



THE KBARA GAZETTE

Volume 3 Issue 1

The Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association Newsletter

January 1996

KBARA

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From the Editors Soap Box

and the hope that nothing bad happens in the new year to change that. Now for the good news! All of the machines are working this year! We have had some interesting problems in the past but all seems to be worked out and everything seems like it is working fine. The 147.02 machine on Lookout Pass over on the Idaho/Montana border is working very well. It did have a short pause when the power pole fell but as soon as power was restored it went back up and is doing just fine. Even the packet Node and equipment is up and running and working without problems. (I wish I could say the same for my TNC. It seems that it has a mind of its own these days) Now if we were to have a lot of snow then things would be working a little differently. It's always the time of year when we can't get too the sites that things happen. Now for the Bad news! KBARA needs your support in order to stay on some of these hill tops. For those of you who send in your support money each year I thank you. For those of you who use the machines please help to support them. We in the Inland Northwest are blessed with people who are willing to put repeaters up on hilltops and keep them open and running for general Amateur use. I've heard many a story about people from out of our area traveling through to other destinations wandering through the Repeater Guild looking to see if they can hit anything and get a signal through. Most are surprised to find that we have so many Open Repeaters. Most of these people are used to finding one Open system to be able to talk on and the rest are closed repeaters and are not for public use. This is possible only from the support that its users can give it so before you put this newsletter down, check in the back of it for a Support Form and fill it out and send it in. If you have already sent in your support then just kick back and enjoy.. As the Secretary of KBARA I get to send out things like New Membership cards and Repeater

Well we have walked into another year with our heads up high showing a proud expression, a smile on our faces

Codes page so that it can better be read by the average eye. I don't know what or how it happened but the last batch of copies looked a little on the fuzzy side. If you wore glasses you might have thought it was time to get a new pair. The new page should look like it should. We will be running out of Membership cards in the not too distant future and at this point figure that the new ones will look just like the old ones with the possible exception of the back where the Emergency Auto-Patch Quick Dial numbers reside. The numbers that are on the backs of those cards out there in your hands now are out of date and are no longer in use. In other words the speed dial numbers will not connect you to who you need. An effort is being made to update these numbers and get them into the machine. When that happens you will hear about it both on the Net on Wednesday nights and here in the Newsletter.

Now on to some 'Plaud-its' and other fun stuff. I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to a hand full of people out there that have given time and effort to the KBARA system and to Ham Radio in general. (I have a pretty big list so I'll only list a few this time around) Our current President KA7SUZ JoAnn and KB7GJY Allen for taking a sizable cash donation that was given to the Toys For Tots Campaign by the IE VHF Club here in Spokane and turning it into the badly needed toys for donation. I would like to have been a fly in the corner when the check was handed to JoAnn just to see the look on her face as she giggled and ran off to do something she really enjoys. "SHOP" My guess is that Allen went along just in case his Mother decided to go to Mexico. After all Allen isn't known for missing free plane rides. (chuckle) To the repeater Control Operators who even when you aren't watching, they are listening, so that if there is a problem it can be taken care of quickly. To N7IS George who every week brings us news from the ARRL during the Wednesday evening net. I know of only one week that George didn't make it for the whole year. (Thank you George. There are those that do listen to what you have to say with interest) To Art for putting all that equipment up there on those hill-tops where we can't get at them in the Winter time. If they were down lower and closer to us we would not have the coverage that they do from here to eternity. To the Net Manager for keeping a leash on that darn Net Control Operator. (Now if I could only afford those lip training classes so I could learn how not to trip over them) To the Treasurer for making special trips to get more paper work for me to play with just before I send out the Newsletter. (I asked

her too so that everyone could get one of these nice Newsletters) I guess I'll stop there for this issue but hey who knows. Next quarter you might find your name in here. 73 de N7VBW Glenn

1995 LEAP SECOND

And finally, were you aware that 1995 was actually a bit longer of a year than originally planned? That's because the International Earth Rotation Service -- yes, the really is an International Earth Rotation Service -- the service added a leap second to the end of the year. Or was it to the beginning of 1996?

What actually occurred was that a second of time was inserted in the interval between 23 hours, 59 minutes and 59 seconds on December 31st of 1995 and 0 hours, 0 minutes and 0 seconds on January 1st of 1996. So if New Years Eve seemed a tiny bit longer to you, now you know why.

