



## RAMBLINGS

Time sure passes fast when you are busy having lots of fun. Since the last newsletter was finished and ready for publication, I have had the great honor to travel all over the US. I really feel like I have been on vacation since the first part of May.

I would like to thank everyone for contributing articles to the newsletter. These articles help make the newsletter a great thing to look forward to receiving each quarter. If you would like to see particular articles in the newsletter, please let me know. I will accept all donations of articles for the newsletter. Articles will be published in a newsletter. I just can't promise that your article will be in the very next newsletter.

In order to help pay for the cost of publishing the newsletter, I am going to start selling advertising. There will be a column headed FOR SALE. You will be able to advertise anything you would like to sell in this column. And my favorite, will be a personal column where we can congratulate someone or send them best wishes. These columns will be the size of this column and will be charged at One Dollar for 2 lines with additional lines costing 25 cents. As time goes on, I will have commercial advertising in the newsletter. Do not worry as the commercial advertising will not take pages away from our newsletter.

I am looking forward to a new and exciting newsletter. I welcome all ideas, articles and help with the newsletter. I do not profess to know much about producing a newsletter but I am willing to help produce something you all look forward to receiving each quarter.

Mary Barber (KC7ZZR)

July, 1999

# KBARA GAZETTE

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I remember my first KBARA meeting which was in June of 1994. A very important vote was taken there among those few dedicated members that attended which was to change the focus of the system. It was decided that the Mica Peak and Lookout Pass repeaters would be disconnected from the Evergreen Intertie/ Seattle and reconnected to the rest of the KBARA system. Previous to that, these two repeaters had been connected continuously to the West Side. It was two years later, not long after I became President, that even more changes were in store. Primary ownership of the repeaters was to change. Art Gemmrig, WB7AUK, had decided to sell all but his packet system due to health problems, and suddenly KBARA was faced with deciding whether to become part owner of a system it had supported for years. For numerous reasons, the decision was "no", and in perspective that was the right one to make. Now, with seven dedicated owners and some 200 members the club continues to develop a special sort of camaraderie and enthusiasm that still is a real joy to be part of. This success is due in part to people like Royal Moore, KB7WTO, who has just served two years as a very dedicated Vice President. Our thanks goes to him. Also, our appreciation goes to Denise Hebel, KC7ORO, who has been a wonderful help as Secretary. I will enjoy again working with Neil Gallup, N7LVO, who has graciously agreed to serve a second term as Treasurer, with Bob Lemon, KC7HFI now as Vice President and with Jerry Spalding, KC7ADH as Secretary. We look forward to the challenges of the year as our group continues to grow and our acquaintances expand beyond the KBARA system.

Betsy Ashelman (N7WRQ)

## Field Day 1999

This year was the first time I had ever done Field Day. Tom (KK7PX) and Mary (KC7ZZR) were my companions during the activities. We used Tom's call sign and his advanced class privileges to participate. The bands were jumping! We had lots of contacts and talked to places east and west. Our farthest contact was to Maui. I hope everyone joins the fun next year.

Jerry Spalding (KD7ADH)

# **MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING 1999**

## **Minutes of the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1999 KBARA Annual Meeting**

The meeting started with introductions of all club officers, repeater owners, and appointed officials. A special welcome was given to the delegation from the Oliver Amateur Radio Club, from Canada.

Charlene, KC7RQF gave special 'squirrel' awards to Betsy, N7WRQ, and Warren N7YRN. The 'Royal' V.P. award was given to Royal, KB7WTO. All award winners were good sports, as expected.

Neil, N7LVO, gave a brief treasurer's report. The full report will be published in the KBARA Gazette. Highlights of the report included \$530.00 in the checking account, \$1535.00 in our savings account \$961.78 in a special account to be used for the Spokane Hamfest. Overall we took in a little more money than we spent. Last year we took in about \$90 more than we spent, this year it will be about \$400. We have 196 members in KBARA.

### **Comments from the President, Betsy, N7WRQ:**

The Kamiak Butte repeater changed ownership this year, and the flagship repeater now wears the call sign of KB7ARA. Something else we've added this year is membership in ARRL. One benefit is \$1,000,000 liability insurance, which does not include work at repeater sites, unless sponsored by KBARA. We have also added some new nets this year, including the Bozo Net, NW Elmer Net, and the Edison Net. KBARA is also the lead club for the Spokane Hamfest this year, and any help the membership can provide will be very welcome.

