

Spring 2023



Quarterly Journal of the Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association

KBARA Gazette

Puyallup Hamfest Mike and Key Electronics Show

This year was the first Puyallup Hamfest back in full swing after the pandemic. Most all seller tables were filled and attendance was up to the usual volume with the aisles packed up to about 1 pm. I was there again selling a silent key friends estate items for his widow. Being a seller you need to wait in long lines the day before to unload and setup your tables then pack up what is left and wait in a long line again to load up. The Mike and Key ham radio club did a great job keeping it organized as possible and keep things flowing. Our great northwest first hamfest of the spring is back in full swing. Scott, KA7FVV



ARRL Field Day—June 24-25, 2023



Field Day is coming up quick. This gives us the ability to do two activities, radio operations and camping together. It gives Spokane hams the ability to get out of Spokane during Hoopfest. All of the information can be found on the ARRL web page at <https://arrl.org/field-day>.



KBARA Technical Update

by Jim, N7WRR

Please refer to my Technical update in the last newsletter for the specifics on the general status of the repeater system. The issues with Stensgar 147.36 and the Lookout Link are the same. A trip to Lookout will be planned for this summer to try and solve the linking problem. Mica 147.38 continues to be operating well. Glen K1RR was able to lower the audio output of West Twin 147.32 and now is much better with the distortion and clipping gone. We have been getting quite a few using EchoLink now that it is working again.

The bad news is that Pikes Peak 147.28 link went down late last December leaving it stand alone. On January 3 we had a break in the weather and Albin KK9HAM accompanied me to site with a replacement link radio. I was able to break through the snow drifts and make it to site, however the problem was not the radio but the link antenna had fallen off the tower. It is an phased array of four stacked 4 element yagi antennas. The hard line and all the phase linking had been ripped up in the fall, but little damage to the yagi antennas. This was a surprise to me as I had always been told the link antenna was the 4 folded dipoles near the top of the tower. The antenna system is repairable but will take major work.

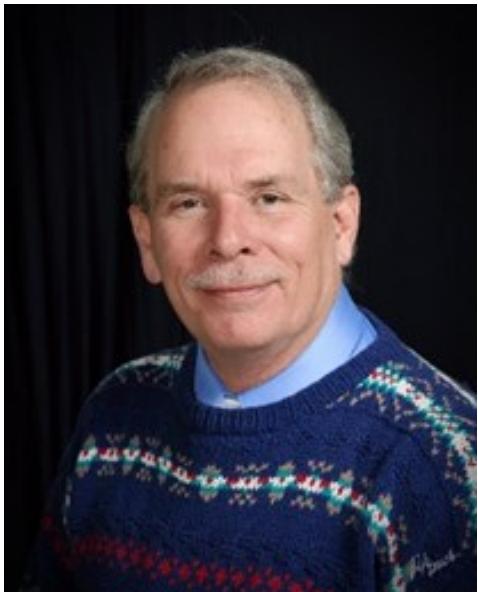
Glen K1RR and I got equipment together to do a temporary IRLP link via a 2m simplex link on 147.28 to the IRLP reflector until we can re-establish the 1.25m RF link to the hub. Glen got a Pi based IRLP node made up and tested in Spokane and we sent it along with 2m radio, antenna and power supply to Logan KK7HUI in College Place. Logan had volunteered to host the site over the ISP at his house. Logan with some help from Glen did a great job of working out all the port forwarding and other challenges of getting it up and running through his ISP. A big thanks to Glen and Logan in getting the 147.28 linked back in via IRLP on the 18th of March.

One problem with the IRLP link running via simplex and not through the controller is that we hear all the repeater tones and ID's going out over the IRLP to the reflector which is heard on the rest of the system; this is very frowned upon and quite annoying. I gave Logan codes to change ID's from voice to CW which is not as bad. I will try to get to the Pikes Peak site over the next month to get the broken antenna system back for repair. At that time I will put a low gain temporary link antenna on the tower, then turn the link radio back on. Then will met up with Logan and swap out a 1.25mhz radio and antenna with the 2m he has. This will run the IRLP through the controller and will give us a good solid noise free IRLP connection until we can reestablish the RF link to the hub.





Farewell to a KBARA Friend



With sadness, we learned of our friend and fellow Ham, Harry W7HEE suddenly becoming a silent key earlier this year. We remember Harry for his great enthusiasm as a KBARA net control, as net manager, as secretary of KBARA, and his willingness to volunteer. Harry was a popular net control and net manager for a number of years until a new job took him out of town for most of the time. He had quit his out of town work and was in final training for a position as an STA bus driver and was very enthusiastic about his new job. This allowed him to have time to again be a KBARA net control when he became a silent key. It was a shock to many of us in that he was always so excited about things and full of life on the air. Harry had done a lot for ARES and the Washington state emergency communications, and was responsible for starting the Eastern Washington Emergency Net that is aired on the KBARA system Monday evenings. Certainly, Harry will be missed by many.



