

The KBARA Gazzette

Volume 1 Issue 1

The Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association Newsletter

September 1994

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JoAnn Gemmrig KA7SUZ

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Art Gemmrig WB7AUK

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Spokane Area Representative

Karl Shoemaker WA7YCP

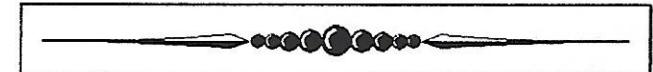
Roving Representative

Dick Wilcox N7VXC

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As normal about this time of year the Annual Support Payments are due. Please remember that in supporting your local repeater groups you are helping to keep these repeaters on the air. As has been the practice of KBARA in the past, all payments made from September 1st will be for the following year. In other

words you get a few months free if you join after September 1st. In this Newsletter providing you are a supporter of KBARA, you will find a map with the new Codes for the operation of the system. These Codes are not to be given out over the air and are not for those who do not support KBARA financially! Anyone asking you for the codes should be referred to the Control Ops. The Control Ops have a list of the Membership and are able to answer any of the questions that you may have about the system. If you have questions on the map and what the codes specifically do please contact a Control Op. Any of which will be happy to help you!



KBARA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

6-12-94

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by our president Jo Ann KA7SUZ. The Secretary for the past year was unavailable for the meeting so Jo Ann asked the Vice President N7VBW to read last years minutes which was done.

Following the Secretaries minutes, the Treasurer Mary AA7RT gave the financial report. A copy of which will be put into the next printed newsletter for all to see.

The Technical report was given by Art WB7AUK. Each machine was discussed as to how well it was working and what problems it had been having during the past year. The discussion was also opened as to what machines will need maintenance in the coming

year and what sort of help might be expected. A controller board will be purchased for KBARA to replace a failing board. The reason for this is that Art has been waiting for 18 months for one chip from Seattle and when it did come in, it had a BEARS call-sign on it and was deemed unacceptable for KBARA. The purchase of the new controller board will lessen KBARA's dependence on the BEARS group.

Two area representatives were present and voiced some concerns with both the system and its members. It was brought up that the most expensive part of the system was Repeater Site Rental for the Mica Repeater site and that it along with the rest of the system should be tied together as one system rather than have part of the KBARA system tied to the Evergreen Intertie on a full-time-basis. Another reason for removing the 147.38 machine from the Intertie on a full time basis was that KBARA members and supporters wouldn't even listen to that repeater because they didn't want to listen to the Seattle Area traveling up and down the Seattle Freeways chatting with each other.

It was Moved, Seconded, and voted upon to remove the 147.38 repeater from being a full-time Intertie repeater and to have that repeater returned to the KBARA system on a full time basis with the user options of being able to link back to the Intertie as needed. Details to be worked out by the owner and the board members at a later date.

It was Moved, Seconded, and voted upon that W7LKR George Fitzpatrick be granted a Lifetime Membership in KBARA for the years of devotion and work that he has put into the membership and Support Group...

Among other topics of discussion was the Net on Wednesday Nights. There were those at the meeting that felt that there should be more to the net than just a Check-In atmosphere. Possibly something different with the Swap-And-Shop and possibly a Tech-Net of some sort..

The Newsletter was brought up and discussed and it was decided that there will be one. The Editor for the time being will remain anonymous. Details will be sent out in the Next Newsletter.

The meeting was closed at 2:15 pm...

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

(This was written during the time of the wildfires. I hope by the time it appears in our newsletter, the fires have been conquered. --KA7SUZ)

During these fires of North Central Washington, many repeaters are linked together in an effort to enhance the communications needs of the fire fighters.

Coincidentally, this fire followed on the heels of KBARAs separation from the full time Intertie connection. Soon after the fires started, the emergency links were established and we were seeing, in action, the original purpose for the KBARA system.