### **Update from the Owners:**

**Karl, WA7YCP** – Everything is working fairly well.

**John, W7OE** – Thanks to all for the help and support this year. He's glad to see the nets so well supported. There

have been a few problems with the repeaters this year, the tower at Lookout Pass will have to be replaced, he replaced the final amp stage at the Mica Peak repeater. The 444.9 repeater will be on line soon, and 6meters can be linked to KBARA. We have to wait until mid August to reestablish the link to Oliver, BC, that's when all of the snow finally melts.

**Royal, KB7WTO** – All is running fine. **Rich, AA7P** – The Net Control operators' discipline is great, we set a good standard for amateur radio. The 147.28 repeater has had some minor repairs this spring, the finals are putting out only about 1Watt right now, but he plans to repair them soon.

**Neil, N7LVO** – The 147.02 needs to have the roof of the building repainted.

**Bob, KC7HFI** – There is a lot of work being done at the KB7ARA site this year.

News from the Regional Reps:

**David, KB7WRT** has been passing out KBARA information when ever possible. He also wants to remind everyone that the Walla Walla Hamfest will be at the Armory in Walla Walla again this year, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September. It will be one day only, on Saturday. As usual there will be an informal KBARA meeting at that time.

**Jerry, KC7ZMA** has nothing to report. Reports from the Net Managers:

**Sherry, KC7KOK** appreciates all of the help she's gotten since taking over the net, and really appreciates everyone going SLOW.

**Mary, KC7ZZR** reports the Nightcrawlers' Rag Chew Net is going well. They average 25 checkins a night, with a high of 41. She also wants to announce that Ruby, W07C is once again a Net Control, now on Friday nights.

**Bozo, N7DRA** says the Saturday morning net is great. There are usually about 30 checkins every Saturday morning. The Net is run from the "KBARA" breakfast room at Frankie Doodles Restaurant, at 3rd and Division in downtown Spokane. He says it gets so noisy in that room

that you have to use your radio to be able to talk to someone on the other side!

### **QUESTIONS FROM THE CROWD:**

**Can we set up visits to repeater sites again this year?** Rich, AA7P invites anyone going to the Walla Walla hamfest to join him on a trip to the 147.28 repeater site that weekend.

**David, KB7WRT** wanted to know the official position concerning the annoying person recently providing malicious interference on KBARA. The KBARA position, like the ARRL position is to IGNORE IT. That is unless some direction finders purposely try to keep him talking to pinpoint his location. The person responsible for the most recent problem was located in Moscow, ID, he was using his father's gear. One thing we shouldn't do is shut down the repeaters. Not only would this be giving into the interfering person, it would make the repeater system unavailable for any emergency communications. John, W7OE and Karl, WA7YCP say that not once in 35 years, has a repeater owner gotten in trouble for leaving a repeater up and running, except for the one guy who was causing all of the interference on purpose. KBARA may want to coordinate a team of 'bunny hunters' on another band to assist in finding this type of interference. Some of the members present asked that bunny hunt theory be explained on one of the nets, maybe the Elmer Net.

**What is the status of the link to the West side?** The system should be up sometime this summer. A short history of our involvement was given. KBARA became members of the Evergreen Inter tie in 1990. Then it was a group of linked repeaters, mostly west of the Cascades, run by the BEARS, and mostly paid for by Boeing. Now, Boeing has cut funding of the group.

**Cont. page 3**

## Meeting Minutes Cont.

The BEARS and Boeing paid over \$10,000 this year alone for repairs, and the site rental at Mt. Baldi, the link site between the East side and West side, is \$600 a year. Discussion on whether KBARA should help with the funding followed. Of all of the member groups in the Intertie, KBARA is now the largest and most stable. John, W7OE pointed out that not only was the structure of the Intertie a technical asset, but it may also be a way of getting new members in KBARA, and all of the KBARA and Intertie repeaters are Open Systems. The motion was made for KBARA to pay up to \$300 toward the site rental for the Intertie. Members suggested that KBARA ask for a Memo Of Understanding concerning the use of the system, and that we vote on whether to continue funding each year. The members of the club approved the motion. A voluntary collection was taken at that time, resulting in \$124.50 to go toward the \$300 KBARA will give for the site rental.

