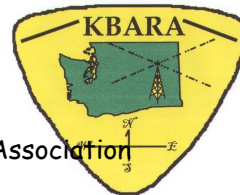




# KBARA GAZETTE



Winter, 2010 The Quarterly Journal of the Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association

KBARA, PO Box 30801, Spokane WA 99223-3013

## The "OE Challenge"

By John, W7OE

A couple of years ago, in response to the elimination of the code requirement for Amateur licenses, I decided to conduct an experiment. Will Amateurs learn Morse Code if not required for a license? I came up with the idea of "The OE Challenge!" The candidate must have a no-code General or no-code Extra to participate (the Advanced was discontinued before the code was dropped). The candidate had a whole year to pass a 5 W.P.M. code test to win the challenge. The candidate was required to pay the KBARA Repeater Fund \$50.00 if unsuccessful but I would pay the \$50.00 if they passed. I was a little nervous about having a lot of candidates & having to pay a lot of money, so the first year (2008) we had one candidate. Since he did not pass, I got bold & took on six candidates in 2009.

As luck would have it, I won an ICOM718 H.F. radio at the Spokane Hamfest with the purchase of just one ticket (#0001). Since I was a major part of both organizations, I decided that it would be prudent to donate this radio to a good cause: "The OE Challenge!". I offered this as an award to the first person to pass the 5 W.P.M. Code Test. I was pleased to discover that Jay, N7ZUF, passed the code in mid December (administered by K7MM). I gladly gave him the radio at our Christmas lunch & reluctantly gave Betsy, N7WRQ (the KBARA Treasurer) a check for \$50.00. As of this time it appears that Jay was the only one to pass the test in 2009 so I am off the hook for up to another \$250.00 to the KBARA Repeater Fund.



Jay, N7ZUF, receiving IC-718 & trophy



Thanks to Dan, K7MM, & Del, K7BM, we have some donations for 2010. We have an Azden 6-Meter FM radio, a Vibroplex Bug, a Vibroplex paddle, a Drake Watt/SWR Meter (good to 2KW), antenna switches, connectors, & many more "goodies". No \$50.00 wager will be required for 2010, so any no-code General or no-code Extra may enter without financial risk (of course I am also not at risk financially ....). Please contact me if interested in participating in 2010.

What have I concluded so far? I found a good way to raise \$350.00 for KBARA. People are willing to learn code if the incentive is high enough or if there is a penalty for not learning. I think the ARRL should give away radios to keep C.W. alive in the future.





SPOKANE HAMFEST, 2009  
PHOTOS BY DICK, K7CYZ  
& BETSY, N7WRQ





## KBARA, 11 YEARS by Roy, VE7IS & Jan, VE7QE



This will be our last submission to the KBARA newsletter. There comes a time when some things have to come to an end. This is our time to say to all it's been a pleasure & a lot of fun over the past 11 or more years. To start with, while in Christina Lake, BC, we could hear the KBARA repeater system & we tried to be a regular check-in from there. While on a trip to Spokane, WA, we gave our call signs on the air & Royal, KB7WTO & Barbara, KB7WTN (at that time) responded. They invited us to join them for dinner at a Mexican Restaurant, where a few other Hams were as well.


That was the beginning of a great friendship with KBARA. While living in Christina Lake, we learned of different events with KBARA & attended as many as we could. We then started passing on the word of this great group. We belonged to a club in Oliver BC & invited several members to join us at some of the KBARA campouts. We decided to drive up to Stensgar Mtn. to see where one of the repeater systems were & found that we could actually get into the Oliver repeater system from there. We then mentioned it to John, W7OE & the Oliver president (at the time). At that point, things got started & linking to & from Canada occurred. After a few years, problems occurred & the link was disabled. We had moved a few times during this period. Once we settled in Okanagan Falls, BC, we decided to put in our own IRLP system, which allowed us to

connect to several different countries through 2M & the Internet. We explained the mode of communication to Mike, N1NG & he became interested & put in his own IRLP & connected it to KBARA. Therefore, we were able to connect to KBARA & check into the morning net once again. We then explained that if they got permission to use one of the Reflectors on IRLP, it would allow several other Nodes to connect & check in as well. Once KBARA got permission to use the reflector, we passed on the word about the net & several states, provinces & countries started to check in. This net became very popular & we tried our best to promote it to anyone who had access to an IRLP Node. We even volunteered to do Thursday morning net & did so for 3 years. In 1998, we started participating in different Hamfests, with the first one being in Walla Walla, WA with Royal & Barbara, & Charlene, KC7RQF & Walt, W7ALT. In 1999 we attended the original Spokane Hamfest for the first time, where we donated our time to help in many ways. From that time we attended & volunteered for 11 Hamfests. Over the past