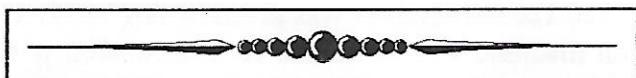
Things seemed to be going along rather well, at least as far as the repeaters were concerned. Unfortunately, the fire was doing a thorough job too, and gaining.

Eventually, it was necessary to connect back to the Intertie because of the need to talk to leadership on the West side. Then, the system became "public domain", once again.

We got an immediate dose of what it was we had been trying to escape when we detached from full time Interie participation.

Today, 31 July, as I listened to the activity on the repeaters, if I heard the BN system to Montana brought on line once, I heard it two dozen times. Usually by the same individual, with the same non-priority traffic. At one time the conversation was tail gating so quickly, that Jo Whitney KA7LJQ was unable to break in, in order to pass information concerning her activities involved with the fire fighting effort.

I am sorry for those who miss the instant gratification of being able to key the mike and be talking to Seattle with the next breath. But, this characteristic of self-indulgent use of the repeaters during a very tragic time demonstrates the very system-abuse we experienced for over three years despite our efforts to change it. It also convinces me that the new users throughout the system will get a very wrong idea of the correct use of repeaters and certainly will not experience proper radio etiquette. —JoAnn Gemmrig, KA7SUZ



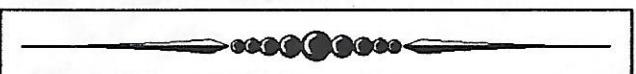


EASTERN WASHINGTON SECTION CONVENTION HAMFEST.

The Place; Milton Freewater, Oregon,
The Date; September 16,17, and 18 1994

Come one come all and enjoy the Annual W.W.V.A.R.C.'s Hamfest. Entry is free with lots of tables for swap and shop (they will cost you) Lots of prizes and lots of good people. Pot Luck for Sunday lunch and the drawing will be held at 1:00pm right after lunch. Come have a good time and see old friends and attend some of the meetings. KBARA will be having a Friday evening 'Coffee Clutch' at about 7:00pm so don't miss out!

Need Information contact Jack Babbitt WA5ZAY or the W.W.V.A.R.C. at P.O. Box 321, Walla Walla, Wa. 99362 or call (509) 525-7003



The Editors Soap Box

Well folks here it is. The KBARA Newsletter! It has been quite some time since anyone has seen one of these. It seems that the last two years when the Editor had volunteered, he went home from the picnic and forgot all about the newsletter. I realize that things come up and if someone from KBARA isn't there to knock on the door from time to time we might forget about it but the users of the system have been consistent. I have heard from people from as far away as Great Falls tell me that if they don't see a Newsletter from KBARA then they don't know what they'll do for entertainment. Most of us have no clue as to what is going on with the group even though we join the weekly net. Group business isn't discussed on the net for some strange reason. Must have to do with the FCC Rules expressly forbidding it! Well this Newsletter and

the ones coming up in the future hopefully will help to answer those questions that are being asked.

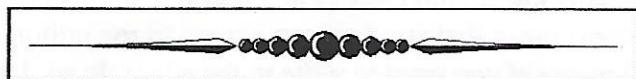
There are some that I am aware of right now so I think I'll try to address them here and now. Starting with the Newsletter, this is going to become a Quarterly publication. I know that it used to be that way in the past and there were no objections with that when it was brought up at the meetings so it sounds good to me.

The Editor of the Newsletter was a volunteer appointment. In other words someone foolishly volunteered and the President did the appointment. However the editor has asked to remain anonymous at this point so only those that attended the meeting actually know who I am. (The Foolish Volunteer) That doesn't mean that you have no access to the editor. By all means if you want to write to the editor do so. I will get all correspondence that is sent to the KBARA address.

I have asked the Net Control operator on our Wednesday evening Net a couple of times to jolt the public on articles for the newsletter and have heard him do so on the air but have gotten absolutely nothing from the membership. I sure didn't want to write this whole thing on my own but I guess since nobody had anything to say then you get to listen to what I have to say. Just what the Editors Soap Box is all about. So anything that you have to say to the editor can be relayed to me without problems. You might even find them in this section of the next Newsletter.

