

# KBARA Gazette

Quarterly Journal of the Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association

Spring 2022

## Mike and Key (Puyallup) Hamfest

I attended the Puyallup hamfest this year. The first time in two years. Two years ago when the pandemic scare started a lot of sellers pulled out at the last minute. General attendance wasn't to bad but notably reduced. No hamfest for 2021. For 2022 I kept watching the N7CFO.com page for a cancelation, but our governor was lifting mask mandates and proof of vaccination requirements for large events. These went into effect just before the hamfest was to take place. The week before the hamfest all mask and proof a vaccine went away. I think the proof of vaccination needs to be kept in place by the CDC considering what we have been through the last two years but this comes with a lot of controversy of course.

The 2022 hamfest was almost back to normal. A few tables were empty up stairs but on the main floor all of the tables were full. Crowds didn't seem up to the usual numbers seen in past years, but it was still well attended. It is nice to see events getting back to normal. There continues to be more events listed on the N7CFO.com events page. Picture is from pre-pandemic event. KA7FVV



Spokane 4th Annual Tailgate Swap has been cancelled for 2022 due to a location not being available. Thank you Duane for your efforts.



# KBARA Technical Update

by Jim, N7WRR

Most of the system has been working fairly well this last quarter which is good since sites are difficult to access in the winter months. We have had some problems with the IRLP and some of the issues from last quarter are still there for the Lookout link, Stensgar and Mica. Pikes Peak / Walla Walla 147.28 continues to work very well with no issues. West Twin / Moscow 147.32 has been working well, but Its IRLP link was dropping or being taken off from the system quite a bit and we were hooking it back into the reflector for the morning nets, but it has been OK the last few weeks.

**IRLP node 3638** which connects the KBARA radio linked repeaters (Mica, Stensgar, Pikes Peak and Lookout) with Reflector 9075 was having problems with a lot of interference on out going signals to the reflector. Glen K1RR was on vacation at the time so it took a couple weeks to repair, but he found it just need a new power supply and all is working well now.

**IRLP node 3636** which is on East Tiger and connects the westside BEARS repeater into reflector 9075 and hence the KBARA system, is currently down and has been for the last few weeks. They have been unable to get to site so far to repair it. SNOBVARC has been linking their Couger Mountain UHF repeater into the reflector from 7am to 8am each morning so we still hear some of the westside stations for the morning net, but otherwise we do not have access to the west side.

**EchoLink.** Our president Dave K7DSR has offered to host EchoLink. I will get the equipment to him over the next week and we can look forward to getting EchoLink back as an option for checking into the KBARA system. It will still be a couple of weeks to get it going since Dave is very busy with work now, as well as some cables having to be made up to get everything working again.

**Mica Peak 147.38.** Betsy and I finally got the wideband software from Kenwood for our new TKR D710 repeater after months of waiting. I was able to get it to work but was having problems getting audio inputs and outputs. I got some help to interface it with the IRLC controller from Dale KE7VMN, a Kenwood technician, and after several hours he found that the model of Kenwood we were sold will only output digital data and not analogue. This was very disappointing news after all the time we have spent on getting this up and running. So it is back to the drawing board for a new repeater for Mica.

**Lookout 147.02.** The Lookout Pass repeater is working well on a stand-alone basis, but we are still experiencing problems with the UHF link to Mica. It will work well for quite a while but then we get sessions of a lot of interference and have to shut down



# KBARA Technical Update

by Jim, N7WRR

the link. I think the source may be at Mica since I have heard of another station having similar problems on UHF. They have not been able to track down the source since it can go a half a day to over a day before it starts in. I have purchased a high quality narrow, low loss band pass filter tuned for the link receive frequency. It will be a couple weeks before I can get up to Mica to get it installed, but will hope that it will take care of the Lookout link problems.