This event commemorates the historic Lewis and Clark Trail that covers 4900 miles through 16 states.

Multiple radio clubs across the country take part in the event including our neighboring club in North Idaho the Kooteani Amateur Radio Society, K7ID.

Event runs from June 3rd to June 18th, 2023. Starts at 0000 UTC.

See more information about the event at <https://lctota.org>.





KBARA Members for 2023

Call	Name	Call	Name	Call	Name
KD7AAT	John P. Myers Jr.	WQ7O	Dennis Todaro		
KD2AN	Dan Latuscek	W7OE	John P. Dempster		
WB7AUK	Art Gemmrig	N9OHG	Donald Wright		
N7AWD	Ronald K Hess	KG7OWX	Valarie Poler		
KK7BBQ	Matt Harmon	KG7OWY	Murray Poler		
K9BMC	Tony J Rulz	AA7P	Richard J. Hebel		
KA7BMX	Charles George	K7PBA	Ralph Wifong		
KI7BXW	Kellee Gibbs	K7PDZ	James Long		
WA7CBX	Bernie Frazier	K7PHM	Richard M Flynn		
N7CKJ	Randy Jones	W3PPL	Bryant R Zollinger		
KK7DBD	Saundra Curteman	KD7QLT	Wilber H. Earl		
KA7DKV	Russell Doyl	AG7QP	Frank E Hutchison		
KK7DRI	Lorelei Hartley	KJ7RHU	Bruce Hogan		
K7DSR	David E Carleton	WA7ROS	Anna M. Reeves		
WX7DX	Karl M. Miller	K1RR	Glen Ahlbom		
KK7EGL	David Jewett	NZ2S	Jeffrey Banke		
KK7FIH	Randy Sorensen	KG7SD	Richard Thornton		
N7FIX	Myron Judkins	KE7SH	Allan A Bonney		
KG7FOF	Jeff Person	KJ7SJY	Gary Collins		
N9FOX	Barbara J. Moore	KA7SMU	Donald Kolb		
KA7FVV	Scott P. Harvey	KK7SOB	John Wilkes		
WH6FZY	Joseph Halasey	KC7TTM	Cleo C. Miller		
K2GEP	Gregory Preuss	KF7UTH	Dennis P Roberts		
KB7GJY	Allen Gemmrig	KB7WB	Claude Shook		
N7GTB	Vernon VanZandt	N7WRQ	Elizabeth Ashleman		
KJ7GYB	Stephen Morgan	N7WRR	James Ashleman		
KE7H	Gary Anderson	W7WTO	Royal Moore		
KM7H	Jim Johnson	AD7XH	Richard L Schultz		
KK9HAM	Albin Ennsthaler	KB7YGR	Teresa (Terry) George		
W7HTA	Anderson Jr Henry	KI7ZRI	Don Hlatt		
KK7HUI	Logan Mann	KJ7ZXF	Mike Klungland		
KK7IEV	Lloyd Norman				
KK7IOP	Tory Carl				
K7JPM	Jeffrey P Meyer				
N6JXN	George H. Timm				
KI7KEU	Brian Schaeffer				
KJ7KXL	John Beaudreault				
KI7LEZ	David M Henderson				
W7LKR	Patrick Brandt				
N7LL	David Oglesby				
WA7LOV	Cyril T Wolff				
K7LRG	Leonard Gross				
KK7LYB	Craig Lybert				
KL7M	David Cloyd				
W7MDN	Matt Dean				
K7MM	Dan Ransom				
W7MN	William Jeremie Dunlap				
N1NG	Michael Maxson				
AK2O	Karl Shoemaker				



KBARA REPEATER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS 2023

We wish to thank the following contributors for their very generous donations to this year's Repeater Fund. For the year 2023 to date, \$1506 has been donated.

