

KBARA Gazette

Quarterly Journal of the Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association

Winter 2022

Happy New Year

Continuing to dodge Covid-19 variants

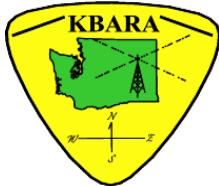
As I wrote this cover article a year ago, we were hopeful that we were at the end of the pandemic that had hit our lives and events so hard in 2020. Much to our dismay, we were sadly disappointed. Our major northwest hamfests were cancelled in 2021, Puyallup and Seaside. Then as September came around our local hamfest was cancelled as well. Thanks to Duane, KE7NUB, we had a great tailgate hamfest at Planters Ferry Park Sports Center parking lot. Being outside and all being masked made it work. For now if you look at the Upcoming Hamfests and Events page I have the whole year listed. It looks like hamradio event organizers are being cautious. For now Puyallup, which I plan on attending, is on as well as Seaside. Keep an eye on the N7CFO.com page for updates on upcoming events as the omicron variant continues to spread. Everyone stay safe and get your vaccinations so we can keep our events open, and get over this pandemic, and get life back to normal. Or as they like some like to say, "The New Normal."

Scott, KA7FVV

20th Annual Ham Radio Holiday Luncheon

Camaraderie, just plain "rag chewing", laughter, over-eating.....yes, you guessed it.....our annual Ham Radio holiday luncheon, held on December 18, 2021 at the Longhorn Barbecue Restaurant has come & gone. Attended by the local clubs as usual, some dozen folks braved the snowstorm & virus bug to catch up with long-time & new friends & chow down on Spokane's best BBQ ribs. It was the 20th annual holiday gathering. Unfortunately, no pictures were taken this year as yours truly was too busy visiting/eating, but in the archives is a picture collage of good times past.

Betsy, N7WRQ



KBARA Technical Update

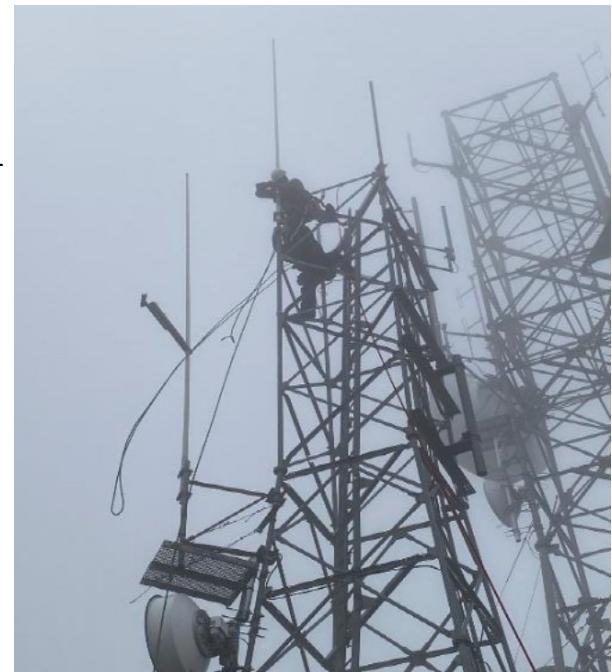
by Jim, N7WRR

Mica Peak 147.38: In December Mica was not able to link into the rest of the system via the 220Mhz link. The antenna was bent and pointing at the ground from the weight of the rind ice and snow on it. On December 22, 2021, I replaced the link antenna with a much more robust 5 element 220Mhz antenna that I had and a new stout mounting bracket that Glen K1RR manufactured. One of my neighbors went up with me to hold the ladder and assist. The link has been working well since. The photo shows the newly installed 220Mhz antenna; also note the Lookout link antenna mounted on the pole with all the rind ice on it.

Also Betsy N7WRR and I have bought a new repeater for Mica to replace the Yaesu on site to achieve better audio. We are currently waiting for the software to arrive so we can program it. However it may take a while yet; getting wide band software from Kenwood can take quite a while.

Lookout 147.02: The Lookout Pass repeater was working well with check-ins from quite a few places in Western Montana. However, the signal received over the link to Mica slowly degraded over the last month or so; Lookout still hears us fine but we don't receive much of a signal back to Mica. So we have left it disconnected most of the time since it just keys up the system, but with no audio. The cause is unknown at present. I don't think it is the rind ice on the antenna at Mica since the transmit is working fine to Lookout. It could be a feed line / antenna problem or low transmitter output at Lookout, or strong desensitivity at Mica from all the high RF at site, or a combination of all the above. I will look into a 440Mhz band pass filter for the link radio at Mica and see if that will fix it; the one installed for 2m at Mica made a big difference.

Stensgar 147.36: The Stensgar repeater has not been receiving well for some time. When Jeremiah KD7DMP went up with me to install the Motorola Quantar repeater last August, he said that our antenna was way out of the band and needed replacing. On November 14 Dave K7DSR, and I met William KJ7WOK at the site and replaced the antenna. It turned out that was the day of the strong wind storm which made the tower work difficult (photo of Dave and bill on tower), but the job was completed. On checking the system we found there was still a high SWR reading where the feed line enters the building. We deduced it was a bad feed line. In talking with our professional tech Jeremiah KD7DMP he said it was the hard line, and with the isolators heating up he said they could fail. The repeater was cutting out for short periods from time to time and he was worried that it would cause damage to the repeater if not corrected right away. On January 18th Jeremiah and one of his techs went to site on his snow cat to replace the hard line and isolators. After extensive testing on site they found





KBARA Technical Update

by Jim, N7WRR

the hard line was good and the apparent high SWR was from very strong RF feeding down the hard line created by Avista Power Company. This was causing very high desense of the receiver. Jeremiah made a notch filter with what he had at site, but more filtering will be needed. He also installed the preamp that I gave him. There is still a lot of desense, but the receive is better than before. However Avista needs to do some basic filtering and we are looking for a better filter to install next summer. I hope the preamp will keep working until then, but they don't last long in such high RF environments.