Machines that aren't working! Another good question that I can offer part of an answer too. The 147.02 Machine up on Lookout Pass on the Idaho/Montana boarder has been a thorn for some time now. It was also discussed at the General meeting this Summer. It seems that our technician had to wait for a part from the coast and when it finally arrived after 18 months of waiting the part had someone else's call on it and was not acceptable. Since then the stand-alone repeater that was put in the place of the linked repeater sorta died and was brought down from the mountain. The Stand-alone has been repaired and the new 147.02 has been placed into the 6 foot tall cabinet and is being wired to a new controller and will be back on Lookout Pass hopefully before the snow flies. The 147.38 machine has had a few problems this year as well with interference from other machines on the same hill and with its own power supply. Most of the major equipment on Mica has been replaced including the repeater itself and a battery backup system. The 147.36

machine has had a few minor problems but seems to have settled down for a long Winter. The 146.74 machine has been down as well as some of the Colfax and Pullman area people can tell you. It was repaired by another technician (The editor didn't know who at the time of printing) and is again in full service. As far as I know as of the printing of this issue the 147.28 machine has been in good health with the exception of the idiot that likes to 'Kerchunk' the machine for fun. Well that seems to be all that I have for you at the moment so enjoy this issue of the KBARA Newsletter and remember that if you have anything to say about it, write your Editor.



System Information;

It is very likely that the users of the KBARA system don't know what they are playing with so here is an over-view from a beginners stand point.

KBARA consists of several repeaters linked together to form a very large area.

They are as follows;

147.38 Located on Mica Peak East of Spokane

147.36 Located on Stengers Mountain North of Spokane

147.28 Located on Pikes Peak South East of Walla Walla

146.74 Located on Kamiak Butte Near Colfax and Pullman

147.02 Located on Lookout Pass on the Idaho Montana Boarder

When everything is up and running the way it is supposed to be, all of these repeaters are linked together giving Amateur Radio coverage from Canada to Oregon from Western Montana to the Cascades. When you talk on one of these repeaters, you are heard from all of them. We also have the availability of the Evergreen Intertie which connects the system to the West coast and beyond. The Radios in the KBARA system are owned and maintained by the system Technical Advisor Art Gimmrig, WB7AUK. He is the one responsible for the upkeep of the radios and antennas on the hill tops. Not an easy job considering how far apart the KBARA system is spread. KBARA

was formed to support WB7AUK both with finances and personnel for the upkeep and maintenance of the system. Considering the age of the equipment on the hill tops it is no wonder that once in a while something does break down and go wrong. Cold Winters and hot Summers have an adverse effect on everything on a hill top. Some of these are only accessible in the Summer time due to snow. Lookout Pass only has a couple of months of weather that is good enough for travel to the top. Mica on the other hand can be traveled year round due to the FAA keeping the road cleared for their systems on the same Peak.

Along with the Technical Advisor we have Control Ops. These are people that are almost always on the repeater system in one area or another keeping an eye on users and what they do. These people are there to help you the system users and not necessarily for Police actions. Anytime you need or want assistance on the system any of the Control ops are more than willing to give a helping hand. They will also be happy to give constructive criticism when you make mistakes. Something I will add here, please don't be afraid to get on the radio or the KBARA system because you don't know how to do something. Most 'Hams' are the worlds best 'Elmers' when it comes to New-comers. Most of us will simply point out what you did wrong so that you can do it right the next time. Then they will probably carry on a pleasant conversation with you just to say hello. The one most important thing to remember here is that we all started someplace. We were all beginners once and it's our job to help the less experienced 'Hams' get off on the right foot.

