur radio on the shuttle continued past the STS-9 mission. I have QSL cards from STS-47 and 60. There was also amateur radio aboard the MIR Space Station and that continued to International Space Station. This received a big boost in 2020 with the new radio system.



These were all captured from my station with Icom IC-9700, RX-SSTV software and Hygain satellite antenna array.



**Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association  
KB7ARA  
PO Box 30801  
Spokane WA 99223-3013**



KBARA is a support group for several privately and club owned linked Amateur Radio repeaters. The system covers an area from NE Washington to NE Oregon, and from western Montana to central Washington. The KBARA system is also part of the Evergreen Intertie, an interconnected group of repeaters located in western Washington and Oregon. The primary purpose of the KBARA repeaters is to provide a means for emergency communications within the above areas, and secondarily for routine radio traffic. It makes possible a single system of mobile communications coverage, extending the limited range provided by any single repeater operation. The KBARA FM repeaters operate in the VHF bands and are linked by UHF radios and IRLP. The repeaters' frequencies, call signs and locations are as follows:

147.380 MHz N7WRQ on Mica Peak near Spokane, WA, owned by Betsy, N7WRQ & Jim, N7WRR  
147.360 MHz N7WRR on Stensgar (Stranger) Mt. near Chewelah, WA, owned by Jim, N7WRR & Betsy, N7WRQ  
147.320 MHz (103.5 Hz tone) KA7FVV on West Twin near Moscow ID, owned by Scott, KA7FVV, & KBARA  
147.280 MHz KB7ARA on Pikes Peak in the Blue Mountains near Walla Walla, WA, owned by KBARA  
147.020 MHz KB7ARA on Lookout Pass on the Idaho-Montana border, owned by KBARA  
223.900 MHz AK2O hub repeater on Stensgar (Stranger) Mt. near Chewelah, WA, owned by Karl, AK2O  
IRLP Node #3638 in Spokane WA owned by Glen, K1RR  
IRLP Node #3636 on East Tiger Mt, near Issaquah, WA owned by KBARA  
EchoLink KB7ARA-R (947272) in Reardan, WA owned KBARA

All licensed Amateur Radio operators are welcome to use this open repeater system.

To support KBARA, please send your contributions to: **KBARA, P.O. Box 30801, Spokane, WA 99223-3013**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$15.00 per year for individuals and \$20.00 for a family (all must be living at the same address), but any amount will be greatly appreciated. Dues are due January of each year. If they are paid between September 1 - December 31, they will be applied through the entire following year. Also, any contribution to the Repeater Fund will be gladly accepted. For more info, please visit our website at [www.kbara.org](http://www.kbara.org). See us on Facebook.



# Upcoming Hamfests and Events

Courtesy of N7CFO.com

Check the above page for cancelation as events get closer.

This is the entire list so far for 2021 We will see what happens as the year progresses.

**February 20. Salem Hamfair.** ~~CANCELED~~ Rickreall, Oregon. <http://www.w7sra.com/>

**March 6. Mike & Key 40th Electronics Show & Fleamarket.** ~~CANCELED~~ *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/index.php>

**April 10th & 11th. Comm Academy.** South Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA. <http://commacademy.org/>

**April 17th. Second Annual Winston Tail Gate swap Meet.** 591 NW Douglas Blvd, Winston Oregon (Highway 42 at the west edge of town). [Flyer in PDF \(58K\)](#) Contact: Dennis, KG7UY, at (541)733-9850. [kg7uy1@gmail.com](mailto:kg7uy1@gmail.com)

**May. Kennewick Tailgate Swap Meet.** Kennewick, WA. Contact Dan, KD7KJJ, [dancar68@aol.com](mailto:dancar68@aol.com)

**May. Spring DMR Gathering.** Valley Camp, North Bend WA. Contact Thom, [K7FZO@WA7VC.org](mailto:K7FZO@WA7VC.org)

**May. Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Flea Market and Hamfest.** ~~CANCELED~~ [http://www.scarewa.org/ham\\_fest.shtm](http://www.scarewa.org/ham_fest.shtm). Contact: Fred Laun, [w7pig@arrl.net](mailto:w7pig@arrl.net)

**May. MicroHams Digital Conference.** <https://www.microhams.com/mhdc>

**May May 20 & 21. River Radio Campout. Pateros WA.** Sponsored by the Okanogan County Amateur Radio Club. Free "dry" camping along the Methow River at Pateros. Always the weekend prior to Memorial Day Weekend. [w7orc1@gmail.com](mailto:w7orc1@gmail.com) <https://www.w7orc.com/> Contact Mike W7MCM, [skippermike53@gmail.com](mailto:skippermike53@gmail.com) (509)449-0605.

