

KBARA Gazette

Quarterly Journal of the Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association

Spring 2021

Spring has spring and it's time for outdoor activities

Now that the weather is warming up some of us are talking about going out to some local parks and setting up our portable antennas to make Parks on the Air (POTA) activation or just get more familiar with our equipment and setting it up. For POTA activating or hunting take a look at the website <https://parksontheair.com/>. Our closest parks here in Spokane are Riverside, Centennial Trail and Mt. Spokane State Parks. As you go further out of town you have more options including many in Northern Idaho. I talked with two POTA stations one weekend from my backyard. One in Southern California and another in Arizona and I wasn't even really hunting. Just playing on 20 meters with my Icom IC-705 running 10 watts and a Wolf River Coil—Take it Along (TIA) antenna. This antenna is quick to setup and has it's own tripod, coil with sliding tap for tuning, telescoping whip and three 33' ground radials. On the same day there was a Wisconsin QSO party going on and I talked with two different counties. I also have a 75' end fed dipole for portable use. This

takes a little more setup and for POTA activations most parks frown on putting anything in the trees.

There are several of us that have portable Icom IC-705 stations, myself, Jim, WA7VFQ and Chris, W0CLF. We want to get out and setup and test our equipment. Especially after being cooped up in the house all winter. My radio setup pictured here on our patio table using a Rock-pals 300 watt portable battery. Also have a Tracer LiPo 8 Ah for a little more portability. Antenna

picture is an example from the WRC website. For transportation my radio equipment is stored in a Harbor Freight Apache hard case. Antennas and battery are separate. Chris has his in the optional Icom backpack that is made for the 705 powered by a 8 ah battery. The radio is powered by the same batteries that the ID-31 and 51 use which will put out 5 watts with those. For a full 10 watts an external power source is required. No mater what setup you may have it is great to get out and experiment. Covid has kept us cooped up too long and you can be socially distant very easily in the outdoors. Maybe take a break from radio and do some Geocaching as well. Another great outdoor activity. Scott, KA7FVV





From the Ham Shack of our President

Kbara Members,

Well, again greetings to all. As I begin writing here today (Jan 23), I have just finished reading the latest KBARA newsletter (Gazette) – Winter, 2021. As things have evolved over the last 1-2-3 years, the bulk of writing in the Gazette seems to be coming from largely three of us, namely myself, Dennis KF7UTH, Scott KA7FVV, and Jim N7WRR.

Allow me if I may, and just as a matter of passing interest, to make a short evaluation of these three writers , regarding their skill, aptitude, and interest In technical vs non-technical topics. First, Scott KA7FVV – Scott is hard to beat in writing on technical topics, i.e., repeaters, satellites, software, parts, installation, repair, etc. He is always “most at home,” so to speak, in both writing and speech, when dealing with highly technical topics. If ever need be, however, he can always make a smooth transition from highly technical things to less technical matters like over-all management, direction, administration, and render a satisfactory (maybe even a satisfactory-plus) performance. Jim N7WRR, on the other hand, so it seems to me anyway, is largely technically oriented. If Scott is hard to beat here, then Jim is, in my view, absolutely unbeatable.

As for me, Dennis KF7UTH, I am definitely NOT technically oriented. My technical proficiency is minimal, as I’m sure many of you have no doubt noticed. Oh, I can function there in a sort of superficial way if ever need be. Remember the “Elmer” technical nets just a year or two back? I took over and did a few of those during Glenn’s K1RR absence, and, surprisingly, they went fairly well. But my principal talent lies in over-all guidance, management, and direction. I compliment, praise, and encourage subordinates, and actually may be better at this than many others are. I never entered Ham radio to acquire technical knowledge, but simply to satisfy a requirement in a church calling that I be Ham radio qualified.

Well, so much for opening paragraphs. My real reason for writing all you just read was to call your attention to the fact that we are always ready and willing to welcome NEW writers to be published in the Gazette. Anything you would like to write about (try to keep it at least obliquely oriented toward Ham radio) we would love to see it. As always, I can never guarantee its acceptance for publication, but I can, do, and will guarantee its serious consideration for such. It need not be something entirely new and/or original. It can be on a topic already written on many times. Perhaps YOU could write something on it that flushes out a whole new insight, perspective, or aspect. Yes – just you, writing under the guidance of your own unique intelligence, insight, maybe even imagination – maybe you can come up with a thought nobody else has ever seen or heard. Don’t worry about originality or uniqueness – maybe all you need do is write (say) it in in a refreshing, imaginative way.