**When will the Oliver Repeater be working again?** Roy, VE7DTT said they had to wait for the snow to melt first! The site is at about 7600 ft and is covered with snow for all but 7-8 weeks in the summer months. As soon as they can access the site, the work will begin.

**What about the Spokane Hamfest?** Usually KBARA offers seed money to help with early expenses for the hamfest. Betsy, N7WRQ made it clear that there was no guarantee of getting all, or any, of our money back, but last year we gave them \$500 seed money, and got just slightly more back. A motion was made to provide \$500 seed money. The motion was seconded, then approved by the members. In more news about the Hamfest, Betsy announced all were welcome to help with the festivities. There are still lots of tickets for the Grand prize, and the winners don't need to be present to win. The top prizes are:

1st prize: ICOM 706 MK IIIG

2nd prize: Yaesu Dual-Band

HT VX-1R

3rd prize: MFJ HF/VHF SWR

Analyzer

**How about those fancy T-shirts?** The nice limited edition KBARA t-shirts are on sale for \$10 each, and all profits go to KBARA.

**What about next years meeting?** There was some discussion about having the campout and annual meeting the same weekend as Field Day. Most members have some other commitments for that weekend, so we will continue to have our meeting one week before Field Day.

**Where did those crystal pigs come from?** Charlene, KC7RQF and Roxanne, KC7VGS, blessed all who attended with the beautiful crystal piggies. Thanks to them both for their performance.

### **Election of New Officers:**

Nominations for President - Betsy, N7WRQ

For Vice President - Bob, KC7HFI and Edison, N7GCW

For Secretary - Jerry, KD7ADH

For Treasurer - Neil, N7LVO

Ballots were passed out to all paid members in attendance. The votes were collected and counted by Denise, KC7ORO and Roy, VE7DTT.

### **The winners, and our 1999-2000 Officers are:**

Betsy, N7WRQ President

Bob, KC7HFI Vice President

Jerry, KD7ADH Secretary

Neil, N7LVO Treasurer.

With the conclusion of all Official Business, the Meeting was closed. The Potluck Dinner and silent Auction followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Hebel, KC7ORO

Secretary

### **Secretary's Message**

Jerry Spalding(KD7ADH)

I would like to thank all those who supported me and had confidence in my abilities to perform the duties of secretary. I will do my best to live up to your expectations and strive to improve upon the wonderful job Denise (KC7ORO) did as secretary last year. If you have a problem call me at 509-442-4015 or e-mail me kd7adh@angelfire.com or kd7adh@hotmail.com.

## THE NEW HAM

BY Jim McCormick-Barger,  
W7DOE

For six months I diligently listened to the 7:00 a.m. KBARA net. I quickly learned many of the regular's names and call signs. Warren was the weatherman, Reggie was the highly respected senior ham, Ruby was the KBARA queen, and Charlene had the most friendly voice I had ever heard. Without a licence, I was just one of the 1000 plus listeners that Warren often talked about over the air. Finally, I decided to knuckle down and study for my license. Thanks to a number of very helpful Hams, I took a class and then the test. **I PASSED!** I then waited for two weeks to get my call sign. I checked the Internet every day. At 6:00 a.m. one Friday morning I discovered at last it had been assigned. I eagerly but nervously waited for the morning net to start. I patiently waited until many of the oldtimers had checked in so that I would not be butting in or feel rushed. Hands sweating, stomach a little nervous, I finally made the call. In a few seconds, I was told to come back and tell how my day was. I explained that I had just received my call sign and had been listening to KBARA for six months and was excited to be able to finally check-in. The controller welcomed me and made me feel a part of the group. Immediately following the net, Charlene gave me a call and welcomed me to the "world's greatest hobby". Within the next 15 minutes at least 6 regular KBARA members called to welcome me. These calls made my day and made me feel very welcome to the KBARA organization. It can be very frustrating to get a new license and radio and have no one to talk to. Your organization made my transition to Ham exciting and fun event. I hope I can help future new Hams in the same way. Thank you very much and 73.

### **Campout**

Due to limited space in this newsletter, articles and pictures from the campout this year will be in the next newsletter.

