

KBARA GAZETTE

1st Quarter 2000

Ramblings

So sorry for the delay in the newsletter this quarter. Between holding up the newsletter for campout information, and my being sick the newsletter is terribly late this time. I hope you all enjoy the newsletter.

As of this writing, I will no longer be able to continue as Editor of the KBARA Gazette. Tom and I will also be discontinuing as Net Managers of the Night Crawler's. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Betsy, N7WRQ. I hope that our replacements will find their duties with KBARA as interesting and fulfilling as we have. I have really enjoyed doing lots of volunteer work for the organization.

I designed the tickets for the hamfest again this year. I hope you all are as excited about them as I was when I printed them out the first time. I think they are so cool! You will be able to find people running around selling tickets everywhere as the tickets will be back from the printers soon.

73,
Mary Barber, KC7ZZR

Of all the laws we have to contend with, the most troublesome are usually the in-laws.

A laugh is worth a hundred groans in any market.

Presidents' Corner

Greetings,

As you know, the primary purpose of this club is to provide financial support for the KBARA owners in their efforts to maintain the repeater system. Let me assure you, your financial contributions to KBARA are being put to good use: the yearly repeater site rentals/power bill for Lookout Pass, Stensgar Mt., and Pikes Peak have been paid, along with replacing a link antenna for the Kamiak Butte repeater. ARRL liability insurance coverage continues in force for another year, along with quarterly newsletter expenses being paid. And the list goes on, so please continue to keep us in mind with your financial support.

We particularly want to give a special word of thanks to our friend, Chris Coates, N7VQH, who continuously offers his time and tower climbing abilities to the KBARA owners. Chris, what would we do without you?

This year, please look forward to KBARA attending several Hamfests, the first being in Puyallup on March 11. Also, the weekend of June 30-July 2 the grand annual event of The Night-crawlers' Camp out/KBARA Meeting will be held at Farragut State Park, Idaho, and we're expecting a record attendance. We also look forward to the Sandpoint, ID repeater group (145.230 MHz) establishing linking capability to KBARA and the Evergreen Intertie later this year. The Lewis and Clark ARC in Clarkston, WA also plans the same for their 146.960 MHz repeater.

Lastly, my new year's resolution: our KBARA website will be put to greater use by using the message board to display current information about the system and other items of interest about the hobby (<http://www.kbara.cjb.net>). Please feel free to use this great service.

73,
Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ

PSK31:

Possibly the hottest mode in amateur radio today.

Are you looking for an inexpensive way to further your enjoyment of your amateur radio hobby? Then you might want to look at PSK31 (*An acronym for Phase Shift Keying, 31 Hz wide*). This has to be the hottest mode to hit amateur radio in quite some time.

Peter Martinez (G3PLX), the father of AMTOR, developed PSK31 from an original idea by SP9VRC. He wanted to bring back the excitement to keyboard-to-keyboard conversation. PSK31 is a digital mode that only uses a sliver of band width and offers terrific performance even under weak-signal conditions." Some hams experimenting with PSK31 state it outperforms all other amateur modes for weak-signal work...including CW! You can literally communicate with stations you cannot even hear. This mode is not new. It has been around for a few years but didn't become popular until Martinez developed free software that works with a PC sound card. Suddenly it is the most popular mode since SSB! There is no requirement for synchronization or handshaking like the TOR modes so roundtable discussions and nets can be held on the same frequency. PSK31 requires a PC capable of running a 16 bit sound card, a stable radio that tunes in 1 Hz increments, computer software, and a few parts for the connection between the radio and the computer: two shielded cables, two resistors, and suitable connectors. Software is available for download at <http://www.psk31.com>. Additional information about interfacing the radio to your computer, information about the PSK31, and links to even more information is also available at this site. Be sure to check out this site. If you do not have Internet access, you can contact me and I will help you get the software and any information you may need.

There have been some questions about whether hams are permitted to use PSK31. The answer is "YES". The FCC amended Section 97.309(a) in 1995 (order DA95-2106) in response to an ARRL inquiry, "to clarify that amateur stations may use any digital code that has its technical characteristics publicly documented." (Thanks: ARRL Letter Online February 12, 1999.)

