

The KBARA Gazette

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KBARA OFFICIALS

President

Betsy Ashleman N7WRQ
E-Mail <N7WRQ@aol.com>

Vice-President

Keith Morden KC7EYJ
E-Mail <keithm@on-ramp.ior.com>

Treasurer

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Glenn Moore N7VBW
E-Mail <n7vbw@iea.com>

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From The Presidents Desk

Greetings!

As I write this, the first day of winter has yet to arrive, and already the weather has been a worry for many of us. Fortunately, the repeater sites have "weathered" well. All of the repairs and equipment replacements were completed just in time on all five sites, thanks to the repeater owners and supporters. But of course the occasional power failure, despite battery backup, and ice encased antennas continue to plague the system during these wintery conditions.

We had hoped to include in this newsletter the "new and improved" version of the KBARA/Evergreen Intertie map, but unfortunately this is still in the works. Several of the codes and configurations have been changed since the last map, so a new one is in order. Should you have any questions meanwhile about the system, please don't hesitate to inquire.

The new 7:00 AM weekday KBARA Regional Net is the latest exciting addition to our net "menu". Not only are all invited to

join in from the KBARA repeaters, but also those from the Naneum Ridge repeater. Also, the KBARA youth net has changed its schedule and format. Now on Sundays at 4PM all those hams 21 years and younger are invited to check in, followed by all those "youths" over 21.

Lastly, we never know when we might be called upon to respond to emergency communications regarding traffic accidents. So, some of these tips might be helpful when relaying information. Generally the "911" officials require information about exact location (eg. highway, mile marker, eastbound/westbound), number of vehicles involved and description, and possible injuries. While this radio traffic is being relayed, all other stations should stand by (unless they also have emergency traffic), and generally wait until they hear that the appropriate officials have been notified. In calling in the information to the 911 phone number, you will hear: "state your emergency." A one line answer is sufficient at this point (eg. "a one car accident on I-90 near Ritzville"). Your call will then be directed to the appropriate agency. Again you will be prompted to "state your emergency", and a one liner will be sufficient until you are prompted for more details. Hope these tips are helpful, and certainly we welcome any other suggestions.

Happy holidays to all and 73,
Betsy Ashleman
N7WRQ

Amateur Operators Or Appliance Operators

Are we really amateurs or are we just a bunch of appliance operators as has been

suggested by some in the ham community?

What does an amateur operator do when he has trouble with his gear or signal? Well, an AMATEUR will try to find a solution to the problem. He may do some research or he may ask another, more knowledgeable, ham for some assistance. After all we don't know everything about radio and it's problems.

An APPLIANCE operator just keeps on making the same mistakes with the same results.

Now you may ask what does this have to do with me, I work a repeater and never have any trouble. (HI HI) That my friend is exactly where this is leading. Are you sure you never have any trouble? Ask yourself this (and be honest). How many times do I have to repeat myself because my signal is not strong enough? Have I tried to find an answer to this problem so as to make my operations better? Do I really listen when someone tells me I'm not making the repeater? All of these questions are very hard for us to answer as it becomes self criticism and we do not like to think we do any .thing wrong, even by accident. However we all have problems at one time or another.

Some of the problems are easily solved some take a little more work. For instance the person who consistently uses a hand held inside a vehicle and expects it to do the job of a mobile is really a dreamer. Now this problem is solved very easily and for the most part cheaply. Put an outside antenna on it, even a mag mount is better than the rubber duckie inside. If your using a handheld in a shopping mall or your home or some other place and someone tells you "your breaking up can't copy" look around and check your surroundings. You might have a large metal object between you and the repeater. You might also check your power level. Many people run low power on hand holds to conserve power(translation I don't have to

charge the battery as much). This just will not get the signal to the repeater if it is 20 or 30 miles away. In some cases it might but remember every time you have to repeat what you said it makes the repeater do double duty and shortens the life of the equipment.

These are but a few of the problems we all have from time to time. In order to be a real AMATEUR OPERATOR we must all evaluate our operations and procedures and equipment and try to get the most out of them. By doing this you may make a few friends instead of some individual saying under his breath "What a lid I wish his radio would blow up". None of us want this type of comment made about us or a friend.

The appliance operator will look at this article and probably say "Oh this doesn't apply to me" but the real amateur will look at it and say "Could I improve my operations".

So much for the ranting.