Back to the subject of the Repeater system. The Purpose of the KBARA system or I should say the Primary Purpose of KBARA is to function as a link system that provides emergency communications to Eastern Washington, and in doing so, to make possible a single system of mobile communications coverage extending beyond the limited range provided by any single repeater operating in and of itself.

Now that you have read this and hopefully the rest of the Newsletter, Enjoy Amateur Radio.

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

The Radio Amateur Is:

CONSIDERATE...Never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...Offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...With knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...Slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to the family, job, school, or community.

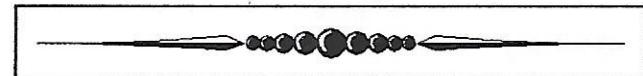
PATRIOT...Station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928

An Amateur Psalm

(1988 Version)

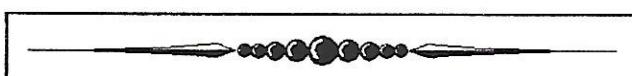
Amateur Radio is my hobby, I shall want no other.
It maketh me to climb high towers.....
It leadeth me in the byways of RFI and TVI.
It destroyeth my income.
For I go into the paths of debt for its sake
Yea, though I claim to understand it,
I blow many fuses!
Its Repeaters and DX do comfort me.
Yet nothing works in the presence of my friends.
I prune my antennas to the microinch,
But the SWR runneth over.
Surely the FCC will haunt me all the days of my life,
Yet I will dwell in my Shack of Radio forever.
(W7LKR) George Fitzpatrick (1988)



ARES

Amateur Radio Emergency Services

As most of you already know KBARA was originally built for the purposes of ARES. Intending to provide communications around the Eastern Washington areas, it has often been looked at as the system tied into Seattle. Never really being put to the test, during Firestorm it was used by people working on the fire to communicate with their families even though they didn't live in the area and may not have even been Hams. Interesting how Hams will help total strangers just because they can! During the Fires in the Wenatchee and Entiat areas KBARA pooled resources with the Nanum Ridge repeater owners and set up a link between the Northeast Washington Department Of Natural Resources in Colville and the DNR Station set up in Wenatchee. Something that DNR itself was having problems doing in the beginning stages of the fires. This link made the passage of vital information from DNR to stations needing the information very easy. It also helped to keep ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator Jack Babbitt, WA5ZAY abreast of any situations that might require his attention. People involved with ARES from outside



Just For Fun

Elephant Stew

Cut one elephant into bite-size pieces. (allow two months). Cover with brown gravy and salt and pepper to taste. Cook over a fire for about one month at 460 degrees. Serves 3800. (If you are expecting more guests, two rabbits may be added, but do not add the rabbits unless necessary because most people don't like hare in their stew!)

Wenachee were also instrumental in the effort. Hal Blegen, WA7EGA, having an HF station that could be heard state-wide was asked to be the Net Control Station for the Washington State Emergency Net. Passing weather information from all around the effected areas so that aircraft could take on water for the fires became a high priority along with keeping all agencies aware of what was needed at all times. The WA7EGA station was manned around the clock by Hal and by such people as Kyle Pugh, KA7CSP, ARRL Eastern Washington Section Manager, and Gordon Grove, WA7LNC, Emergency Coordinator for Spokane County and Nathan Jeffries, KI7QT, an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Spokane County. For both operations, the HF nets and the KBARA repeater system, a big thank you goes out from Jack Babbitt, ARRL SEC and all who had a hand in the Amateur effort, to those wanting to get on the systems and keeping things under control during the emergencies.

Net Information

Monday Thru Friday Weather Net 6:45 am
Friday Noon Net for those that can't check into the Regular Weekly Net

Wednesday 7:00 pm Regular Weekly Net

Join Us and Enjoy the Hobby Just a Little Bit More

A Special Thanks to those that nobody notices.
WO7C For helping to keep the Wednesday Night Net going.

N7IS For being constant with Helpful information on what is happening in the Amateur World.

WB7AUK For trying to keep the machinery going even in bad weather.