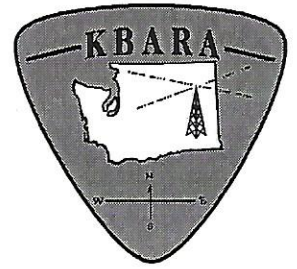




# The KBARA Gazette



Winter 1999

Volume 5, Issue 1

## Quarterly Journal of the Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

This issue of the KBARA Gazette is the work of our new editor, Steve Harrison, KB7RGT. Steve has graciously agreed to take these responsibilities from Rich and Denise Hebel, AA7P and KC7ORO. We wish to thank Rich and Denise for all their wonderful efforts.

These last few months the Club has seen several developments: our American Radio Relay League affiliation was received; the Kamiak Butte repeater site's equipment and frequencies have changed ownership, with the exception of the repeater itself, which belongs to Whitman County - Art Gemmrig, WB7AUK has turned

over responsibility to Bob Lemon, KC7HFI and John Dempster, W7OE; the KBARA logo has received a small facelift to reflect our new call sign - the morse code transmitted from the tower now reads KB7ARA; the Wenatchee Mountains Repeater Group has now joined us for our morning net, and hosts a Monday evening technical net at 8PM, open to all Amateurs.

Regarding the link to Seattle, work is still in progress on the Evergreen Intertie. Over the last year, I understand, the Boeing Employees Amateur Radio group has spent some \$10,000 in repairs, site rental, etc. to keep the equipment running. Since the Intertie is an open system and available to all Amateurs, I urge you to support them financially. Contributions may be sent to: Jack Williams, WA7HNN, 4303 Maltby Rd., Bothell WA 98012.

Lastly, we were saddened to hear of the deaths of two people: Mary Lou Brown, NM7N, our ARRL Northwestern Director, and Ray Bishop, KB7HNQ. Both people were inspirational, not only as Amateur Radio operators, but as friends. They will be greatly missed.

73,  
Betsy Ashleman  
N7WRQ



*The World is your oyster - even on 2 meters!  
Catch KBARA radio traffic on the Web at:  
[www.lamonica.com](http://www.lamonica.com)*

### KBARA / ARRL AFFILIATION!

"It gives me great pleasure to advise you that the League's Executive Committee has approved your club's application for affiliation with the ARRL. You are hereby declared a fully affiliated society. Your club is now eligible for all the benefits of affiliation, as described in the enclosed literature. We hope you will make full use of our many services.

*(continued on page 2)*



## H.R. 3572 and what you can do...

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"H.R. 3572 is a straightforward piece of legislation that would require the Federal Communications Commission to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" in the event the Commission might need to reallocate any Amateur Radio frequencies. As spectrum management is a dynamic (not static) process of continual adjustment and accommodation between various radio services, this measure would maintain the FCC's ability to be an effective spectrum manager while ensuring that the existing amount of amateur spectrum could not be diminished."  
(from ARRL web site)

What can you do? Write your representative. Let your voice be heard!



### (ARRL Affiliation...)

We are hand-lettering a handsome charter to symbolize this important event. We hope you will coordinate a "Charter Party," with the Division Director, Section Manger (SM) or Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC) in attendance (addresses of Directors and SMs are on page 10 and 12 of any QST). We ask that you keep your elected officials and Hq. advised of your club's activities. Please be sure to send copies of any club news or bulletins to your SM, ACC, Director, and Hq. We are all vitally interested in your progress. Again, congratulations and welcome. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with your club.

Sincerely,

Richard Palm, K1ICE  
Field Services Manger  
ARRL"

#### Benefits Available Through ARRL Club Affiliation:

1. The opportunity to order the ARRL Annual Report.
2. ARRL-sponsored liability and equipment insurance.
3. Referrals of prospective radio amateurs.
4. \$5.00 commission for new ARRL members.
5. \$2.00 commission for every ARRL membership renewal handled by the club.
6. Geographical lists of all amateurs in a specific city.
7. Free mailing labels or lists of ARRL members or clubs once a year.
8. Only affiliated clubs are eligible for participation in the gavel competitions in the ARRL DX Contest, the ARRL November Sweepstakes and the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes.
9. Lists of other affiliated clubs in your section
10. Use of ARRL logo on newsletters and letterhead.



## ARRL PROPOSES SIMPLIFIED AMATEUR LICENSE STRUCTURE

"The ARRL Board has agreed to propose a simplified Amateur Radio licensing structure with four classes. Lengthy discussion and debate during the Board's meeting July 16-18 led to majority support for a plan for four written examination elements to establish amateurs' operational and technical qualifications instead of the present five, and two Morse code examination elements instead of the present three. Under the plan adopted by the Board, the entry level to Amateur Radio would be known as Class D and would convey the privileges of the present Technician license. The written examination would be at the same level of difficulty as that of the present Technician examination, but consistent with the privileges of the license. All amateurs now licensed as Technicians would become Class D.