If you haven't tried the digital modes yet, don't hesitate to check this one out. You will not be disappointed.

"73 and may all your signals be rare DX"
Tom KK7PX

Bob's Stuff

On Sunday January 31, John (W7OE) and Chris (N7VQH) installed a new linking antenna at the 146.74 site on Kamiak Butte. The other sites will receive maintenance as soon as the spring thaw allows access to those repeaters. This winter has been more difficult than normal as weather has created more icing conditions than in the past and this year we have been having many nights with aurora borealis. Thank you all for being so patient with all the adverse conditions.

KBARA is a great club with many wonderful people. All of you have helped make this a great club. We asked that you please watch tailgating when talking on the system and it was done! My hat is off to you all for that wonderful accomplishment as it is one of the most difficult things to remember. I don't have to ask you to welcome new hams to the community because you are all a great group of people that really like to welcome new hams to the hobby. Please invite them to join our nets and other activities that are organized for the enjoyment of all hams on the KBARA system. Many people need that personal invite so they know they are welcome.

Please be sure to support all the nets that KBARA offers. Your participation is what makes the nets we offer so interesting and enjoyable.

A personal thank you to all net control operators, owners, officers and all the many people involved with the club. Your support and hard work is what helps make KBARA a great and fun group. Keep up the good work I do appreciate all your efforts.

Bob Lemon, KC7HFI

Night Crawlers 4th Annual Campout And KBARA Annual Meeting

Once again the Night Crawlers are going to have a great campout and would like to invite all hams and their families to join this great event. You can even bring your mother-in-law!

KBARA will be joining us again this year at 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 1st, for the annual meeting. And back by popular demand, the ever favorite potluck dinner will follow the meeting. Everyone attending only the meeting or coming for the day will need to pay to the park a \$3 parking fee to the park when they arrive (this fee does not effect those camping). Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket for sitting on the ground.

The camp ground offers many activities for our enjoyment. If you enjoy swimming, be sure to bring your bathing suit. There is a boat launch in the park for those who wish to bring their boats for fishing, skiing or just plain old fun. The park has hiking trails, showers, radio control airport, showers, bring your horse to ride, showers, bring your bicycle, showers, disc golf, showers, museum, oh and did I mention SHOWERS!

Camping fees this year will be \$10 per night for RVs and \$2 per night per person for tent campers. The campground does not offer any discounts for disabled or veterans. The fees are a little more this year but we have SHOWERS!

HAMBURGER COOKOFF

The big day will arrive Saturday, July 1, 2000. At 12:00 p.m., the Hamburger Cooking Contest will be held to determine who is the best hamburger maker in KBARALAND. The judges will be John, W7OE, Paul, N7PZR, and Walt, KC7PJE. Anything edible except Squirrel or Chipmunk is allowed, so use your imagination. Last years winners Mary, KC7ZZR, and Jan, VE7TST, are looking forward to defending their titles. Please come and defeat our winners from last year! The Burger Meister, Ken (KD7DDQ)

CRYSTAL PIGS

Charlene has agreed to do the continuing saga of the Crystal Pigs! So on Saturday after the Potluck dinner, Charlene will put on her marvelous Crystal Pig production. If you have never seen one of Charlene's productions, you have to witness her Crystal Pig show!

DANCING IN THE PINE CONES

Roy, VE7DTT, and Jan, VE7TST, are once again going to teach us how to line dance. This was the greatest thing added to the campout. Everyone really enjoyed the dance time last year at the campout. I know you will all love dancing in the pine cones again this year. Come learn a Western line dance!

Now you know about the when and what, you're probably wondering how do I get there. Be sure to pack your lawn chairs into the old covered wagon for the trek north. Take I-90 to Idaho Hwy 95 exit in CDA. Go north for 19 miles to the traffic light at Hwy 54 (well marked for Farragut State Park) and go east (to the right). When you get to the **Traffic Circle** be sure to stay in the right land and follow the signs to Farragut (at this point, you will be approx. 1 ½ miles from the camp site). For those traveling from the north, I recommend taking WA Hwy 2 going toward Spokane and follow the signs for Sandpoint. From Sandpoint, take Hwy 95 south to Hwy 54 and to east (to your left). Again, this turn is well marked.