You know what is sometimes said – a man or woman’s ability to reason or think is what separates us from the beasts in the field. I have to take issue with this. I have known a few animals in my time that I felt were actually smarter than I was. But when it comes to imagination, there is where no animal can hold a candle to us. Imagination is where mankind truly reigns supreme – in speech, in writing, and in most everything else. When writing, never hesitate to let your imagination “kick in” so to speak, whenever you feel your capacity to think and analyze has about reached its limit.



From the Ham Shack of our President, continued

Yes, it is indeed a tragedy that, due to pandemic (see upcoming Hamfests & events), so many traditional events, parades, etc. had to be cancelled in 2020, and certainly, at this point anyway, seem unlikely to be resumed in 2021 (Lilac Day Parade, usually in late May, and Bloomsday, usually a month or two earlier). A substantial portion of my early Ham experience is centered on being a Ham radio team participant in both these yearly events. I was on the Bloomsday team three times and the Lilac Day team five times. See Winter 2019 and Spring 2019 issues of the Gazette for a detailed account of my experiences on both of these events. I see the Tailgate/swap in Spokane is still on for June of this year. But, as Scott reminds us, we'd best wait/see just what happens as the year unfolds.

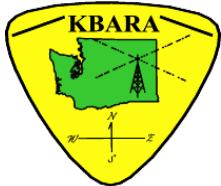
Recall also something else I wrote about several issues back: the actual Ham events/projects/activities and, come to think of it, things you have authored/written – the more of these you have to show and talk about – will make a much greater impact on everyone than just telling them the level & grade of your license ever has or ever will, I kid you not (or is it kid I you not).

Well, everyone, KBARA is still alive and functioning, thanks to the barest handful of able & dedicated people – Scott, Jim & Betsy, Glenn, and, possibly myself. The morning 7 am net, which I have thought at times to be near perishing, has survived also due to the perseverance, hard work, and imagination of a very able net manager, Harry W7HEE. Thanks again to all.

Ken Crosswhite, KD7DDQ, Silent Key

With great sadness, we learned that our friend and fellow Ham, Ken KD7DDQ, became a silent key earlier this year. We remember Ken at the many campouts, field days, Ham breakfasts and Hamfests, along with his strong support of KBARA and of being an owner of the Pikes Peak repeater near Walla Walla. Here he is pictured at an annual KBARA campout/hamburger contest with Charlene, KC7RQF, former co-owner of that repeater. Charlene became a silent key in 2016. See the Spring 2016 Gazette for an article about Charlene. We will certainly miss Ken.





KBARA Technical Update

by Jim, N7WRR

The repeaters at Mica Peak 147.38, Stensgar 147.36 and Pikes Peak 147.28 have all been reprogrammed with direct access so they can be controlled over the system from any point. They all now have new courtesy beep tones. If you hear a single beep at the end of a transmission, the signal is coming in as a local station through that repeater. If you hear a Morse code letter K (dah dit dah), the signal is coming in over the 220 MHz link from other parts of the system. Remember to always wait until after you hear the courtesy beep or K before you transmit. This is to give emergency or priority traffic a chance to break in. Also, a reminder to key up 1 second before talking since it is a linked system and needs time to link up.

We experienced a recent problem with our **IRLP** link when it became “one way” where we could hear stations coming in over IRLP but with no audio going out. This lasted for just one day before Glen K1RR with assistance from Dave KL7M, the IRLP reflector owner, was able to get it working correctly again. It turned out to be a rare problem unique to Linex software. Glen did a lot of work tracking down the issue, but in the end it was a simple fix – thanks Glen.