**Stensgar 147.36.** After all the work at Stensgar we continue to have some issues. It works fairly well most of the time, but the transmit will cut out on occasion for signals coming into the 147.36 until the repeater drops and resets. This doesn't happen for signals from the controller via the links. I have all the timeouts set to very long intervals so that is not the cause. Not sure of the problem, but I think it is from an overload due to all the interference we are getting from Avista as reported last quarter: the VHF signal being received along with all the Avista interference may be causing the transmitter to shut down until it reset

## Jack Williams, W7HNH, SK

by Betsy, N7WRQ

As I recall, the first time we heard Jack W7HNH, he was directing his Evergreen Intertie control operator, Walt KB7NEM ("Never Ending Meglomaniac") to lock the controller after some egregious intentional interference over the system. Jack had a commanding voice and presence, and one did not argue with him. He was known to us as "Mr. Intertie", and he then presided over the operator codes to the Intertie, handing them out only to Amateur Radio operators who would provide proof of license. Over the years, we stayed in touch with Jack as he helped maintain sites at Mt Baldi and East Tiger, all part of the Intertie. We would see him at the yearly Mike and Key swap meet in Puyallup, discussing the various issues with the system. Later, he generously offered to tune up the KBARA duplexers at the repeater sites, while staying at our house during his visit. He was a strong advocate of maintaining the radio links between eastern and western Washington, and always offered his time, money and energy to do so. We were saddened to hear of his passing, and will miss him very much.





# Weather Balloon Tracking

by Scott, KA7FVV

A new hobby I have taken up as of late, is monitoring and tracking weather balloons. Chuck, WB7NNF started talking with several of us about this on the WA7DRE Morning D-Star Nets. Our National Weather Service (NWS) office in Airway Heights had just changed to new radiosonde devices that broadcast a 100 mw signal at 403.21 MHz FM. This was a change from the 1.680 GHz units they were using. This makes monitoring much easier for us amateurs since most any of our radio equipment will receive this frequency. Balloons are launched twice daily at 0400 and 1600 hours local time. They can be tracked on the web site, sondehub.org or radiosonde.info. I prefer sondehub.org. There was one receive station by University High School that would pass the information received on to these web sites. I started doing research on how to decode the data from the radiosonde. I found a ham in Italy that builds and sells a receiver called a MySondyGo. See this web site for info on these units, <https://mysondy.altervista.org/mysondygo.php>. This unit connects via Bluetooth to an app on an android phone or tablet and relays the received information, Lat/Long, distance and speed to the tablet where it is displayed on a map. I also was corresponding with a ham in Salt Lake City, UT that is the admin of the Facebook page, Radiosonde North America, NWS Weather Balloon. He was able to give me information on obtaining a receiver that feeds into the sondehub.org web site.

I now have my own receiver setup with a Diamond X-50 vertical antenna feeding the web site. I have been able to track the balloons down to around 6000 feet or sometimes lower depending on where they are and the terrain. The MySondyGo is used to do mobile tracking.

I have recovered two balloons so far. The first one landed northwest of town off Indian Trail and Rutter Parkway. Not having the MySondyGo yet I had to do an old fashioned hidden transmitter hunt for this one. I used my Icom IC-R20 receiver and Elk antenna. With the attenuator on I had a full scale signal close to the radiosonde. Removing the antenna I could hear the transmission loud and clear with attenuation still on. Balloon was about 100 feet from me.

The second recovery was with Chuck, WB7NNF and myself. We tracked one to just northwest of the Coeur d'Alene Airport. It looked at first like it was going to land around Newman Lake or Hauser. We were parked at the Newman Lake Post Office and the estimated landing spot jumped to over by the airport. This we were watching on sondehub.org that was using info from my receive station. We were also tracking with the MySondyGo and tablet. After jumping around with in a mile radius above the airport it finally settled down. My home station lost it at about a mile high. Tracking with the tablet we drove toward the indicated location and the balloon landed in an open field about 1000 feet from us and we were able to take a video of the balloon landing. Driving closer to where it landed, it was about a 400 foot walk to recover the radiosonde.