Mary Barber, KC7ZZR

License Restructuring

The FCC announced a new license structuring for Amateur Radio! I still admire those Hams that have had their licenses for many years and who worked very hard to obtain their licenses. I know how hard they sweated and worked. I do believe that the new license structure will benefit the hobby, and help to keep all the frequencies we currently enjoy. And yes, like you, I wonder how hard the job will be to keep our frequencies clean. I just know that many of us will have to set good examples to those Hams new to the hobby.

Many of you already know the information I am going to include here, but I thought those that have not seen the information on the license restructuring would enjoy having this. Please forgive me if you already have this information.

The operating privileges of the license held will not change. So, if an Advanced Class license is currently held, those Advanced Class privileges will not change. If you are a Technician and would like to upgrade to General, you can take the 5 wpm code test and the General Class written exam now, then apply for a General Class upgrade on or after April 15, 2000. The same holds true for those upgrading from Advanced to Extra Class, by taking the Extra Class written exam now, then applying for the upgrade on or after April 15. To upgrade from General to Extra, both the Advanced and Extra written exams must be taken. Those holding a Technician Plus license obtained before March 31, 1987, after completing the paperwork on or after April 15, will be advanced to General Class. Anyone testing on or after April 15, 2000 will obtain one of three license classes (Technician, General, or Extra), depending

on which tests are taken.

Please remember, if you test now, then submit your Certificate of Successful Completed Examination (CSCE) on or after April 15, you will still have to pay the normal VE session fee (\$6.65) when you submit your paperwork for the upgrade.

As everyone understands at this time, the tests will become harder on April 15. If you can, try to make one of the testing sessions offered in your area. There will be sessions each month at various locations in Spokane, Coeur d' Alene, Colville, Sandpoint, Pendleton, and Walla Walla. For more information about testing sites, contact any of our net control operators for additional information.

73,
Mary Barber, KC7ZZR

P.S. Hams believe in life, liberty and the purchase of more toys!

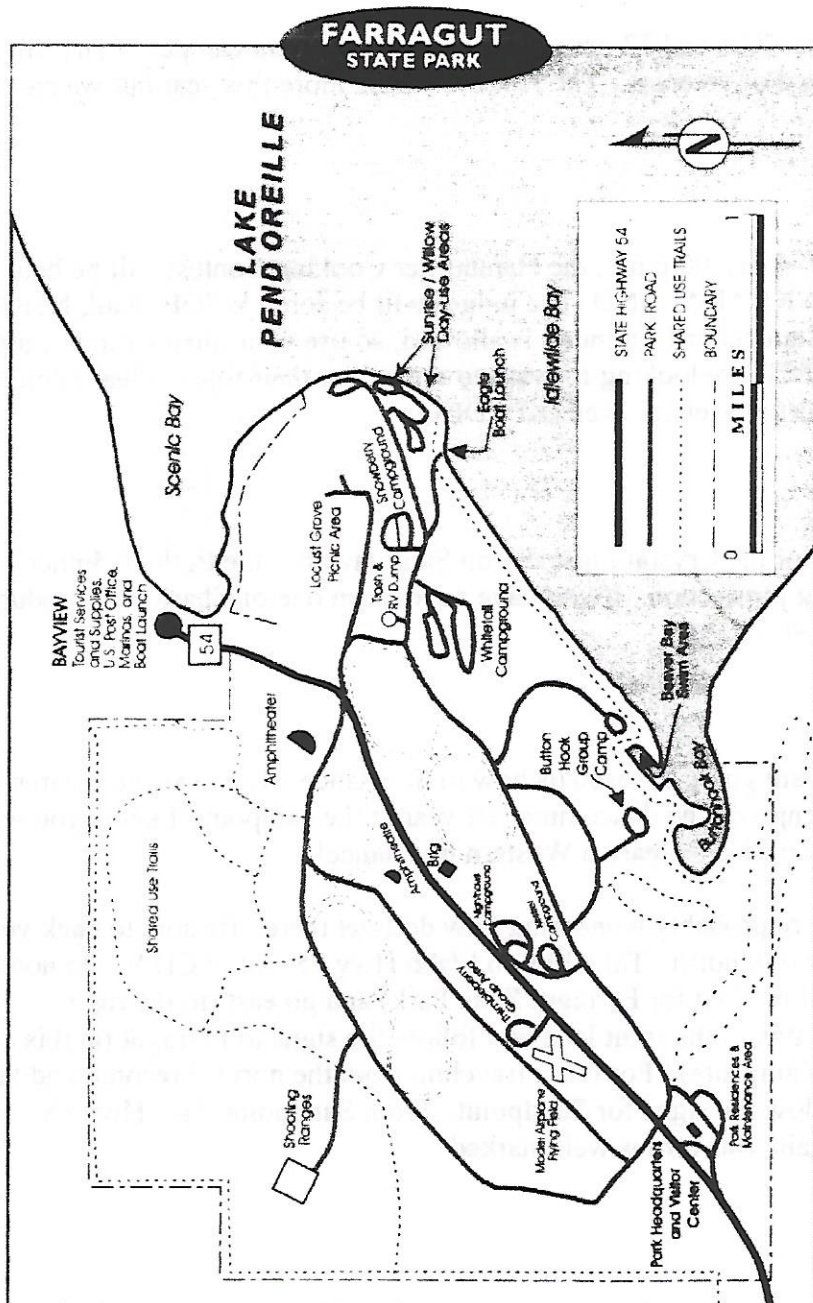
NOTES— The camp site is in the Thimbleberry area.