**June 4 5 6. SEA-PAC Hamfest and ARRL Northwestern Division Convention.** ~~CANCELED~~ Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. [info@seapac.org](mailto:info@seapac.org) [www.seapac.org/](http://www.seapac.org/)

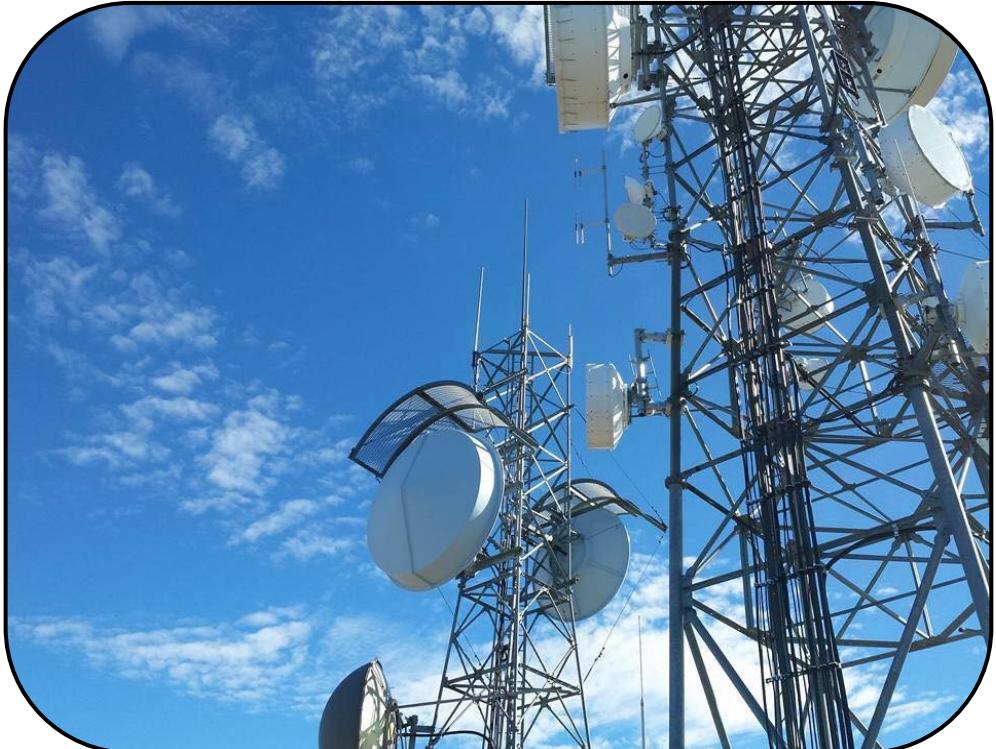
**June. Apple City ARC Hamfest.** Dryden, WA. ~~CANCELED~~ (Five miles east of Leavenworth on Hiway 2). [applecityarc@gmail.com](mailto:applecityarc@gmail.com)

**June. Tailgate/swap.** Spokane, Washington. Contact Duane, KE7NUB, (509)435-7718

## Area Repeaters

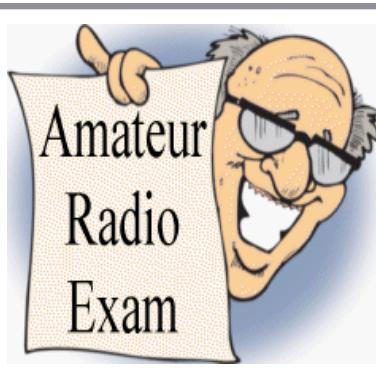
# KBARA Repeaters and Echolink/IRLP Nodes

Frequency	CTCSS Tone	Location	Call sign	RF Link
<b>Repeaters</b>				
223.90 MHz	None	Stensgar Mtn	AK2O	Hub
147.38 MHz	None	Mica Peak	N7WRQ	AK2O—223.90
147.36 MHz	None	Stensgar Mtn	N7WRR	Hard wired Hub
147.02 MHz	None	Lookout Pass	KB7ARA	W7OE—147.38
147.28 MHz	None	Pikes Peak	KB7ARA	AK2O—223.90
147.32 MHz	103.5	West Twin, Moscow	KA7FVV	IRLP
<b>Links</b>				
Echolink KB7ARA-R	N/A	Spokane, WA	KB7ARA-R	AK2O - 223.90
IRLP Node 3636	None	East Tiger Mt	KB7ARA	145.33 & Ref 9075
IRLP Node 3638	None	Spokane, WA	K1RR	AK2O—223.90 & Ref 9075



**KBARA Membership / Support Information:** The KBARA repeater system consists of several club & privately owned linked Amateur Radio repeaters. It covers an area from northeastern Washington to northeastern Oregon, and from western Montana to central Washington. The KBARA system is also part of the Evergreen Intertie, an interconnected group of repeaters located in western Washington and Oregon. The primary purpose of the KBARA repeaters is to provide a means for emergency communications within the above areas, and secondarily for routine radio traffic. It makes possible a single system of mobile communications coverage, extending the limited range provided by any single repeater operation. The KBARA FM repeaters operate in the VHF bands and are linked by UHF radios. All licensed Amateur Radio operators are welcome to use this open repeater system. Your support would also be greatly appreciated. Please visit this site for more information:

**<http://www.kbara.org> for more information about the club and repeaters.**



Testing is held the 3rd Wednesday of every month.  
Brought to you by Glen, K1RR. If you have any  
questions please contact Glen at [glen@k1rr.com](mailto:glen@k1rr.com)  
or 509.216.0666.

**Contact Glen for updates on testing during the pandemic**

To support KBARA, please send your contributions to:



**KBARA**  
PO Box 30801  
Spokane WA 99223-3013

Annual support is \$15 per calendar year for a single membership and \$20 for a family membership. Dues are due in January of each year and if paid between September 1 and December 31, they will be applied through the entire following year. Also, any contribution will be gladly accepted to the Repeater Fund. This can also be done via PayPal on our webpage at [www.kbara.org](http://www.kbara.org).

## **KAMIAK BUTTE AMATEUR REPEATER ASSOCIATION**

**PO Box 30801**

**Spokane WA 99223-3013**