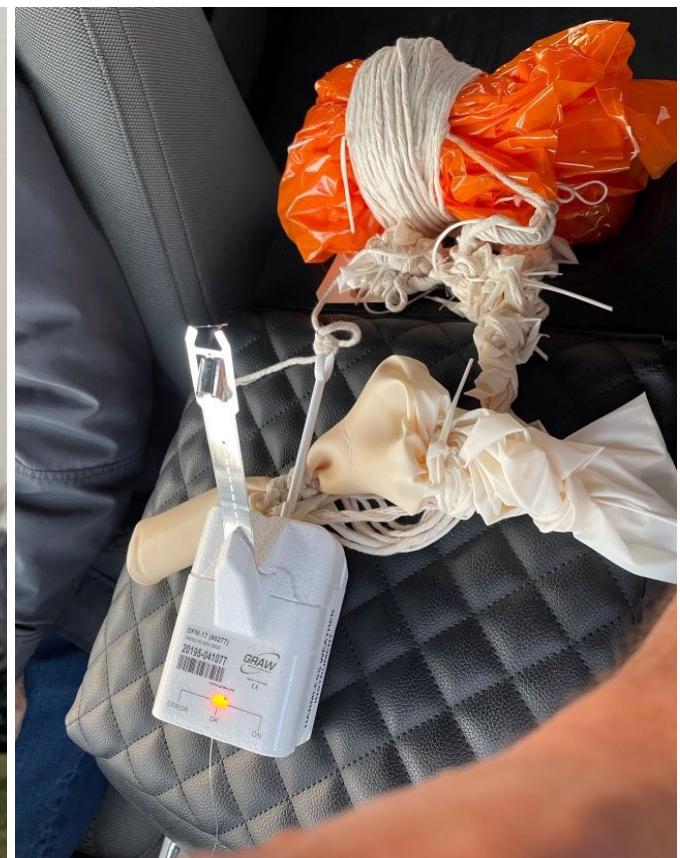
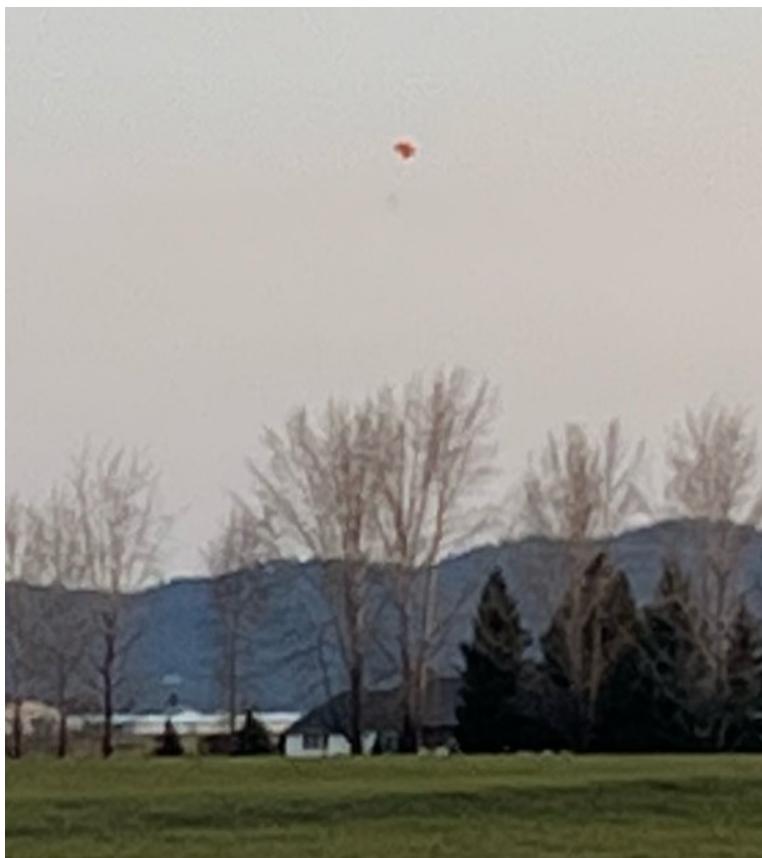
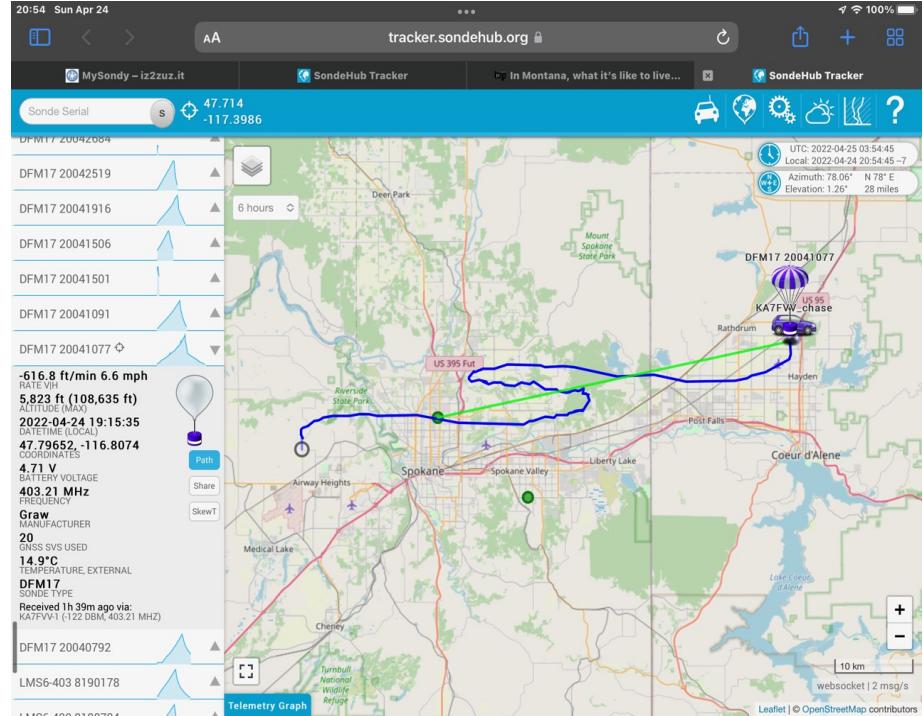
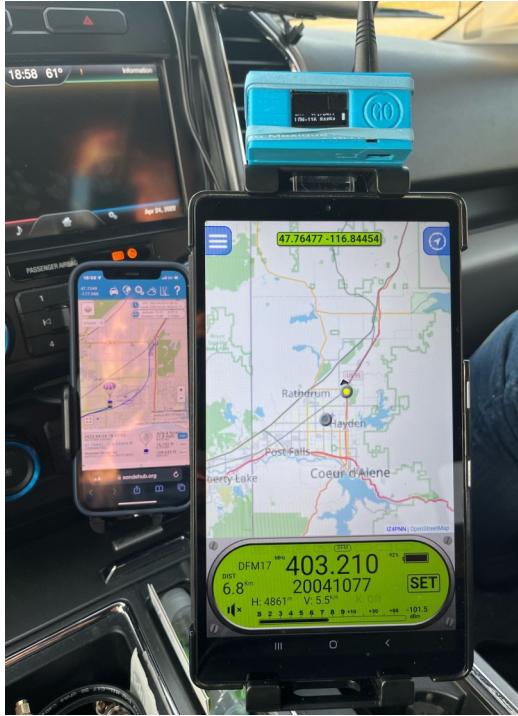
I know this got long winded but I hope you found it interesting. Recovering these seems to be more popular in Europe than it is here. The ham in Salt Lake City recovers many in his area and in southern Idaho. There is also recovery activity in the Salem, OR area as well. Take a look at the link on my web site at [ka7fvv.net](http://ka7fvv.net). Please see the next page for pictures of the recovery Chuck and I did.

