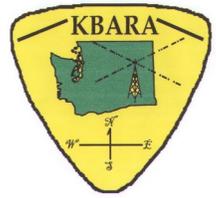




# KBARA GAZETTE



Fall, 2010 Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association  
 KBARA, PO Box 30801, Spokane WA 99223-3013

Greetings All,

Thanks to the many volunteers from eight different clubs, the Spokane Hamfest & ARRL WA State Convention was again a success. On 9/25/10, the event hosted great seminars, swap & commercial tables, prizes & an open cry auction. A financial recap is show here. Not only did KBARA receive back its \$400 seed money, but also received \$691 in addition. Not bad for a day's work, right? For those of you wondering, the grand prize, the Kenwood TS480HX, was won by Jerry Harnois, WB7NUE, 2nd prize ICOM IC706 by Randy Crews, W7TJ, 3rd prize MFJ 259B antenna analyzer by Alan Oglesbee, N7RLM, and the 4th prize MFJ power supply by Pat O-Dea, K7HRT. Congratulations to all.

A special thanks to Art & JoAnn Gemmrig for their recent generous contribution to our Repeater Fund. It was a great surprise and honor to have them attend our annual meeting and campout.....it's been a long time, and wonderful to see them. again

And last, with sadness we say goodbye to our dear friend Gordon Reynolds, KJ7KJ, who became a silent key in August. His cheerful voice and presence will be greatly missed.

73,

Betsy, N7WRQ

KBARA Newsletter Editor

Income		Expenses	
Seed Money	\$2,200.00	Raffle Prizes	\$2,318.91
Commercial Tables	\$161.50	Raffle Ticket printing	\$210.55
Pre-event Swap Tables	\$175.00	Rent Tables	\$289.75
Event Swap Tables	\$45.00	Door Prizes	\$0.00
Pre-event Admission	\$285.00	UHigh School Rent	\$600.00
Event Admission	\$1,940.00	Print Programs	\$0.00
Pre-event Raffle	\$594.00	Print Fliers	\$34.55
Event Raffle	\$1,351.00	Administrative Supplies	\$51.67
Auction	\$213.50		
Coffee Shop	\$132.03		
Donations	\$170.00	Total Expenses	\$3,505.43
Advertising	\$40.00		
		Profit	\$3,801.60
Total Income	\$7,307.03		
		Club Reimbursements	
Pre-event Swap Tables	35		
Event Swap Tables	6	Spokane DX Assn	\$691.20
Total Swap Tables	41	KBARA	\$691.20
		NW Tri-States	\$691.20
Commercial Tables Paid for	15	VHF Club	\$691.20
		Lilac City ARC	\$345.60
		Palouse Hills ARC	\$345.60
		Panoramaland ARC	\$345.60
Pre-event Admission	57		
Event Admission	388	Total	\$3,801.60
Total Paid Admission	445		

### QST QST QST Attention CFL Lights

Recently there have been a number of emails concerning the CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lights) and their potential as a fire hazard. You can search the web for a lot of info on these "bulbs" and most reports will say they do not cause fires. In my personal use of them, I have not had a fire (big fire) but I HAVE had at least one "burn out" and smoke came from it. More often other effects will be noticed and you should immediately discard (or return) the item. These "effects" include "buzzing" loud enough to be able to hear it, "flickering" which says there is a problem, and generation of RF "noise". I have encountered all of these either myself or from others. Most of mine are installed upside down and they are the ones that seem to have reduced life or the "effects". I understand virtually all of the CFL's are made in China, so be sure to check for the UL listing and also for the CSA (Canadian) listing on these bulbs. If neither is present, don't buy them as they are cheap "carbon copies". Watch out for Internet "Sales" of these bulbs as well, because many are the "carbon copies". Other "effects" may include headaches if you are exposed to them long periods of time (from the light, not the electronics), feelings of "Pressure" on your head....etc. The light may "flicker" during operation very slightly, but some users are able to notice this more than others and it may effect them. When I install "new" CFL's, I use a portable AM radio to check for generated RFI (Radio Frequency Interference). OLDER bulbs do generate some RFI and now and then you might get one that is really "bad". I've had at least 2 that the RFI was detected by my HF receiver as "hash or noise" over a large range of frequencies. Place a small AM radio close to the bulb (one at a time) and note the "noise". These bulbs, like most fluorescent lights, DO produce some RFI when a radio is very close to them, but if you detect this "noise" when 10 feet away, it is most likely going to generate more noise over time. Also, do NOT use CFL's or ANY fluorescent light with DIMMERS. All such lamps also contain a small amount of mercury, so watch breakage when you clean up things (well under a drop).