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years we have volunteered to pick up & sell the Hamfest tickets at all events that we attended, both in the US & Canada. We also put on 2 IRLP Seminars for the Spokane Hamfest. We have tried our best to attend most of the KBARA campouts over the years. Of course sometimes other matters became priority & we couldn't make it. During some of these campouts, we volunteered to demonstrate & teach line dancing among the pine cones, as Charlene, KC7RQF put it; we donated huckleberries & Canadian sausages for the past 2 years for a pancake breakfast. It has always been our pleasure to do this. We know how enjoyable those Canadian sausages are to most of you. This was carried on from our Christina Lake Amateur Radio Picnic, which we hosted for 9 years, where many KBARA members attended. Bozo even conducted the Saturday morning net, from our location, during our final picnic in 2007. We have always felt that KBARA was well worth donating to. We have met so many wonderful friends. We have so many pictures from our experiences with KBARA & will always look back on them with pride. We hope that many of you keep in touch with us via IRLP Node 1375 or email janroy@shaw.ca

73, Roy, VE7IS & Jan, VE7QE

Thanks, Roy & Jan, from all of KBARA for your tremendous efforts over the years. Due to efforts such as yours & many others, the club & hobby has greatly benefited.

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSIONS

**Coeur d'Alene, ID, ARRL VEC** Walk-in VE testing , second Monday of every month starting at 5:30PM (prior to the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society -KARS general meeting starting at 7:00PM) at the Search & Rescue Building, 10865 N. Ramsey, Hayden, ID 83835.near the South end of CDA Airport Contact: John Hollar, Jr., N7JU, phone: (208)765-5470 email: vetesting@k7id.org

**Colville, WA, ARRL VEC** Contact: Karl Miller, WX7DX: (509) 258-8922 email: wx7dx@msn.com

**Kennewick, WA, ARRL VEC** 17-Jan-2010, March 21, 2010; Sponsor: TCHAMS/TRI-CITIES ARC; Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed);Contact: Andrew E. Rakowski phone: (509)528-9814 Email: W7UNX@ARRL.NET;Location: American Red Cross Bldg, 7202 W Deschutes Ave, Kennewick, W 99336;Pre-registration preferred, doors open at 1:30PM

**Lewiston, ID, ARRL VEC** March 20, 2010; April 6, 2010, May 4, 2010; Lewis-Clark ARC conducts testing the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM at the EAA Chapter 328 Hanger at the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport, Building N-14, Lewiston, ID 83501. Please note the testing time is 1 hour prior to the meeting. For more information, please visit: <http://www.lewisclarkarc.org/testing.aspx> or email at w7vjd@lewisclarkarc.org.; VE Contact: Emmett McCormick, NA7EM, Phone: 208-798-3279, Email: na7em@arrl.net

**Pullman/Moscow Area, WA, ARRL VEC** January 17, 2010, 1300 hrs; Palouse Hills ARC; Contact: Tom Storer, KI6DER, phone: (509)334-6979 email: KI6DER@AmSat.org; see PHARC Web page for additional information: [www.palousehillsarc.org](http://www.palousehillsarc.org)

**Spokane, WA, ARRL VEC** Spokane Community College, Room 251 or 252, 1810 N Greene St, Building facing Mission Street, Spokane, WA; 5PM every 2nd Thursday except summer months (prior to the Inland Empire VHF Radio Amateurs general meeting starting at 6:30PM). Call for confirmation