EchoLink: We are still looking for someone to host EchoLink. We have all the equipment [radio, antenna, computer, and IRLP/EchoLink control board] and need someone with internet and a path to Stensgar who would be willing to host it.

West Twin 147.02: The Moscow area repeater has been working flawlessly. In winters past our host First Step Internet have had some power outages due to storms but this year has been rock solid.

Mike and Key (Puyallup Hamfest) in 2015. This is what it usually looks like, non-pandemic.





**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. See us on Facebook.



Upcoming Hamfests and Events

Courtesy of N7CFO.com

Check the above page for cancelation as events get closer.

March 12. Mike & Key Swapmeet. Puyallup, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <https://www.mikeandkey.org/SwapMeet.php> **This event will be requiring proof of vaccination.**

April. Comm Academy. Seattle, WA. <http://commacademy.org/>

April. MicroHams Digital Conference. <http://microhams.com/>

June. 4th Annual Tail Gate Hamfest. Spokane, Washington. <https://kbara.org/> Contact Duane, KE7NUB, (509) 435-7718

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 . www.seapac.org/ . [SeaPac Wave Update - December 2021.](#)

June 10 - 12. Wenatchee ACARC Hamfest, Dryden, WA. <https://www.applecityarc.com/>

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. <http://www.gwhamfest.org/>

July 23. Chehalis Valley ARC Ham Radio Tailgate Swapmeet. Southwest Washington Fair-grounds, Chehalis, WA. <http://www.cvars.org/> Contact: Chuck Tifft W6RD, chuckw6rd@yahoo.com Cell (209)247-2952.

August 5-7. 65th Pacific NW DX Convention. Spokane, WA. [Flyer in PDF.](#) (170K)

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

September. N7YRC Tailgate/Swapmeet. Union Gap, WA.

September. NWAPRS Summer Gathering. Valley Camp, North Bend, WA. Contact: Thom, K7FZO@WA7VC.org

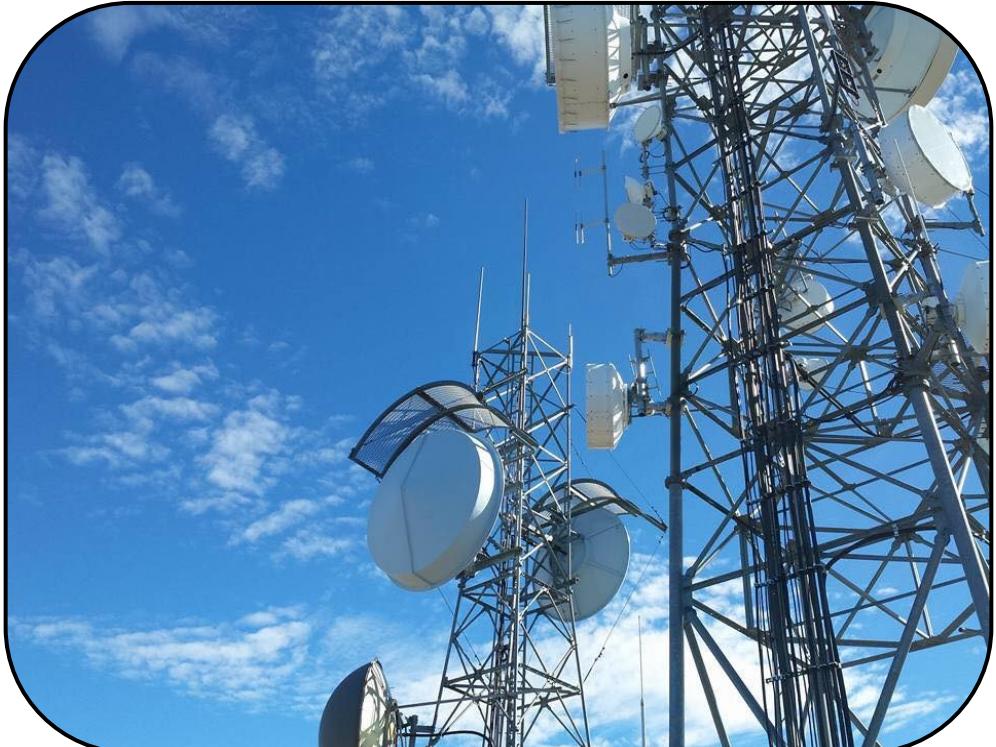
September. Spokane Hamfair.

October. Swaptoberfest. Rickreall, OR. Contact: info@swaptoberfest.org

Area Repeaters

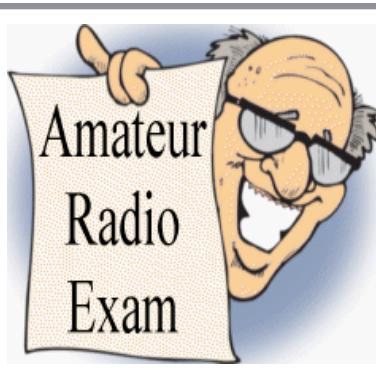
KBARA Repeaters and Echolink/IRLP Nodes

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:



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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.

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