Mica Peak 147.38: Glen K1RR and I went up to Mica Peak on the 28th of February and removed the old equipment, installed the new equipment for the 147.38 repeater, and were able to have the new repeater up and going that same day. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in getting the Naneum Ridge link working which may be due to issues at that site which is still inaccessible due to snow. To activate the Lookout Pass link, we need to get to Lookout and complete work there. The Yaesu 2m repeater sounds good and has good coverage, but we are experiencing occasional interference on it to the point that we have had to shut it down several times. It also does not receive weak signals as well as the old repeater. Through some research I have found that this is a problem with Yaesu repeaters of this vintage. There are two mobile radios inside the repeater case connected with RG8. Installing new cable such as IMR240 will improve them, but we would probably have the repeater down a few days to do this. We have ordered a Kenwood TKR-750 repeater and will then swap it with the Yaesu. We will also order a AR2 preamp for the site. We have done what we can from here, so I will go to site within the next week and try some filtering and squelch adjustments to tie us over until the Kenwood repeater arrives.

Pikes Peak, OR 147.28: Betsy N7WRQ and I went to the Pikes Peak site out of Walla Walla on April 14th and replaced some of the coax, added a shelf, did some adjustments of the repeater and link radios, and reprogrammed the controller. The long tail is gone and the repeater is sounding good.

Lookout Pass, MT 147.02: Scott KA7FVV has made great progress with the Motorola link radio. We will need to make a trip to that site in late spring to early summer when enough snow has melted and install the link radio, hard line and antenna. We will need to line up some help from others with the tower work.



KBARA Technical Update, continued

by Jim, N7WRR

Stensgar 147.36: Betsy and I will purchase a preamp for the Stensgar repeater to try to increase the weaker signals allowing us to increase the squelch and eliminate some of the noise we occasionally hear on it. Access to Stensgar should open up in another month or so.

73 N7WRR



Pikes Peak Repeater



New Mica Peak Equipment



Glen at Mica Peak Site

West Twin 147.32: West Twin continues to operate well. We have had some glitches with the IRLP connectivity occasionally. I greatly appreciate Jim, WA7VFQ my local control operator, for assistance with these issues. Jim is just 10 miles from the repeater and most of the time it seems that disconnecting and reconnecting the repeater to IRLP works better with touch tones through the controller locally than using the IRLP dashboard via the internet and the computer at the site. We don't have any current plans to make a site visit to West Twin since it has been operating well since the installation of the Icom repeater.

Scott, KA7FVV





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 (100.0 Hz tone) 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. See us on Facebook.

KBARA REPEATER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS 2021

We wish to thank the following contributors for their very generous donations to this year's Repeater Fund. For the year 2021 to date, \$1,846 has been donated.