The weather service does not want these returned, so we will just add to our collection and have the thrill of the chase.



# Weather Balloon Tracking

by Scott, KA7FVV



## KBARA REPEATER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS 2022

We wish to thank the following contributors for their very generous donations to this year's Repeater Fund. For the year 2022 to date, \$2, has been donated.

### Platinum Contribution Contributions \$100 and over

Wilber KD7QLT  
Greg K2GEP  
Jim KM7H

Jim K7PDZ  
Dennis KF7UTH  
Richard K7PHM

Allan KE7SH

### Gold Contribution Contributions from \$50-\$99

Bob KG7RQN

### Silver Contribution Contributions from \$21-\$49

Gary KJ7SJY  
Valaire KG7OWX

Murray KG7OWY

Don N9OHG

### Bronze Contribution Contributions from \$1-\$20

Mark W7MRK  
Cyril WA7LOV  
Brian KI7KEU  
Dillon KJ7LVO  
Gary K7AKE  
Vern N7GTB

Ron N7AWD  
Dan KD2AN  
Todd K7MAT  
Claude KB7WB  
Tony K9BMC  
Don KA7SMU

Russ KG7BIO  
Shane KK7SJM  
Marc KK7EFQ  
Kevin WE7KVV  
Sarah WE7SRH

## KBARA Members for 2022

Call	Name	Call	Name	Call	Name
KD7AAT	John P. Myers Jr.	N1NG	Michael Maxson		
K7AKE	Gary A Peterson	AK2O	Karl Shoemaker		
KD2AN	Dan Latuseck	W7OE	John P. Dempster		
WB7AUK	Art Gemmrig	N9OHG	Donald Wright		
N7AWD	Ronald K Hess	KG7OWU	Thomas W. Rogers		
KK7AWK	David Hartson	KG7OWV	Laurie H. Rogers		
KG7BIO	Russell Joe Atchison	KG7OWX	Valarie Poler		
K9BMC	Tony J Rutz	KG7OWY	Murray Poler		
KA7BMX	Charles George	AA7P	Richard J. Hebel		
KI7BXW	Kellee Gibbs	K7PDZ	James Long		
WA7CBX	Bernie Frazier	K7PHM	Richard M Flynn		
KK7CUN	Sarah Miller	KD7QLT	Wilber H. Earl		
KK7CUO	Kevin Miller	AG7QP	Frank E Hutchison		
KK7DBC	Scott Carswell	WA7ROS	Anna M. Reeves		
KA7DKV	Russell Doyl	KG7RQN	Robert Walker		
KG7DQP	Tom Faust	K1RR	Glen Ahlbom		
KK7DRI	Lorelei Hartley	KB7RWA	Daryl Paul		
K7DSR	David E Carleton	KG7SD	Richard Thornton		
KK7DTA	Cameron Wadsworth	KE7SH	Allan A Bonney		
KK7EFQ	Marc Teeters	KK7SJM	Shane Moscatelli		
KE7EQP	Bruce McNett	KJ7SJY	Gary Collins		
KG7FOF	Jeff Person	KA7SMU	Donald Kolb		
N9FOX	Barbara J. Moore	KF7UTH	Dennis P Roberts		
KI7FSG	Brandon Wagner	KB7WB	Claude Shook		
KA7FVV	Scott P. Harvey	WA7WKX	Stephen Lalonde		
N7GEG	Jake McCarty	N7WRQ	Elizabeth Ashleman		
K2GEP	Gregory Preuss	N7WRR	James Ashleman		
KB7GJY	Allen Gemmrig	W7WTO	Royal Moore		
N7GTB	Vernon VanZandt	AD7XH	Richard L Schultz		
KM7H	Jim Johnson	KB7YGR	Teresa (Terry) George		
KK9HAM	Albin Ennsthaler	KJ7ZXF	Mike Klungland		
K7HPT	Mark Van Winkle				
W7HTA	Anderson Jr Henry				
KG7IQP	Duane A DePoe				
KF7JJC	Roger Krug				
KD7JUL	Julie Carleton				
KI7KEU	Brian Schaeffer				
KJ7KXL	John Beaudreault				
KI7LEZ	David M Henderson				
W7LKR	Patrick Brandt				
N7LL	David Oglesby				
WA7LOV	Cyril T Wolff				
K7LRG	Leonard Gross				
KJ7LVO	Dillon Wilke				
KL7M	David Cloyd				
K7MAT	K. Todd Wagner				
K7MM	Dan Ransom				
W7MN	William Jeremie Dunlap				
W7MRK	Mark Matthies				