## Treasurer's Report

### June 1999

BY Neil (N7LVO)

<b>INCOME</b>	
ARRL Membership	72.00
Hamfest Seed 1998	500.00
Hamfest Income 1998	35.72
Donation	5.66
Interest	32.18
Membership	2,165.00
Other Income	55.04
Contribution	
Intertie	146.25
T- Shirt Income	330.00

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**TOTAL INCOME** **3,341.85**

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<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Repeater Expenses	
Rent/Power	696.59
Repairs	290.76
Camp Site	25.00
Hamfest Seed 1998	500.00
Insurance	325.00
Miscellaneous	68.59
Newsletter Printing	51.68
Postage	307.88
T-Shirt Purchase	290.25
ARRL Membership	68.00

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**TOTAL EXPENSES** **2623.75**

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Net Income 1999 **718.10**  
Beginning Balance 1998 **1,625.05**

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Ending Balance 1999  
**2343.15**

## The Importance of C.W.

BY John (W7OE)

Why learn Morse Code? After all, voice is a more natural way to communicate, and the non-c.w. digital modes allow for reliable keyboard to keyboard communication at a high rate of speed.

Morse Code is like riding a bicycle. Once learned at a substantial level of competency it is easily retained - even with limited practice. Also, seasoned c.w. operators use the mode for many of the same reasons we prefer riding a bicycle to driving an automobile; it is more relaxing and often a lot more fun. Yes, the rumors are true. We do consider ourselves an elite group. After all, anyone can pick up a microphone and start talking. However, a much smaller number of Radio Amateurs have taken the time and effort to properly learn Morse Code. With some effort almost all Radio Amateurs can join this "elite" group (which would no longer be "elite").

Another advantage to using C.W. is that like the bicycle it is much more efficient. For example, many more C.W. conversations can occur in a given bandwidth than with any other mode. The C.W. bandwidth depends primarily upon the keying waveform, and is usually under 50Hz (0.05 kHz). Other modes have much larger bandwidths. Fast Scan Television requires 5MHz, AF, FM, and Slow Scan TV requires 3kHz, and the other digital modes require 3 to 10kHz.

Suppose only 100Khz is available for communication. Taking into account adequate separation of signals to prevent interference and reasonably equivalent signal strengths the following number of conversa-

tions can occur within this 100Khz bandwidth: Fast Scan TV = 0; AM, FM, and Slow Scan TV = 5 to 10; SSB = 20; non-C.W. digital modes = 5 to 20; and C.W. = 400! Yes, C.W. conversations can easily be spaced 250 Hz (0.25kHz) without problems. In fact, good C.W. operator can copy C.W. signals only a few Hz from adjacent signals without using filters by just ignoring all tones except that produced by the desired station. Actually, I like to listen to these adjacent signals in hopes that they might be of interest. Thus, in terms of bandwidth efficiency, C.W. allows for 20 times the use available to SSB.

Reduced bandwidth results in another advantage with C.W.: a greater signal to noise ratio. The greater the bandwidth, the greater the amount of noise. With very weak signals, C.W. is often the **only** mode possible. Only a handful of the largest Amateur Radio stations can communicate with each other on SSB using Moonbounce while thousands of Radio Amateurs can operate Moonbounce using C.W. My experience has been that with 100 watts and a mobile whip. I can work more DX using C.W. than those running the legal limit and using a beam on SSB and this is while driving down the road in my pickup truck! Many Radio Amateurs have worked over 100 countries using 5 watts or less on C.W. I just recently had a nice contact with a South African station who was running 5 watts. The path was via long path so the distance was over 14,000 miles. He was solid copy the whole time.

Another advantage to C.W. is that it has no foreign accents. I have extreme difficulty understanding

### **C.W. continued**

foreign stations on SSB but they are easy to understand on C.W. (providing they are sending in English). I can even understand stations from Arkansas on C.W.! (hihi)

There are numerous other advantages to using C.W. For example,

doppler shifting, Aurora on VHF is only possible by using C.W. Meteor Scatter is of such short duration that high speed C.W. is often the only mode that is effective. There are the famous cases of blind/deaf Amateurs communicating via C.W. by feeling the vibrati-

tions from the speaker. Space does not permit discussion of the many other examples.