Platinum Contribution Contributions \$100 and over

Wilber KD7QLT
Greg K2GEP
Jim KM7H

Jim K7PDZ
Dennis KF7UTH
Richard K7PHM

Randy KK7FIH

Brian KI7KEU

Albin KK9HAM

Gary KJ7SJY

Gold Contribution Contributions from \$50-\$99

Craig KK7LYB
Dennis WQ7O

Murray KG7OWY
Valaire KG7OWX

Joe WH6FZY

Silver Contribution Contributions from \$21-\$49

Vern N7GTB
Cyril WA7LOV
Don N9OHG
Bryant W3PPL
Jeff K7JPM

Tim N6JXN
Ron N7AWD
Charles KA7BMX
Allan KE7SH
Don KA7SMU

Tony K9BMC
John KK7SOB
Claude KB7WB
Matt KK7BBQ
Bruce KJ7RHU



Anderson Powerpole Connectors

If you're ever in a hurry, and grab a radio plus the necessary gear, then start setting up, only to discover that your DC power cables have different connector types from each other, or do not mate because of gender mis-match, you're not alone. One way to make your DC power connections just a little simpler is to agree on a single, reliable standard that connects and releases quickly, and installs easily. One standard recommended by both local **ARES** groups and **the ARRL** is the **Anderson Powerpole** (or *Powerpole* for short), which is very convenient.

What it is

A Powerpole connector is a two-conductor, snap-together pair of shaped metal tabs located in a plastic housing, often color-coded to indicate electrical polarity. They're gender-neutral, meaning that there is no separate plug and socket; each connector is both a plug and a socket that can mate with any other connector. Also, Powerpole connectors are inherently safe because they present no exposed electrical parts that can be contacted by a person or anything near the connector.

For those of use who are hobbyists or experimenters, the Powerpole connector is convenient if you need to repeatedly connect and disconnect your DC power, such as your battery or other power supply, to your radio, or other devices. For the many who are involved with portable radio work, such as emergency communication, field work, or even instructional demonstrations, this convenience can be a real time-saver, knowing that you can count on any of your equipment being able to connect its power requirement to any source, without worrying about connector types.



Installation

You can purchase Powerpole connectors for generally three wire gauges, named for the current-carrying capabilities of the intended wires, the 15-amp, 30-amp, and 45-amp sizes. In spite of their different wire and tab sizes, their housing exteriors are all the same size, and connect with each other. You can also purchase a 75-amp size, but their large housing cannot be connected to the housings of the other three. While you can connect any appropriate wire to a Powerpole connector, it's convenient to use *zip cord*, which is a two-conductor pair of stranded wires for your needed gauge, easily identifiable by their characteristic red-and-black insulation.

When you install an Anderson Powerpole connector pair onto a pair of wires, it's recommended that you *crimp the tab onto the wire, and not solder it*. Once you crimp the tab onto the wire, you can install the housing vertically, with the positive over the negative, or horizontally, with the positive on one side or the other. The current convention is to install them horizontally, with the positive on the left if you look into the connector end, and with the tab cups facing downward. The housings typically come in different colors, and it's recommended that you use red for positive and black for negative.

Where you can get them

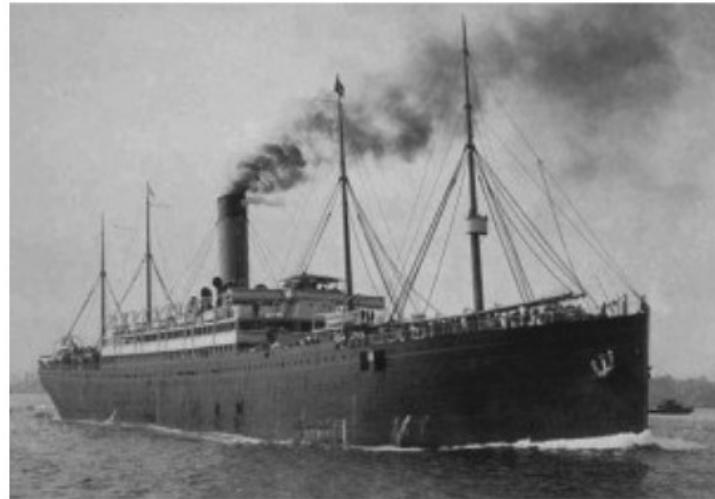
You can purchase Anderson Powerpole connectors from Amazon, eBay, or at the source, from Powerwerx.com. Just make sure the conductor size matches the gauge of wire you intend to install them on. And if you don't already have a pair, be sure to purchase the Powerpole connector crimp tool, but beware of ill-fitting imitations by also purchasing them from Powerwerx.



A Trip Back in Radio History

The first radio rescue at sea

On 23 January 1909, two ships, Republic of the White Star Line (owner of Titanic), carrying American tourists to Europe, and Lloyd Italiano liner Florida, carrying Italian earthquake refugees to New York, were enroute for a course to destiny. The two had encountered dense fog off the island of Nantucket, Massachusetts, and had taken the normal maritime precautions of signaling approaching vessels by loud whistle. At 5:47 am, another whistle was heard, and Republic's engines were ordered to full reverse. Out of nowhere, Florida appeared, and T-boned Republic in her port side.