# 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Pacific Northwest DX Convention

Presented by the Spokane DX Association



5 – 7 AUGUST 2022  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

At the Centennial Hotel  
303 W North River Drive  
Spokane, WA  
(636) 736-4071

<https://pacificnwdxconvention.com/centennial-hotel-2/>  
Special Convention Rates

Seminars – Saturday Banquet – Sunday Brunch  
Commercial Displays – Door Prizes  
Raffles – Hospitality Room – DXCC Card Checking

For more information, registration, paypal,  
cancellation, refund, and mask policy, visit:  
<http://www.pacificnwdxconvention.com>

Note: We must follow the state of Washington Mask  
Policy and hotel policy in effect at the time of the  
convention. We expect that every convention attendee  
will do likewise.



**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 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](http://www.kbara.org). See us on Facebook.



# Upcoming Hamfests and Events

Courtesy of N7CFO.com

Check the above page for cancelation as events get closer.

**May 7. Spout Springs Repeater Association Swapmeet.** Franklin County Emergency Operations Center, 1101 E. Ainsworth, Pasco, WA. Contact: [Events@WF7S.net](mailto:Events@WF7S.net)

**May 7. MicroHams Digital Conference.** <http://microhams.com/>

**May 14. Stanwood Camano Hamfest,** Stanwood, WA. [https://scarcwa.org/ham\\_fest.shtm](https://scarcwa.org/ham_fest.shtm) . *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Flyer <https://w7pig.scarcwa.org/images/swapmeet/SWAPMEETFLYER.pdf>

**May 21. River Radio Campout.** Pateros WA. Sponsored by the Okanogan County Amateur Radio Club W7ORC. <https://www.facebook.com/W7ORC> Flyer in PDF. (28K)

**May 21. Winston Tail Gate Swap Meet,** Winston Oregon. Contact: Dennis, AG7K. [mroencontact@gmail.com](mailto:mroencontact@gmail.com), (541) 733-9850.

**June 3-5. SEA-PAC Hamfest and ARRL Northwestern Division Convention.** Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event* [info@seapac.org](mailto:info@seapac.org) . [www.seapac.org/](http://www.seapac.org/) . [SeaPac Wave Update - March, 2022 edition](http://www.seapac.org/SeaPacWaveUpdate-March2022.pdf)

**June 10 - 12. Wenatchee ACARC Hamfest,** Dryden, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event* <https://www.applecityarc.com/> Flyer in PDF.

**June 11.- PLARC Annual Old Fashion Tailgate'r.** Port Ludlow, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/plarc-annual-old-fashion-tailgate-r>

**June 18. 4th Annual Spokane Tail Gate Swap.** Spokane, Washington. **CANCELED.** <https://kbara.org/> Flyer in PDF (104K) Contact Duane, KE7NUB, (509)435-7718

**July 15-17. 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. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.gwhamfest.org/>

**July 23. Chehalis Valley ARC Ham Radio Tailgate Swapmeet.** Southwest Washington Fairgrounds, Chehalis, WA. <http://www.cvars.org/> Flyer in PDF. (108K) Contact: Chuck Tifft W7TU, [chuckw6rd@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckw6rd@yahoo.com) Cell (209)247-2952.