Taken From Amateur Radio Newsline #960 06 Jan 1996

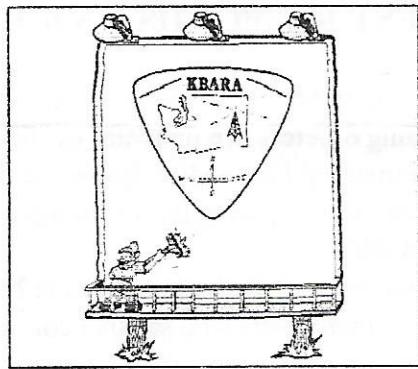
Toys For Tots Campaign

As most of you who listen to the KBARA Nets on Wednesday nights have heard, your part time net control operator and current Secretary has been attempting to get some of the Amateurs in the listening areas of the KBARA repeater system to stand up and take notice that there are a lot of children out there that are less fortunate than we are. Along about Christmas time when the feelings of the Christmas spirit run high and most of our pocket-books run low is also the time of year that the blissful memories of Santa Clause come popping into the youngest at heart. I asked several times on the air for the donations to the Toys-For-Tots so that some of the not so well off might smile a bit brighter on Christmas morning. I wish I could take credit for such a grand thing



but it was the kind hearts of the Amateur Radio Community and a substantial donation by the I.E.VHF Club that made things happen. When all was said and done that poor white tree that sits in amongst the hanging rack of do-dads that sit is the middle of A.R.T.S. local Ham Store was barely visible. Toys were stacked and packed around the tree like never before. Two Marines actually came out to the shop with a truck to pick up the toys the Friday before Christmas. I'm sure that there were a lot of smiles out there on Christmas morning. With that I would like to thank all of you that found a few extra dollars this year for some of the less fortunate local children. For many of them it meant that Santa Clause hadn't forgotten them and will be kept alive in the hearts of the young for another year.

73 de N7VBW



A Note From the President

Recently there has been discussion of having Personali-Tees of Post Falls (they were at the Spokane hamfest) make tee-shirts for KBARA. Please mark your preferences from the following. If you will not plan to buy a shirt, we need to know that too.

A basic shirt, size S-L with a dark 1 - color pocket logo on a light colored shirt is the least expensive, about \$7.25.

A basic shirt, size S-L with a dark 2 - color pocket logo on a light colored shirt, about \$8.00.

A basic shirt, size S-L with a dark 3 - color pocket logo on a light colored shirt, about \$8.75.

A dark colored shirt, size S-L with a light logo, add 50¢. Or - we could have a full size transfer of the logo, for the

back of the shirt.

A basic shirt, size S-L with a dark 1 - color full sized logo on a light colored shirt, about \$7.75.

A basic shirt, size S-L with a dark 2 - color full sized logo on a light colored shirt, about \$9.00.

A basic shirt, size S-L with a dark 3 - color pocket logo on a light colored shirt, about \$10.25.

A dark colored shirt, size S-L with a light logo, add 50¢ more.

Or - we could have both pocket and back:

A basic shirt, size S-L with a dark 1 - color full sized logo on a light colored shirt, about \$8.50.

A basic shirt, size S-L with a dark 2 - color full sized logo on a light colored shirt, about \$10.30.

A basic shirt, size S-L with a dark 3 - color pocket logo on a light colored shirt, about \$12.25.

A dark colored shirt, size S-L with a light logo, add 50¢ more.

For 1X, 2X and 3X sizes add \$3-\$4. Also, for the last choice, the transfer includes a full and 2 pockets. Perhaps the second could be put on a hat. These prices might change slightly due to increases we all experience, and we have to add ID state sales tax.

So, mark your choices for the shirt you like better. (Remember if you would not buy one at all, we need to know that too, as a minimum number needs to be ordered.)

The KBARA colors on the membership card is green on green. If we stay with green then it might be light green (or white shirts) with dark green transfers, or dark shirts with light green or white transfers.

You choice here is: Stay with green. Or, write in your own suggestion:

Now, the last decision. The KBARA logo (on membership cards) should be on the shirt. HOWEVER, since it is said we may have the largest repeater coverage area known (all supported by one group), we discussed a KBARA logo on a pocket, and a full sized "map" for the back noting the repeater sites and an indication of coverage areas.

So, there you have. Pick a "shirt", pick a color, pick a design. (Pocket, back, pocket and back.) The majority will make the decision. If you haven't sent your support payment in to KBARA, fill out your choices, wrap your check in the "ballot", mail it all to us. If you have paid, please take a moment and a stamp to let us know. As always, ballots and dues can be left at A.R.T.S. We hope to have the results of the votes at the Spring get together.