Showers are in the swimming area and are for your use from approx 7 am until 9 pm in the evenings.

There will be lots on information on things available in the campground at the Visitors Center in the Park Headquarters Bldg.

I hope you all have a wonderful time. With great regret, Tom and I will not be able to attend this years campout unless they change his work schedule. Please do not let this spoil all the fun. Someone please let me know if you think we need a larger place for next year. If you have any problems, please contact Betsy (N7WRQ).

The theme for this years campout is HAVE FUN!



AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSIONS

- Athol, ID** First Wednesday of every month, 7PM
Contact: Bob Swain, N7GHV - Telephone: 208-683-2094
E-mail: n7ghv@aol.com
- Coeur d'Alene, ID** March, 2000
June, 2000 (Rathdrum Hamfest)
Contact: Harvey Zion, K7VZ - Telephone: 208-664-3546
E-mail: k7vzed@aol.com
- College Place/
Walla Walla** February 20, March 19, April 16, 2000, 11AM
Industrial Technology Bldg., Walla Walla College, College
Place, WA
Contact: Mable Babbitt, WB5AVH - Telephone: 509-525-7003
E-mail: wa5zay@televar.com
- Colville, WA** February 12, 2000, Saturday, 9 A.M.
Washington National Guard Armory (1 block south of DNR Bldg.), Colville
Contact: Steve Jarvis, W7AIF - Telephone: 509-684-5868
E-mail: w7aif1@yahoo.com
- 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: Michael Duffy, AA7SL - Telephone: 541-566-3597
- Sandpoint, ID** Second Saturday of every month, 9:30AM
Contact: Russ Arndt, AA7XM - Telephone: 208-265-5370
E-mail: aa7xm1@nidlink.com
- Spokane, WA** February 10, 2000, Thursday, 7PM
May 18, 2000, Thursday, 7PM
August 6, 2000, 8:30AM (Spokane Hamfest 2000)
University High School, 10212 E. 9th Spokane, WA, 99206-6944
Contact: Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ - Telephone: 509-448-5821
E-mail: n7wrq@aol.com
- April 8, 2000, Lilac City Hamfest, Spokane
Contact: Bill Sullivan, AA7YJ - Telephone: 509-838-4320
E-mail: wsull007@earthlink.net
- February, 2000 (tentatively)
March, 2000 (two dates)
April 15, 2000
Contact: Mary Moore, AA7RT - Telephone: 509-922-6334
E-mail: aa7rt@ior.com

I have added a membership form for your convenience. Please remember your membership helps keep the system operating.

JOIN KBARA/Renew Membership

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 ADDRESS _____ ARRL MEMBER? _____

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.