**July 30. Yakima Radio Club N7YRC tailgate Swap Meet,** Union Gap, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Flyer in PDF (150K)

**August 5-7. 65th Pacific NW DX Convention.** Spokane, WA. <https://pacificnwdxconvention.com/> Flyer in PDF. (170K)

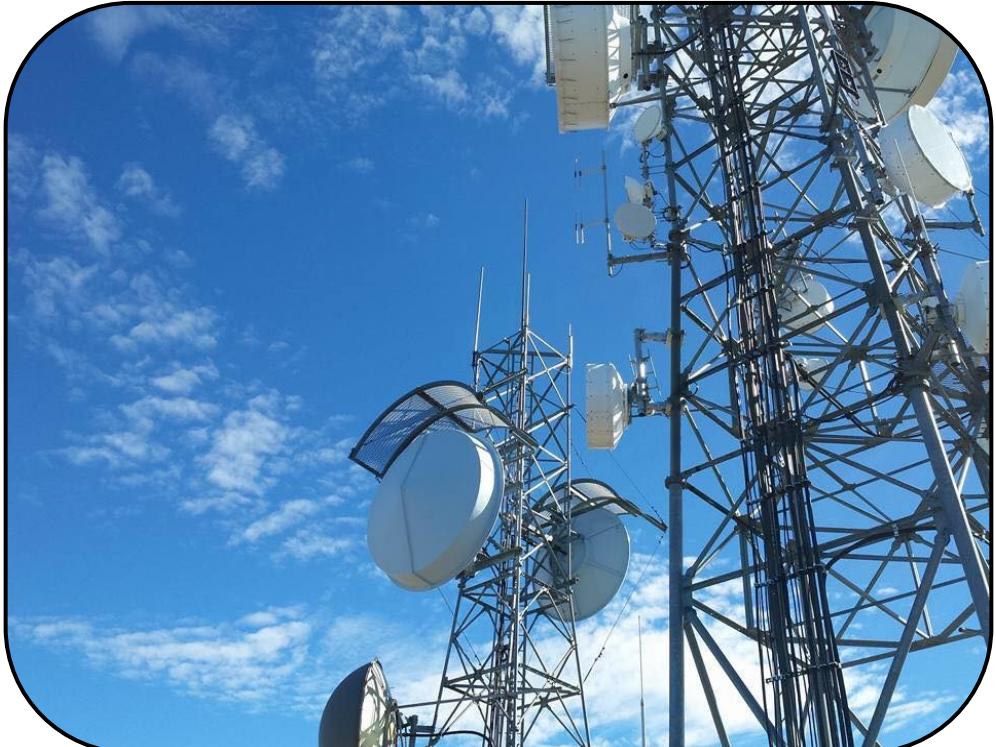
**August. Puget Sound Antique Radio Association Swapmeet.** <https://www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/>

**September 24. Spokane Hamfair.** University High School in the Spokane Valley. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Contact Dave, K7DSR, [davcarleton@gmail.com](mailto:davcarleton@gmail.com) .

## Area Repeaters

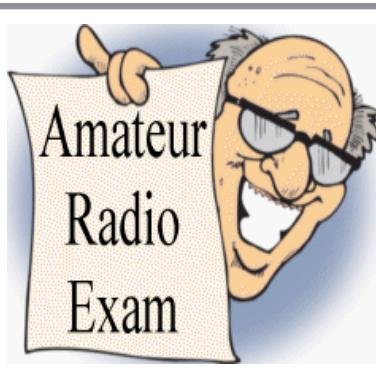
# KBARA Repeaters and Echolink/IRLP Nodes

Frequency	CTCSS Tone	Location	Call sign	RF Link
<b>Repeaters</b>				
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
<b>Links</b>				
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](mailto: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](http://www.kbara.org).

## **KAMIAK BUTTE AMATEUR REPEATER ASSOCIATION**

**PO Box 30801**

**Spokane WA 99223-3013**