The engine and boiler rooms of Republic began to flood, and the ship listed. It was outfitted with the new Marconi wireless telegraph system, and became the first ship in history to issue a CQD distress call (which preceded the later SOS). The 26-year-old telegraph operator Jack Binns bravely tapped out the distress call from his sinking ship, to all who could hear it.

Republic's signal was detected and relayed by Nantucket Island station. Another White Star Liner Baltic responded to the CQD, and answered the call, but could not locate the damaged vessels until nearly nightfall, due to the persistent fog. The USRC Gresham also responded. By the following day, Republic sank in 270 feet of water about 50 miles to the south of Nantucket Island, in spite of all attempts to reinforce it and take it under tow.

In the end, only six people lost their lives, out of 742 on Republic and over 900 on Florida, proving the success of the new wireless telegraph technology. The wireless room was damaged in the collision, and had Jack been in the room at the time, he might also have lost his life. Jack had to retrieve working batteries from three decks below, to power the now disabled radios, and re-assemble the wiring sufficiently to make the calls for help. BTW, Jack was later asked to serve on Titanic, but turned down the offer.





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



KBARA is a support group for several club and privately 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, IRLP, EchoLink, and AllStar. 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

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. See us on Facebook.



Upcoming Hamfests and Events

Courtesy of N7CFO.com

May 13. Stanwood Camano Hamfest, Stanwood, WA. ***This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.*** https://scarcwa.org/ham_fest.shtm . [Flyer in PDF](#) (284K).

May 20. N7YRC Tailgate Party, Dept of Emergency Management, 2403 S. 18th Street, Union Gap, WA. ***This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.*** Contact: Rod Rath , KC7VQR, P.O. Box 4058 Yakima, WA 98904. Phone: 509-952-6077. kc7vqr@arrl.net

June 2-3-4. SEA-PAC Hamfest and ARRL Northwestern Division Convention. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. info@seapac.org . www.seapac.org/ . [Flyer in PDF](#). (600K).

June 3. Grays Harbor Electronics and Hamfest Fleemarket. [Flyer in PDF](#). (120K)

June 3 & 4. Museum Ships Weekend. The Kootenai Amateur Radio Society will participate in the Museum Ships Weekend Event (MSWE) from Farragut State Park near Athol, Idaho. Farragut State Park was Naval Training Station Farragut from 1942 to 1946. KARS will be operating under Special Event Call N7F ("Navy 7 Farragut") from the park museum. They plan to put three stations on the air, 80-10 Meters, CW, SSB, FT8. from 8AM Saturday to Noon Sunday (PDT), June 3 and 4. www.qrz.com/db/N7F www.qrz.com/db/K7ID www.k7id.org <https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/parks/farragut/Farragut-brochure.pdf> <https://nj2bb.org/museum/>

June 9-10-11. Wenatchee ACARC Hamfest, Dryden, WA. <https://www.applecityarc.com/> [Flyer in PDF](#). (640K)

June 10th. Port Ludlow ARC Tail Gate Swapmeet. <https://www.n7pl.org/>

July 8-9. SALMONCON QRP Conference. Valley Camp (Near North Bend, WA) . www.valleycamp.org. www.pnwqrp.org. For info contact NB6M@att.net .

July. Chehalis Valley ARC Ham Radio Tailgate Swapmeet. Southwest Washington Fairgrounds, Chehalis, WA. <http://www.cvars.org/>

July 14-16. Glacier Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest. Glacier Meadows Campground, 13 miles west of East Glacier on MT Hwy 2. <http://www.gwhamfest.org/>



KBARA Repeaters and Echolink/IRLP Nodes

Frequency	CTCSS Tone	Location	Call sign	RF Link
Repeaters				
223.90 MHz	None	Stensgar Mtn	AK2O	Hub
147.38 MHz	100.00	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
444.350 MHz	192.8	Mica Peak	N1NG	Stand Alone
Links				
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.

KBARA Officials

Directors

Jim Ashleman, N7WRR
Scott Harvey, KA7FVV
Glen Ahlborn K1RR

Officers

President: Dave Carleton, K7DSR
Vice President: Jim Johnson, KM7H
Secretary:
Treasurer: Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ

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 or 509.216.0666.

Contact Glen for updates on testing.



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.

KAMIAK BUTTE AMATEUR REPEATER ASSOCIATION

PO Box 30801

Spokane WA 99223-3013