ARRL VS. MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE

Topping the news this week is word that the ARRL appears to be getting ready to keep a promise to go the political route to end malicious interference on the ham radio bands. This, in response to the rising tide of unresolved malicious interference complaints filed by the ham radio community. And as a result, an ARRL Executive Committee ad hoc panel has recommended that the League look to Congress for any long term solution.

Writing in the December 26th issue of the ARRL Letter, Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, the League's Administrative and Public Affairs Manager says that as a part of the continuing effort by the ARRL to get enforcement action, the League has started to round up support from several congressmen from areas where local hams are experiencing particularly intolerable interference problems. Mansfield says that over the past three years the league has constantly sought action in two cases of repeated and persistent malicious interference. In one case, the local FCC office has been able to at least defuse the situation. But the problem continues in the other with no action on the part of the enforcement arm of the FCC in sight.

Taken From Amateur Radio Newsline #960 06 Jan 1996

XMAS 6 METER OPENING LASTED FOUR DAYS

The Christmas Day 6 meter opening we reported on last week expanded up to two meters and lasted almost a week. It also may have been worldwide throughout the northern hemisphere. As late as Thursday night, December the 28th, reports were showing up on the VHF reflector indicating that single and double hop 6 meter E layer contacts were taking place all across North America, into the Caribbean and into parts of Mexico.

Early on Tuesday the 26th, postings began to show up telling of 700 to 1000 mile E layer contacts on 2 meter SSB and CW. Most of these taking place north to south along the Eastern seaboard. Reports filtering in late in the week indicated that similar conditions were taking place all

across Europe and into Asia though few actual contacts were detailed. The opening seemed to end early on Friday the 29th, with no reports of any 6 or 2 meter E skip since then.

The sad part of it all is that FM users seemed totally oblivious to this truly amazing band opening. Though word of it spread quickly within the VHF DX community, when word finally reached the bulk of VHFFM users, most seem totally uninterested in the fact that their ten watt radio had the ability to work the world if they would only go to a simplex frequency and listen. Most seem to have stayed on their local repeaters and simply ignored the possibility of working some truly rare DX.

Taken From Amateur Radio Newsline #960 06 Jan 1996

WEST RESPONDS ON 6 METERS

And speaking about working 6 meter DX, not all new hams coming 6 meters are unaware of the band plan and not all commercial ham radio schools are diploma mills. So says nationally known ham radio instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA.

West takes issue with claims made by a number of longtime six meter users who say that commercial schools are turning out newcomers who are coming to the band and setting up FM operations anywhere they please. He says that his students know right from wrong when they walk out the classroom door:

"With regard to licensing mills that produce amateur operators that are not familiar where FM is allowed in the normal portion of the band and where weak signal work is allowed. Here at radio school we take great pain to insure that the students enjoy weak signal operating as well as enjoy the other modes like packet, amateur TV, and of course FM by showing them in class how to operate on these specialized modes. And that every mode on the radio has a specific spot." WB6NOA

West says that he believes it to be the responsibility of every ham radio instructor to do more than just teach code and theory. WB6NOA says that basic operating skills must be a part of the curriculum as well.

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DX - WAKE ISLAND

The Dateline DX Association has announced that its plans to activate Wake Island from January 24th to the 31st. This will be a one week operation with the intention of taking KH9 off the DX Bulletin's most needed 100 list and at the same time satisfying the large European demand. The call sign to be used will be announced shortly before commencing operations to minimize pirate activity.

Operators are AL7EL, WB2DND, KC7V and K4HQI. Activity will be on all bands including the WARC bands. There will be a major emphasis on RTTY and satellite, as these modes have never been activated from Wake. QSL via:

AL7EL, Tom Harrell
27257 Nellis Road
Evans Mills, NY
13637

*Taken From Amateur Radio Newsline #960 06 Jan
1996*

Used Equipment For Sale

Icom IC-706 HF Mobile with 6 meters and 2 meters	\$1257.00
Icom IC-2000H Mobile VHF Transceiver.....	\$340.00
Icom IC-2GXAT 2 Meter Hand Held.....	\$335.00
Icom 2 Meter Repeater	\$1700.00
Kenwood TS-430S HF Transceiver	\$425.00
AEA-PK88 TNC	\$95.00
Two GE 1/4 KW 2 Meter Amplifiers	\$150.00 ea.
Johnson 6000 450mHz Transceiver	\$100.00

The equipment above is available at A.R.T.S. For more information give him a call.



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KBARA SUPPORT FORM

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Amount Paid _____

Support is \$15.00 per year for Individuals, \$20.00 for Family Sponsorship (All must be living at the same address).

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'