Platinum Contribution

Contributions \$100 and over

Bruce KE7EQP
Jim KM7H

Jim K7PDZ
Richard K7PHM

Wilber KD7QLT
Dennis KF7UTH

Gold Contribution

Contributions from \$50-\$99

Allan KE7SH Dick AD7XH

Silver Contribution

Contributions from \$21-\$49

David N7LL
Carl AF7YF

Valaire KG7OWX
Murray KG7OWY

Bronze Contribution

Contributions from \$1-\$20

Stephen WB7DTO
Bob KG7RQN
Albin KK9HAM
Dale K7DFL
Fred KK7NXS

John KJ7KXL
Ron N7AWD
Dave K7MTD
Ralph K7PBA
Gerry AG7NA

Shane KK7SJM
Brandon KI7FSG
Gary KJ7SJY
Douglas KJ7NBZ
Claude KB7WB

KBARA Members for 2021

Call	Name	Call	Name	Call	Name
KD7AAT	John P. Myers Jr.	W7OE	John P. Dempster		
K7AKE	Gary A Peterson	KG7OWU	Thomas W. Rogers		
KD2AN	Dan Latuseck	KG7OWV	Laurie H. Rogers		
WB7AUK	Art Gemmrig	KG7OWX	Valaire Poler		
N7AWD	Ronald K Hess	KG7OWY	Murray Poler		
KG7BIO	Russell Joe Atchison	AA7P	Richard J. Hebel		
K9BMC	Tony J Ruiz	K7PBA	Ralph E Wilfong		
KA7BMX	Charles George	K7PDZ	James Long		
KI7BXW	Kellee Gibbs	K7PHM	Richard M Flynn		
WA7CBX	Bernie Frazier	K17PON	Michelle Bloker		
K7DFL	K Dale Landreth	KD7QLT	Wilber H. Earl		
KA7DKV	Russell Doyl	AG7QP	Frank E Hutchison		
WB7DTO	Stephen C. Langford	K7RDN	Robert (Big Bob) Novak		
KE7EQP	Bruce McNett	WA7ROS	Anna M. Reeves		
N7FIX	Myron Judkins	KG7RQN	Robert Walker		
KG7FOF	Jeff Person	K1RR	Glen Ahlborn		
N9FOX	Barbara J. Moore	KG7SD	Richard Thornton		
KI7FSG	Brandon Wagner	KE7SH	Allan A Bonney		
KA7FVV	Scott P. Harvey	KK7SJM	Shane Moscatelli		
KB7GJY	Allen Gemmrig	KG7SJR	William S Coyle		
KF7GP	Mary Lee	KJ7SJY	Gary Collins		
KE7H	Gary Anderson	KA7SMU	Donald Kolb		
KM7H	Jim Johnson	KG7TMI	Michael Towan		
KK9HAM	Albin Ennsthaler	KF7UTH	Dennis P Roberts		
KI7HDZ	Michael Dunlap	KB7WB	Claude Shook		
KI7HEA	W Cameron Dunlap	N6WCN	Gregory Preuss		
W7HEE	Harry E Estep Jr	WA7WKX	Stephen Lalonde		
K7HPT	Mark Van Winkle	N7WRQ	Elizabeth Ashleman		
AG7IG	Michael G Uber	N7WRR	James Ashleman		
N7JCL	John Lee	W7WTO	Royal Moore		
KF7JJC	Roger Krug	AD7XH	Richard L Schultz		
W7JMK	Jack Kelley	AF7YF	Carl B Branton		
KJ7KXL	John Beaudreault	KB7YGR	Teresa (Terry) George		
KI7LEZ	David M Henderson	KG7ZCW	Daniel Carter		
W7LKR	Patrick Brandt				
N7LL	David Oglesby				
K7LRG	Leonard Gross				
KR7LRJ	Larry Jenks				
KL7M	David Cloyd				
K7MAT	K. Todd Wagner				
K7MM	Dan Ransom				
N6MMJ	Craig K Clausen				
W7MN	W Jeremie Dunlap				
K7MTD	David Herzberg				
AG7NA	Gerry O'Brien				
KJ7NBZ	Douglas Smith				
N1NG	Michael Maxson				
KK7NXS	Fred J Grannan				
AK2O	Karl Shoemaker				

INDOOR HAM RADIO SWAP

Saturday April 24th, 2021

Kamiah, ID

American Legion Hall

618 Main St.



- Rain or shine weather be darn
- 7AM Till 2PM
- Seller Tables \$15 (8'x30")
- VE testing 11AM
- Morning Tech Sessions
- Free coffee & water
- Friday PM setup available
- Limited tables reserve now!

For info or reservations contact
Richard Hammerschlag, WD6X
(208) 935-7735, cell (714) 328-7553
c53@att.net



Hi-Tech LIQUIDATORS /

Northwest Radio



PO Box 757 • Kamiah, ID 83536



2021 Tri-Cities HAMFEST

May 1, 2021 | 10:00 | D's Wicked Cider House

For more info/details
Follow QR Codes below
Or email
Hamfest@WF7S.net

Vendors/Sellers- MUST email
Hamfest@WF7S.net to Pre-Register
for Vendor Parking
No Tables/Canopies for Sellers Provided

No Fees for Vendors/Sellers!