73,

Ron, WA6AZN

#### Please remember to renew your membership for 2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

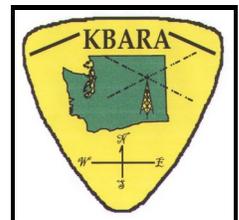
Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_



Would you rather receive the newsletter via computer, instead of receiving it in the mail?  YES  NO

Dues are a minimum of \$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. And any additional amount will be gratefully accepted to the Repeater Fund. To support KBARA, please send your contributions to: **KBARA, PO Box 30801, Spokane WA 99223-3013** Please visit our KBARA website for more information: <http://www.kbara.org>

## My NXPedition

John Dempster, W7OE

Instead of going to a distant location for a DXPedition, why not try a much closer destination for a Near-Distance-Expedition or a NXPedition? This can range from a trip to the local park to a trip to the top of Mount Rainier. The key is to find a way to take radio gear, feedline, antennas, & a power source. Obviously a handheld would meet that requirement, but for a little more caloric expense some really effective gear may be used. I used to do a lot of hiking & mountaineering when I was a Young Buck, but I never had the inclination to take ham gear with me. My favorite climb was Mt. Baker at 10778 feet above sea level. I frequently imagine what I could have done with some simple VHF gear, a small antenna system, & a light battery. I decided that I would go to a less physically challenging location for my first NXPedition. Circa August, 2010: Mt. Howard, Oregon, located in the Wallowa Mountains of Northeastern Oregon. The range is approximately 100 miles south of Lewiston, ID. There are numerous peaks over 8000 feet above sea level with some just under 10,000 feet above sea level. I used to hike & climb in this range during my



years as a Graduate Student at W.S.U. in the 70's. During the late 70's a Tramway was installed that takes you from Wallowa Lake parking area to near the top of Mt. Howard at 8150 feet above sea level. For \$24, it saves a lot of hiking & blisters on the feet. With a little more effort, you may hike from Mt. Howard to the top of Hidden Peak which is over 9500 feet above sea level. I would have made the effort to set up at Hidden Peak if I had planned ahead by taking more hiking gear, food & water. The following web site describes this tramway: <http://www.wallowalaketramway.com/index.html> The tram ride takes about 15 minutes, going from a forested valley to a high-alpine environment devoid of large trees but covered with interesting high alpine flora & fauna. There is a restaurant at the top of the tram with a large population of squirrels I was able to hand feed. I have never seen so many of these animals in one spot & they were all fat. I hiked a quarter mile to the top of Mt. Howard which was at about 8500 feet above sea level. I was able to put my Icom 706, feedline, cables, keyer, paddle, battery, my limited food supply, & water in my backpack. I hand carried my 4-element Yagi & my closet rod masting. I could have attached the antenna & masting to the backpack for a longer hands-free hike. I attached two six foot sections of masting together, inserted bottom in the ground, put the 4-element yagi on top (which I could mount either vertically or horizontally polarized), attached the feedline to the antenna & IC706, connected the 12 Amp-Hour Battery, hooked up the keyer and microphone, & I was on the air with 10 Watts on 2-Meter CW, SSB, & FM. I could have also opted to put up wire antennas for HF, but I wasn't interested in operating HF. The view was breathtaking & so was the propagation. I easily "worked" into Spokane 170 miles away on CW & SSB, I worked Portland 270 miles away & had a partial contact with Seattle 300 miles away on CW. I was fully quieting into the 147.36 & 146.90 repeaters both 200 miles away--& with only 10 Watts! I could hear my CW beacon from my house in Otis Orchards & it was only running 5 watts into a small vertical antenna. Mark, K7HPT was running 400 Watts into a 9-element beam from near Spokane & I think he bent the needle on my S-Meter. I also made some interesting FM Simplex contacts around the region. Lots of hams monitor 146.52 FM. There is also an amateur weather station at the site: <http://www.josephoregonweather.com/howard.html> Just remember, you don't have to go to North Korea to have ham radio fun, you can do it in your own local area with a NXPedition. Unlike North Korea, you don't have to bring a former president to get in!

From the Rochester version of Craig's List  
compliments of Dick, K7CYZ

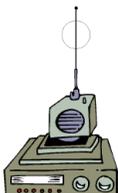
For sale: one tube of rare cb antenna grease. This stuff came out in the 60's. It was developed by the Department of Defense for the armed services. It was mainly used in the field on hand held units, tripling their range. It is a closely guarded secret by technicians & HAM's. When the FCC found out some amateur radio supply outlets had purchased a sizable quantity of the RF grease through US Army & Navy surplus auctions, the FCC outlawed the sale of it in the US. What the RF grease does is make your signal slide out your antenna faster and with less friction. Because of this you get less RF friction (hysteresis). The results are: lower SWR readings & increased power handling, the faster moving RF signal builds up a tremendous RF inertia, resulting a higher DB gain on your signal, (like a slingshot effect throwing a faster & larger signal) ( typically 3.8-4.7 db gain) and 4x the power handling capacity. Modulation & SSB benefit a whopping 6 db gain over an untreated isotropic dipole antenna lasts for about 6 months then, just wipe off any old grease and put some new on. This is probably the best kept secret in amateur radio! The guys at the shoot-out's won't tell you about this amazing secret! Triple the RF output of a 200 watt box to 600 ERP, etc... (effective radiated power). This RF grease also causes a very cool side effect: if you feed over 100 watts into a treated antenna you will see a cool purplish-pink halo glowing around your antenna on key up at night, pulsating with your modulation ! (not too cool for the military, this is why they stopped using it!) For now, all I have is one 16oz. tube. \$250.00 FIRM



**KBARA is in need of net controls! It's fun, it's good practice & it's for a worthy cause. Please contact Duff, WA7BFN, on the air or at the john-**

Congratulations to Mark, K7HPT, and to John, W7OE for this very prestigious ARRL award. Fine business, gentlemen!