The next step would be known as Class C and would convey the privileges of the present General license, but with phone subbands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. Class C would be the entry level to high frequency (HF) operating privileges. To upgrade from Class D to Class C, an amateur would pass a written examination on the operational and technical qualifications required for HF



operation and a 5 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as General, Technician Plus, and Novice would become Class C. The expansion of the telephony sub-bands would result from "refarming" of the Novice CW bands that are no longer required for their original purpose.

The third step would be known as Class B and would convey the privileges of the present Advanced license, but with phone subbands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class C to Class B, an amateur would pass a more advanced written examination similar in difficulty to the present Element 4A and a 12 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as Advanced would become Class B.

The final step would be known as Class A and would convey the full privileges of the present Amateur Extra Class, with telephony sub-bands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. To

licensing structure without reducing the requirements for any class of license. Where reductions in Morse code requirements are proposed, there would be a corresponding increase in written examination standards. On the other hand, Board members were adamant that simplifying the structure should not come at the expense of privileges already earned by amateurs. Therefore, present Novice and Technician Plus licensees, having earned entry-level HF operating privileges, would be granted the new entry-level HF license.

*"Adoption of the simplification plan marks the culmination of 30 months of work..."*

Adoption of the simplification plan marks the culmination of 30 months of work by the Board, during which time the input of

literally thousands of ARRL members and other amateurs and prospective amateurs was considered. The Board debated a wide variety of options including both smaller and larger numbers of license classes, higher and lower qualification levels, and different privileges. Nine of the 15 Directors voted in favor of the plan, with six opposed. Following the meeting ARRL President

How Present Amateur Licenses Translate to New Licenses Under the ARRL Proposal	
Present	Proposed
Amateur Extra	Class A
Advanced	Class B
General	Class C
Technician Plus	Class C
Novice	Class C
Technician	Class D

upgrade from Class B to Class A, an amateur would be required to pass the most difficult written examination in the sequence. Consistent with the practice in many other countries, no additional Morse code examination would be required beyond 12 words per minute. All amateurs presently licensed as Amateur Extra Class would become Class A.

In their discussions, Board members emphasized that the objective is to rationalize and simplify the amateur

Rod Stafford, W6ROD, observed, "The debate was at times contentious and the result was not unanimous. Some Board members preferred greater simplification; others were uncomfortable with some of the changes being proposed. However, every Board member, without exception, left the meeting knowing that each of his or her colleagues did what they believe is best for the future of Amateur Radio."

*(The above article was copied from the ARRL web page)*

## ***"If you are not sure, make it BIG"***

We were recovering what had been a spare room for years, and in the process turned up my QST collection. For a nostalgic reading, I grabbed an issue at random—November 1974.

The most fun for me is reading the old ads. I happened to read the Eimac ad on the back cover. Part of the copy made my eyes pop. Here is the story...

In 1924 the Director of Radio for the Dutch East Indies announced the opening of commercial wireless from Java to Holland.

Super Power Station PRX went on the air with 1.6 Megawatts on 15,600 Meters (That's a frequency of only 19.23 Kilohertz). The power input to the "rig" was 3.2 Megawatts to the Oscillating Arc, transmitter which tipped the scales at 260 tons!

The antenna was stretched between two mountains. If one assumes a 1/2 wave antenna, it would have been 7800 meters or 1.8 miles long, even a 1/4 wave Marconi antenna would have been 4752 feet long.

Did it work? It was stated that it provided communications on the 12,000 Km (7,500 mile) path for 19 of 24 hours, each day. [Unlike Gary Cooper it must have lost out at "High Noon".]

Checking the records, in 1924 the 16th Solar Cycle had just begun in the prior August of 1923. Sunspot activity was low comparative to that of the 22 Solar Cycle in June of 1997 when we were all bemoaning the poor propagation paths and longing for Cycle 23 to get up steam. I wonder just how much the Solar Flux impacted transmissions way down on 19.23 Kilohertz - Sorry it was 19.23 Kilo cycles, back then.

Think of that next time you pick up your HT, or talk to Japan on 10 Meters with 50 watts, or less.