Events:

- Ham Radio & Electronics Swap Meet
- FCC License Testing Sessions
- Fox Hunting Seminar
- Yagi Building Workshop
- HF Seminar
- Fox Hunt (with Prizes)

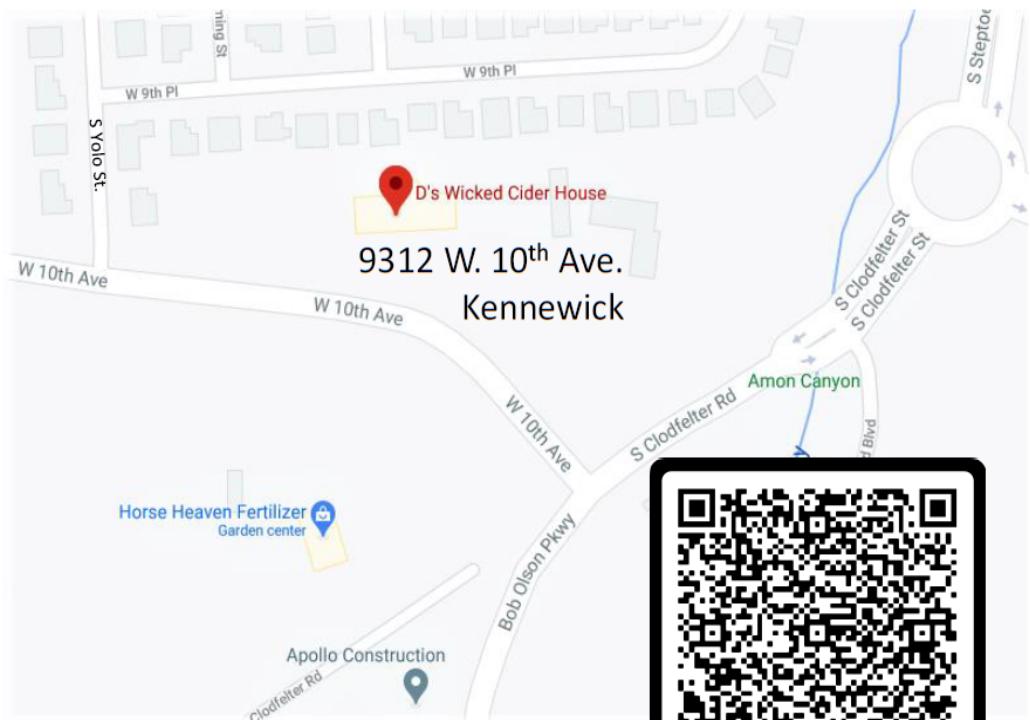
Hosted By



Food & Drink
Available Onsite



Scan for Website



Scan for Directions



SATURDAY

JUNE 19, 2021

Plante's Ferry Sports Complex
12320 E Upriver Drive - Spokane - WA

- FROM: Exit 287 off I-90
- Head NORTH on Argonne Rd
- Go EAST on Upriver Drive

There is no fee to sellers.

If you would like to sell just bring your goodies and pick a spot. Limited tables will be available.

For more information

Duane, KE7NUB at 509-435-7718



Upcoming Hamfests and Events

Courtesy of N7CFO.com

Check the above page for cancelation as events get closer.

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, AG7K, at (541)733-9850. kg7uy1@gmail.com

April 24. Indoor Ham Radio Swap, Kamiah, ID. <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2830318650544414&set=p.2830318650544414&type=3>

May 1. Spout Springs Repeater Association 2021 Hamfest, Kennewick, WA. <https://wf7s.net/hamfest/> Contact: Claude Landes wa4n@arrl.net

May. Spring DMR Gathering. Valley Camp, North Bend WA. Contact: Thom, K7FZO@WA7VC.org

May. Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Flea Market and Hamfest. ~~CANCELED~~ http://www.scarewa.org/ham_fest.shtml Contact: Fred Laun, w7pig@arrl.net

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

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 <https://www.w7orc.com/> Contact Mike W7MCM, 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 . www.seapac.org/ . Note: To stay informed about SEA-PAC, subscribe to the low volume "SEA-PAC Waves" eMail list by sending an email with your name and callsign to info@seapac.org .