## A Page from the Past

### Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association January 1984

Serving the Inland NorthWest on 146.74 MHz & 449.95 MHz

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#### General Meeting Scheduled

The next meeting is scheduled on January 23, 1984 at 6:74 pm (that's 7:14 pm) in Murrow 379 on the WSU campus. Plan to attend, this repeater organization depends on your input. This meeting will feature KBARA members on Television. The KWSU-TV production "Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier in the Palouse" by producer Steve Stauffer and Videographer Nick DeVogel will be shown. Ham classes will be organized.

#### Ham Class Organization

The 1984 Amateur Radio Novice/Technician License Class begins the first full week of February! Tell your friends at work, church, spouses, kids and neighbors. The first class meeting for organization is February 9. Sign up now. The class will be run as last year, with a fee charged. Many of last year's instructors are returning. Joining Ed, W7KOW, Frank K7ZN, and Dan K7MM are George, N7IS, and Art, WB7AUK. The class will run about 18 weeks. Time will be adjusted to the convenience of those students registering, probably Thursday evenings at 6:74 pm. Negotiations are in progress to hold the class on the WSU campus. Class fee is \$30, which includes textbook and workbook. Any additional volunteer help (teaching, demonstrations, etc) is welcome. Contact Dan, K7MM, 332-3336 or "36" on speed-dial for more information.

#### KBARA Giving License Exams (almost?)

As of this printing, we are still waiting on the FCC to decide the new Volunteer Exam Coordinators (VEC) in each of the thirteen districts. VECs will supervise the administration of the amateur exams to be given locally by the KBARA Volunteer Examiners: Frank, K7ZN, Dennis, N7DH, Dan, K7MM, and George, N7IS. The program allows VEs to give Technician and General class code and written tests, and to issue interim upgrades on the spot! As soon as the FCC decides to authorize the VEC for our district, KBARA will be giving tests on a regular basis. Advanced and Extra class volunteer examination is still being decided by the FCC too.

#### News from the Technical Committee

A great deal of work has gone into the repeater system over the past few months. Art, WB7AUK, and I (Dan, K7MM), have seen more of Kamiak Butte than we have seen of our own back yards! A thorough re-tuning of the 2M, 220 MHz, & 450 MHz systems has helped equalize audio levels. The 2M receiver was re-tuned to be twice as sensitive as before (now .28 microvolts for 20 dB quieting). The big news, though, is that the 146.74 repeater is duplexing on the high antenna (200 feet above the Butte!) with few "noising" episodes. The transmitter is running full power too! What near miraculous device is allowing this...??? It's a Sinclair hybrid ring duplexer loaned to us by Art, WB7AUK.

KBARA's 2M repeater is working a large portion of the Inland Northwest very well, thank you. Its wide coverage area is becoming less and less one of amateur radio's best kept secrets as stations show up asking "Where is this repeater, anyway??". Recent contacts have been in Cashmere, WA; Craigmont, ID; with many Spokane amateurs gracing 6.74 as well! Welcome!

KBARA Membership / Support Information The KBARA repeater system consists of several 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. The repeaters' frequencies, call signs, locations and owners are as follows:

#### KBARA REPEATERS

- 146.74 W7HFI** Kamiak Butte, near Pullman, WA, owned by Bob, W7HFI, John, W7OE, & Mark, K7HPT
- 147.02 K7HPT** Lookout Pass on I-90 on the Idaho-Montana border, owned by Mark, K7HPT, & John, W7OE
- 147.28 KD7DDQ** Pikes Peak in the Blue Mountains, SE of Walla Walla, WA, owned by Ken, KD7DDQ & Mark K7HPT
- 147.36 N1NG** Stensgar (Stranger) Mountain, near Chewelah, WA, owned by Mike, N1NG, & John, W7OE
- 147.38 W7OE** Mica Peak, east of Spokane, WA, owned by John, W7OE
- 223.90 AK2O** Stensgar (Stranger) Mountain, near Chewelah, WA, owned by Karl, AK2O
- 444.35 N1NG** Mica Peak, east of Spokane, WA, with a 192.8 Hz tone, owned by Mike, N1NG
- 53.750 N7ZUF** Kamiak Butte, near Pullman, WA, owned by Jay, N7ZUF
- IRLP Node #3957 N1NG** South Hill of Spokane, WA, owned by Mike, N1NG

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

Please visit these websites for more information: <http://www.kbara.org> and visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/evergreenintertie>

To support KBARA, please send your contributions to:

KBARA, PO Box 30801  
Spokane WA 99223-3013

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.

#### KAMIAK BUTTE AMATEUR REPEATER ASSOCIATION

PO Box 30801

Spokane WA 99223-3013