

# The KBARA Gazette

Volume 1 Issue 2 The Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association Newsletter January 1995

## Happy New Year

### KBARA OFFICIALS

<b>President</b>	
JoAnn Gemmrig	KA7SUZ
<b>Vice-President</b>	
Glenn Moore	N7VBW
<b>Secretary</b>	
Mable Babbitt	WB5AVH
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Mary Moore	AA7RT
<b>Technical Advisor</b>	
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<b>ARRL Reporter</b>	
George Bowman	N7IS
<b>Net Manager</b>	
Jessie (Ruby) Peterson	WO7C
<b>Walla Walla Area Representative</b>	
Jack Babbitt	WA5ZAY
<b>Spokane Area Representative</b>	
Karl Shoemaker	WA7YCP
<b>Roving Representative</b>	
Dick Wilcox	

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As is 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 machines on the air. Each of these machines require maintenance from time to time and it takes money to get the parts needed to make some of these repairs. I might also mention that we don't have any repeaters in the heart of any of the cities that we serve which means that all of them are on the tops of mountains. These locations offer the users a much wider range of operation but then these locations also cost a yearly fee for the site not to mention a building to put the radio gear in and something to put antennas on such as towers or telephone poles. Usually when something goes wrong on a hill-top there are a few of us who volunteer to go up and help with what we can but these sites are not always accessible year-round. A snow cat has been made available but there is one site that we don't think even it will make in the Winter with the snow on the ground. Just to name a few things that supporters should know about that don't always appear on the surface of things. Any and all support is always appreciated as well as any help on the hill-tops when something does go wrong. For those of you who do support the KBARA system, A big Thank You! For those of you who haven't made up your minds yet, check around and you might find that it's a better deal than you think. \$15.00 per year to help keep 5 linked repeaters on the air along with a Packet system is pretty cheap considering there are groups paying more money for less coverage..

## Equipment Updates

Repeaters with problems as of this printing are the 147.020 repeater on Lookout Pass. The repeater itself seems to be working just fine but the link between Lookout and Mica seems to have gone South. We are unable to get to the Hill-top at the moment but are working on a couple of snowmobiles that might make it. This would at least give us an idea as to what the problem is.

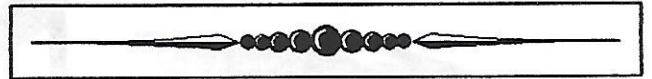
The 147.360 repeater has been having problems with an "Allegator" coming in and destroying the signal. The problem as possibly been identified but again we can't get to the hill-top to do anything about it. The Regional Auto-Patch has been turned off until the problem has been taken care of.

As far as the rest of the repeaters in the system, all is working well for the time being.

On the Packet front for KBARA a few things have been added to the installation since the last printing. I should mention that there were several of us on Mica in three feet of snow and on 80 foot poles or huddled inside an unheated building trying to get things to work right. Fortunately for us the FAA maintains the road to the top so when Art got the 4x4 stuck we didn't have to spend all day getting it out. The Node Stack has been updated to include the 220 back-bone after the Spokane Node Stack started having serious problems. Some background might be helpful here.

A few months ago the sysop of the Spokane VHF Club BBS decided it was time to step down from the system and pulled the plug. Coupled with a radio on the Spokane Node Stack that was not in the best of condition in the first place, things went down hill from there. With the loss of the VHF Club BBS Art, WB7AUK was asked to pick up the traffic flow in and out of Spokane. This has continued at the request of the new VHF Club BBS Sysop. This has given Scott, KA7FVV a chance to familiarize himself with the BBS software and operations. Most of the traffic into the Spokane area comes from Ellensburg and the N7HHU BBS. This includes all personal mail to users and the bulletins you read on the BBS. This is a very large volume of traffic and the sysop in Ellensburg will not forward to more than one BBS in the same area due to this volume. If the users of the BBS will note when they logon there is usually an average of 1000 active messages on the system. Most of these are bulletins are of the ALLUSA type. You will find these same messages on every packet BBS across the country. The flow

of these messages make the BBS interesting. If we only had personal traffic it would be a very boring place. This flow of messages goes to Art's BBS via a UHF channel off of his node stack on Mica. This keeps the Spokane 2 meter frequencies open for the users of the system. Arts system is also responding to other systems outside the Spokane area. The KBARA system is forwarding to 6 other systems only one of which is in the Spokane area. Between the improvements and cooperation of the sysops of each of the BBS systems everything has been moving along very nicely.



## GUIDE LINES THAT HELP

Ham Radio is a hobby. An enjoyable one. But one that depends on how we use the airways. Read the guidelines and review your operations habits.

1. Use the work "BREAK" for emergency and time-critical communications only. If someone says "BREAK" let them use the frequency immediately.
2. When entering a conversation, wait for a natural pause, then simply announce your call sign between transmissions. Try not to enter when someone is about to answer a question.
3. Always try to hit the machine 'Solid'. If your signal is weak because of your poor location or antenna, don't try to have a lengthy conversation unless you have an important message. It is irritating to listen to a scratchy in signal from a fringe area.
4. Several brief contacts are much better than one that goes on and on. Saying "Does anyone want to use the repeater" does not solve the problem. Most people won't interrupt even a long-winded QSO to call someone else.
5. Keep radios in good shape and use an antenna that does the job. Deviation should be limited to +/- 5 kHz and mike gain should be set to minimize distortion.
6. Avoid tying up a long-haul repeater for very long when simplex operation would do just as well. Don't work simplex on a repeater output frequency.
7. Try to avoid testing on repeater frequencies, but if you must, then Identify yourself. Remember, often you'll be getting into a repeater even if you don't hear it coming back to you.
8. Do Not kerchunk the machine. It irritates the hell

out of others and is illegal. Besides, it wouldn't break your jaw to identify.