June. Apple City ARC Hamfest. Dryden, WA. ~~CANCELED~~ (Five miles east of Leavenworth on Hiway 2). apple-cityarc@gmail.com

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

June. Port Ludlow ARC Annual Tail-gater. Port Ludlow, WA. <https://www.n7pl.org/index.html>

July. Chehalis Valley ARC Ham Radio Tailgate Swapmeet. Southwest Washington Fairgrounds, Chehalis, WA. Contact John Ellingson, K7OSK. k7osk@boatanchor.com . <http://www.cvars.org/>

July 16-18. Glacier Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest. (Always the third weekend in July) Glacier Meadows Campground, 13 miles west of East Glacier on MT Hwy 2. <http://www.gwhamfest.org/>

August. Pacific Northwest DX Convention. Portland, Oregon. ~~CANCELED~~ <http://pacificnwdxconvention.com/>

September 10-12. Digital Radio Summer Gathering. Valley Camp, North Bend, WA. Contact: Thom, K7FZO@WA7VC.org

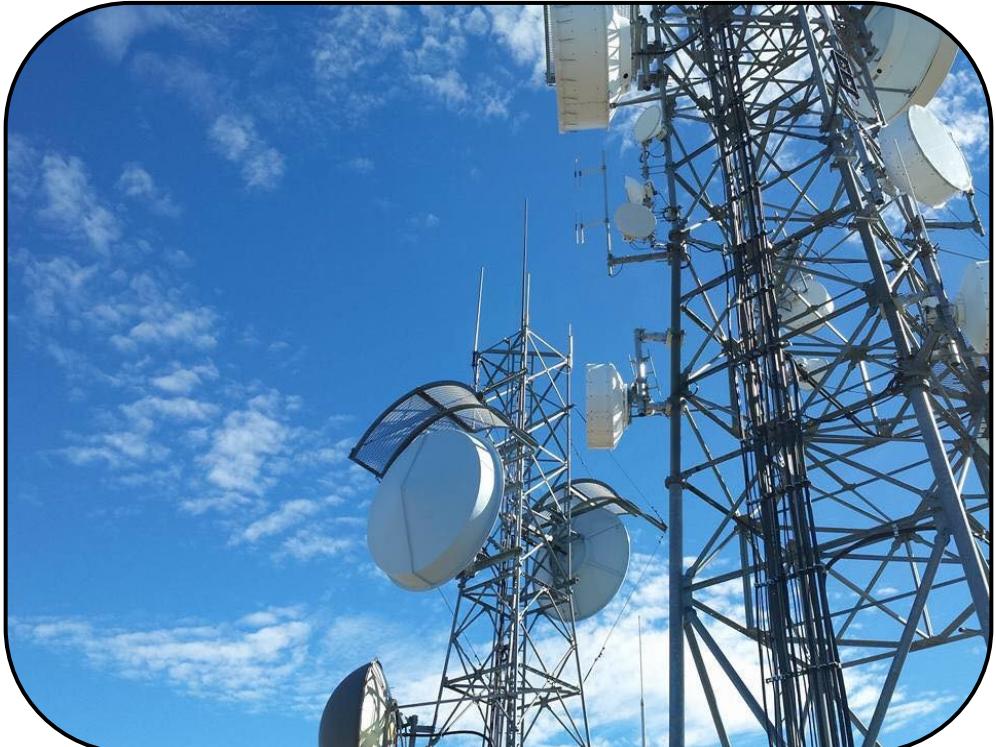
September 25. Washington State Convention (Spokane Hamfest), Spokane Valley, WA. (Always the 4th Saturday in September)

October. SwapToberfest. Rickereall, Oregon

Area Repeaters

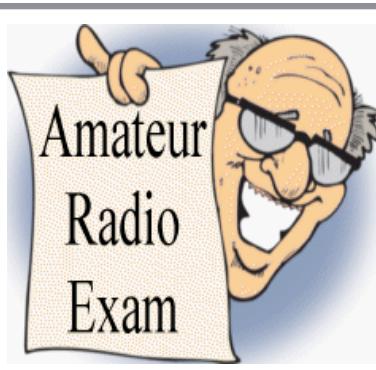
KBARA Repeaters and Echolink/IRLP Nodes

Frequency	CTCSS Tone	Location	Call sign	RF Link
Repeaters				
223.90 MHz	None	Stensgar Mtn	AK2O	Hub
147.38 MHz	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
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.



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 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.

KAMIAK BUTTE AMATEUR REPEATER ASSOCIATION

PO Box 30801

Spokane WA 99223-3013