All 73, George W7LKR



**AMATEUR RADIO  
LICENSE TEST SESSIONS**

- Athol, ID** First Wednesday of every month, 7PM  
Contact: Bob Swain, N7GHV  
Telephone: 208-683-2094
- Coeur d'Alene, ID** January 16, 1999, Saturday, 9AM  
North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene, ID  
Boswell Hall  
March, 1999  
Contact: Harvey Zion, K7VZ  
Telephone: 208-664-3546  
E-mail: hzion@nidlink.com
- College Place/Walla Walla, WA** Contact: Mable Babbitt, WB5AVH  
Telephone: 509-525-7003  
E-mail: wa5zay@televar.com
- Colville, WA** Department of Natural Resources  
Contact: Rex Kamstra, AB7IZ  
Telephone: 509-684-2003  
E-mail: ab7iz@triax.com
- Ellensburg, WA** Contact: Michael Dunnick  
Telephone: 509-925-1680
- Ephrata, WA** Contact: Bill Edwards, K7PK  
Telephone: 509-754-3847
- Goldendale, WA** Contact: James Nadeau, Sr., W7DLB  
Telephone: 509-773-5043
- Grangeville, ID** Contact: Larry Keith, AB7GY  
Telephone: 208-983-2163
- Orofino, ID** Contact: Elmer Robertson, KJ7XK  
Telephone: 208-476-4448
- Pendleton, OR** Second Wednesday even months, 7PM  
Harris Junior Academy  
Contact: Mike Duffy, AA7SL  
Telephone: 541-276-6545  
E-mail: mduffy@orednet.org
- Sandpoint, ID** Second Saturday of every month, 9:30AM  
Contact: Russ Arndt, AA7XM  
Telephone: 208-265-5370

# KBARA Membership/Support Info

The KBARA system consists of several amateur radio repeaters that are linked together to cover an area from southeastern British Columbia to northeastern Oregon, and from western Montana to central Washington. The KBARA system can also be connected to the Evergreen Intertie, an interconnected group of repeaters located in the northwestern United States and western Canada.

The primary purpose of the KBARA system is to function as a linked system that provides communications to and within the above area. It makes possible a single system of mobile communications coverage extending beyond the limited range provided by any single repeater operation.

FM repeaters operating in the VHF and UHF bands are linked by full duplex UHF radios. The repeaters' frequencies and locations are as follows:

- 147.380 W7OE, Mica Peak, east of Spokane, WA
- 147.360 KB7WTO, Stensgar (Stranger) Mountain, north of Spokane, WA
- 147.280 AA7P, Pikes Peak, southeast of Walla Walla, WA
- 147.020 N7LVO, Lookout Pass, on the Idaho-Montana border.
- 146.740 KB7ARA, Kamiak Butte, near Colfax and Pullman, WA
- 145.010 WB7AUK Packet Node & BBS, Mica Peak, east of Spokane, WA
- 223.900 WA7YCP, Stensgar (Stranger) Mountain, north of Spokane, WA

All licensed amateur radio operators are welcome to use this open repeater system. Your support would also be greatly appreciated.

TO SUPPORT KBARA SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

*KBARA*  
*P.O. Box 18575*  
*SPOKANE, WA 99228-8575*

✂

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

CALL SIGN(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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). Dues are due January of each year. Dues paid during the last quarter (after September 1) will apply through the entire following year.

**Thank You!**

✂

## YOUR NEW NEWSLETTER & EDITOR

Hello! My name is Steve, I am your new Newsletter Editor. Many of you do not know me yet. I have not been very active on the repeater since moving to Spokane in 1996. I am endeavouring to change the active part...

I work in the Valley, at the Opportunity Free Methodist Church where I am a pastor. Feel free to contact me at any time. Probably the most reliable way to get in touch with me is via Email. My Email address is KB7RGT@aol.com (go figure).

I want to encourage participation by all kinds of hams about a variety of amateur radio-related topics. Of course I will reserve the right to edit what is

submitted to me, but I will contact the author if I feel I need to make a substantial change.

I would ask that you try to get information/articles to me well in advance of the deadline, so that I can work on this at a regular pace. By the way, the next deadline is March 19.

I am also open to any suggestions, in terms of format, content, or whatever. Like the rest of you, I tend to respond better to honey than vinegar, so go easy on me as I get up to speed.

Thanks, and I am looking forward to meeting you all!

Steve, KB7RGT

## **WMRG** **WENATCHEE MT.** **REPEATER GROUP**

Our friends to the West, on 147.26+ (tone 156.7) announced that they are rejoining the morning Net. During this time, they will open the link into KBARA so that we all may easily participate in this.

They have also started a Monday evening Net which starts at 20:00, which KBARA is linked into. This Net, among other things, focuses on technical issues having to do with ham radio. This is a great place to bring your questions!

On another note, WSDNR (Dept. of Natural Resources), have told the WMRG, that they need to put isolators in their link radios—to the tune of \$1,760.00! If you can go out to the money tree and shake a few dollars loose, it would be a great help.

You may send contributions to:

WMRG  
PO Box 4726  
Wenatchee, WA 98801-4726

### **The Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association**

PO Box 18575

Spokane, WA 99228-8575