9. If someone is making a call, give his party time to answer. If he's not mobile, it takes time to get to the mike. If you butt in, chances are he won't even get on the radio.

10. Don't be a freeloader, repeaters are expensive to put up and maintain. Hams have formed associations in order to pay the bills. If you don't use the repeater, fine. But if you do, then it's pretty rotten to not join and expect others to support your habit.

11. Leave the "Good Buddy" language back on the CB band. Phrases like "Back on our of here", "Mercy", "Be on the side", and "10-4" are frowned on.

12. Most important - BE FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE, AND HELPFUL. We have a good thing going. Ham Radio is fun and we must do our best to keep it that way!



## FROM THE EDITORS SOAP BOX

Well here I am again putting together the quarterly publication known to all of you now as the KBARA Gazette and thinking about all the help that I received with this issue. Fortunately this isn't the only newsletter that I have ever done so I remember what it was like. No matter how loud the editor cries nobody hears him. So as I was going through old newsletters and files that I thought might be interesting for the rest of you to read someone on the air said something to another that sort of clicked. 'Volunteers' get very little satisfaction out of life. I thought about this for a while. It sorta stuck in my craw as it were. Something about what was said just didn't seem to make sense or sound right or something. I just wasn't sure about that part. You know that some of the strangest things come out of the blue when you are doing something totally mundane and boring. (in this case it was my regular job) I actually started thinking about why I volunteer for so many things. You see, I'm one of those that sees something that will help someone out somehow and if nobody else will take the time to do it I will! And so I seem to be a chronic volunteer. This newsletter is a perfect example. This group called KBARA went without for more than a year, almost

two if memory serves, so I decided that since I had done something like this before maybe I could do it again for a nice bunch of people. And so I volunteered to take on the responsibility with the hopes that someone out there might like what they saw and would also participate by contributing an article or two. Maybe something good about a group of hams doing something nice in their area in the way of public service or just in general. There are a lot of us involved with ARES and I'm sure that someone could come up with something of interest in that area. The possibilities are as endless as the hobby of Amateur Radio. By now you are probably tired of reading my dribble about volunteers and wondering just what the point is. The point is that without us volunteers the hobby of Amateur Radio would have become a part of history a long time ago. So with that I will start at the top of the list (*not in any real order*) and mention a few people that have put forth considerable effort both in the hobby and for our tiny little group. KA7SUZ, JoAnn who is our current President giving countless hours of her time in helping to make sure that the supporters are looked after. Also making sure that the Standing Rules keep us a functioning body and not some wasted time zone. WB7AVH, Mable who is our current Secretary and responsible for keeping the records of the group. She set up a new Database from scratch which didn't take hours but days. WB7AUK, Art, now this one is a card to draw too. Working 6 days a week with his shop and then spending some of those Sundays on some distant hill-top trying to figure out what went wrong. And going to one hill-top and standing in three feet of snow and having to have his rig pulled out just because something had to be fixed and we could actually get there. (*Thank Goodness*) N7IS, George who shows up at every net to let everyone know what the ARRL has been up to and also giving us propagation reports and any other information that he feels a ham, even the beginners, might be able to use. WA5ZAY, WA7YCP, and N7VXC, Jack, Karl and Dick, our area representatives that wonder the country side and let people know that KBARA isn't a dragon breathing fire at them. WO7C, Jessie (*Ruby*) our Net Manager who has been known to thump Net Control Operators (*Insert my Name Here*) on the knuckles and have them sent home with tail tucked neatly between legs for doing things that should have been left up to her. (*After all that is what Net Managers are for right? Managing nets?*)

Supporters all over the country-side who only check in with their calls and a friendly 'Hello' and then disappear without a whisper. I have had many a great QSO with some of these people at Hamfests where I actually got to see them face to face and talk about Nets and Ham Radio and anything that came up.

*(Hamfests are Great aren't they?)* To all of you that participate in any way. To those of you who go out of your way to help someone else in any way. **MY GREATEST APPRECIATION AND THANKS For helping me to understand what Ham Radio is all about!**

Your Editor ==> N7VBW <== Glenn Moore

## FROM THE NET MANAGERS MIKE

In speaking with WO7C over the phone on the subject of Newsletter articles Ruby brought up the subject of other net control ops. It doesn't happen very often but there have been times where WO7C, Jessie, is unable to do the net and I don't get off work in time to make it home to do the same thing. (Doing the net Mobile is sorta hard to do) There are a lot of people that would be disappointed if there was no net so in the interest of not missing one it would be helpful to know who would be willing to take the net when the Net Manager or her favorite little pest (Insert N7VBW) just can't be there. A preamble can be sent to you in some way if you are interested. If you would like to give this a try please contact WO7C, Jessie for discussion.

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*Address no good!*

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