73 The Phantom

Amateur Radio License Test Sessions

OFFERED BY THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

Athol, ID First Wednesday every of month, 7PM

Coeur d'Alene February 8, 1997 Saturday 9AM (tentatively) Kootenai County Extension Office

Colville February 8, 1997 Saturday 9AM April 12, 1997 Saturday 9AM Department of Natural Resources

Spokane January 11, 1997 Saturday 9AM March 8, 1997 Saturday 9AM (tentatively) Gonzaga Preparatory School

Walla Walla Contacts;

Jack Babbitt, WA5ZAY--
Mable Babbitt, WB5AVH
509-525-7003

Coeur d'Alene Contact;

Jerry Hart, W7KR
509-927-5737

Spokane Contact;

Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ
509-448-5821
E-Mail; n7wrq@aol.com

Colville Contact;

Rex Kamstra, AB7IZ
509-684-2898
E-Mail; ab7iz@plix.com

Athol, Idaho Contact;

Bob Swain, N7GHV
208-683-2094

The Editors Soap Box

I will start the New Year by saying that I am sorry for the delay of the publication of the Newsletter. Just before I started serious work on it, I changed operating systems in my computer. Then changed word processors as well. Then I had to go looking for the files that had already been sent to me from the outside world. Then for the past couple of days I've been working on getting the Newsletter to look like one. Oh well, such is the life of a computer nerd! At least I didn't forget how to type. (Or did I) Well it seems that a lot has been happening to the KBARA system in the last few months. We have had equipment problems on almost every machine in the

system. Some of which are still not on the air. The 147.02 machine on Lookout Pass has disappeared for a time now and since it is so far away our Spokane people haven't been able to get to the hill top. The 146.74 machine sitting on top of our name sake, Kamiak Butte, has gone and come back and it seems it is gone again. The 147.36 machine is still having problems from time to time but last weeks net sounded just fine. The 147.38 machine still seems to have some interference on it from somewhere but at the printing of this issue the Editor knows nothing about where that is headed.

Hamfests, Swapfests, and Conventions are coming and so is Spring. Okay so I put that in Amateur Radio logic. Hamfests come before the changing of the seasons. I don't have a list as yet as to when these things are going to start happening but there is traditionally a Spring Hamfest in Walla Walla so there is something to plan for. Other things to plan for would be the **Annual KBARA meeting** next Summer along with Elections. Some people like myself have calenders to keep track of these things so for those of you who have them please start marking them.

The weekly Net has been interesting this Winter. We have gone from using only one repeater to three repeaters. As part-time Net Control I have had a couple of very low check-ins. I know of a couple of other people in the same situation (on other systems) that have lost interest in even having a net when the numbers get that low. So in the interest of making the Net something that **You the Supporters** would like to hear, I would like to know what some of you would like to hear on the net. What information would you like to receive? What sort of announcements would you like to receive? What would interest **YOU** and get you to join in on the Net? You can tell me during the net or send me E-Mail on the Internet but please let someone know what

you are interested in!

As I climb off my soap box I would like to wish each of you a Happy New Year and hope that each of you has a healthy and prosperous 1997..... de N7VBW Glenn Moore

KBARA Support

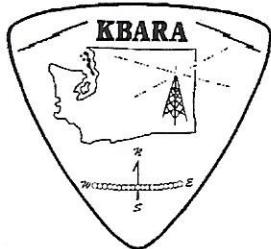
In this issue you will find a Support Notice! This is for all who would like to support the KBARA system with money. Please check your label on this issue to find out when your Support Expires. There are some of you that will have a slash (/) and then an 'F' to show that theirs is a Family listing. This is something that has to be done with the database so that each of you in the same house doesn't get a newsletter. We have some that have anywhere from three to five Hams under one roof under the Family plan so please don't worry as to who gets it. I usually try to rotate between family members but will have to change that in the near future. I will select just one person for the mailing but all will appear in the Roster. For those of you who want a Current Roster please let me know. I have sent several of them out via the Internet and several out using the Postal Service. ***They are available to Members upon request!***

**KBARA
AUTOPATCH
INFO**



**To Access the
Autopatch**

1. Identify Your Station
2. Key your mic and push the * and 123 to bring up the patch
3. Wait for a dial tone
4. Dial the number (or Speed Dial Number)
5. When finished with the call, key your mic, push # and 123 to turn the patch off
6. Identify your station and that you are 'Clear of the Patch'



KBARA SUPPORT FORM

**KBARA
6812 E. 3rd Ave.
Spokane, WA. 99212**

Name(s) & Call Sign(s) _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Amount Paid _____

New Sponsor Renewing Sponsor Individual Sponsor Family Sponsor

Support is \$15.00 per year for individuals, \$20.00 for family sponsorship (all must be living at the same address). Contributions are due January of each year. Funds paid during the last quarter (after September 1) Will apply through the entire following year.

KBARA
E. 6812 3rd Ave
Spokane WA 99212



ELIZABETH ASHLEMAN N7WRQ
E. 3903 48TH AVE.
SPOKANE, WA. 99223-7866
1997/F