In summary, there are many reasons to learn Morse Code and operate C.W. Most people can easily learn the code with a little time and effort. **Just do it!**

## **The Orginial Spokane Hamfest And Computer/Eletronics Fair**

**Home of the famous Saturday Night Steak Dinner**

University High School  
10212 E 9th, Spokane, WA 99206

### **Friday, August 6th**

6-9PM

Vendor Setup

### **Saturday, August 7th**

9AM

#### **Doors Open**

K7S Special Events Station (All Day)  
ARRL Instructional Videos (All Day)  
APRS Demonstration (Tentatively)  
David Robbins, K7GPS

9:30AM

#### **Field Checking for DXCC**

Peter Budnik, KB1HY

10:00AM

#### **American Radio Relay League Forum**

Room #406

11:00AM

#### **ARES/RACES Seminar**

Room #407

1PM

#### **ARRL Headquarters Tour**

Room #408

Peter Budnik, KB1HY

#### **Hidden Transmitter Hunt**

Thom Sletmoen, N7UTJ

Open to all, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place prizes

2PM

#### **Satellite, EME & Weak Signal Seminar**

Room #406

John Dempster, W7OE

3PM

#### **Antenna Construction**

Room #407

##### **The Copper "J" Pole**

Drawing for free antenna at end of class

Tom Barber, KK7PX

6PM

#### **Famous Saturday Night Steak Dinner**

(Limited Number of Tickets Sold at Door)

### **Sunday, August 8th**

8AM

#### **Doors Open**

Room #201

8:30AM

#### **Amateur Radio License Testing**

9AM

#### **Open - Cry Auction**

Mary Hibbs, WB7RBJ

11AM

#### **Raffle Drawing**

12PM

#### **Doors Close**

## **INFORMATION**

**The Orginial Spokane Hamfest** - Hosted by the Kamiak Butte Repeater Assoc., Inland Empire VHF Club, NW Tri-State ARO, Spokane Radio Amateurs, and Palouse Hills ARC.

**TALK IN FREQUENCIES**

147.38+MHz and 146.52 MHz

**K7S SPECIAL EVENTS STATION** - To QSL, send self addressed business size envelope to -

**K7S**  
PO Box 1053  
Tum Tum, WA 99034

**OPEN CRY AUCTION** - Sign-up Sheets available at announcer's podium. Buyer and Seller responsible for exchange of merchandise and money.

**HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNT**

(Bunny Hunt) - The "bunny" will transmit one minute out of every three minutes on a frequency of 146.460MHz; The hunt will take place on school grounds. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

**HEWLETT-PACKARD** - Bring your handheld transceiver (2 meter, 220, or 440MHz) and Hewlett-Packard representatives will test it for you, complete with printout, and at no charge. This is a Hewlett-Packard courtesy program.

**ARRL & W7ROL'S Instructional Videos**

Shown non-stop in the cafeteria.

**BINGO** - Barb Moore, KB7WTN, will hold periodic bingo games on Saturday in Room #409.

**AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TESTING** - Contact Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ (509-448-5821); cost \$6.45; bring photo ID, original radio license (if any) plus photo copy, and any

outstanding Certificates of Completion plus photo copy. If attending just the testing session, no admission charge to the Hamfest.

**RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZE DRAWING RULES** - Name and address, or call sign must be on each ticket to be valid. Any tickets drawn without this information will be discarded. Drawing will be held on Sunday at 11AM.

**HAMFEST T-SHIRTS** - Limited quantity for \$20.

**CLASSROOMS AVAILABLE** - Rooms 406-409 and 201

**MAIN RAFFLE PRIZE TICKETS** - \$1.00 each, are white in color, Prizes Icom 706 MK IIIG, Yeasu Dual-Band HT VX-1R, and MFJ HF/VHF SWR Analyzer; need not be present to win; winners are responsible for all delivery charges; drawing for 1st prize will be held on Sunday at 11AM.

**COFFEE CAN RAFFLE** - Tickets, 4/\$1.00, are blue in color; may be placed in any can for a chance to win that particular prize; must be present to win, however proxies will be accepted (another party holding your ticket); drawing will be held Sunday at 11AM.

**DOOR PRIZE RAFFLE** - Tickets are red admission tickets; drawings will be held periodically throughout the Hamfest, with winning ticket numbers posted on blackboard near announcer's podium; ticket holders whose numbers are drawn on Saturday have until 5PM on Saturday to claim prizes; those drawn on Sunday have until 11AM to claim prizes; each ticket drawn will be put back into the drawing bin as there is no limit to the number of times a ticket can be drawn.