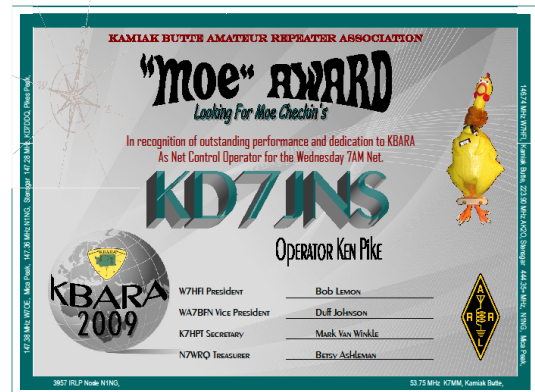
Contact: Mary Qualtieri, AA7RT, phone: (509)991-2192 email: aa7rt@arrl.net

**Spokane, WA, W5YI VEC** January 30, 2010, Saturday; March 27, 2010, Saturday; May 22, 2010, Saturday; July 24, 2010, Saturday; August 28, 2010, Saturday; November 27, 2010, Saturday; all 10AM; call for location; Contact: Betsy Ashleman, phone: (509)448-5821 email: n7wrq@aol.com

Please bring a photo ID, radio license, if any, plus a photocopy, & any outstanding Certificates of Completion, plus a photocopy, & Social Security number or FRN number, and cash or check made out to the "ARRL" (\$15) or "W5YI" (\$14). If you pass a lower class, license you may sit for the next highest class on the same exam fee. You may retake any failed exam for an additional fee at the same testing session



Ken, KD7JNS, proud recipient of the Moe Checkin's Award



## KBARA CAMPOUT/ANNUAL MEETING

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

This year our KBARA campout will be at  
KETTLE FALLS LOCUST GROVE GROUP  
SITE

just outside of Kettle Falls, WA  
on the Columbia River, July 15th

through the 18th. For more info contact  
[markvanwinkle@comcast.net](mailto:markvanwinkle@comcast.net) &

<http://www.kbara.org/>

### Antenna Update, by John, W7OE

We can't have a newsletter without an update of the W7OE 160/80 Meter Vertical. Just a short recap (to use dentistry terminology): The antenna is a 38 foot crank-up tower with 10 feet of steel masting on top of the tower. On top of that was 27 feet of closet rod with an attached wire making for a vertical that is 75 feet tall. Attached to the antenna is a linear-loading element with 60 feet of wire (30 feet up and 30 feet down to the base). This element is put in series with the tower when operating 160 meters & bypassed when operating 80 meters. The antenna is maintained upright with rope & twine guying at frequent intervals from the base to the top of the antenna. The first problem encountered was the guy twine holding the closet rod was not strong enough. A strong wind broke the twine & the closet rod broke. Heavier chord was used & it held up fine during the next windstorm. Unfortunately, the closet rod snapped. The most recent version uses aluminum tubing with the heavier chord. This has been in use for 3 days as of this writing. The first test was a success! My first 5 contacts on 160 meters were Ukraine, European Russia, Slovakia, European Russia, & Finland. Obviously the aluminum tubing works as well as closet rod with an attached wire .... .. Europe is hard to work on the low bands from the Western United States because the path goes through the auroral donut & is greatly attenuated on 160 & 80 meters. An interesting thing happened during the last installation. I added extra tubing so the antenna would be resonant lower on the bands. I added perhaps an extra foot. We lost control raising the antenna & it fell on the top rail of my chain link fence. We had to cut 3 feet off of the aluminum tubing because of the damage from the fall. Now it was 2 feet shorter than the prior installation. Unbelievably, it was perfectly matched at 3500 KHz just as I wanted. Less tubing was needed (vs. the wire) to achieve a resonant frequency. The antenna has a SWR of 1 to 1 on 3500 KHz & goes to 2 to 1 at 3800 KHz. I did not test it any higher up the band but it should work up to 4000 KHz with an antenna matcher (often called a tuner in error). The antenna--with the linear loading element--has a SWR of 3 to 1 on 1800 KHz, 2.7 to 1 on 1822 KHz, and 3 to 1 on 1845 KHz. My linear has an antenna matcher so the transmitter "sees" a perfect match. I feed the antenna with 90 feet of RG-8 coax so even with a 3 to 1 match the additional loss is less than one-tenth of a db on 160 meters. The total line loss is about 0.35 db on 160 Meters, which for you UHF enthusiasts, is what you loose in a connector! I cannot figure out why I cannot get a lower SWR on 160 meters but it doesn't matter since the line loss is so low on that band. REMEMBER A NON RESONANT ANTENNA RADIATES JUST AS WELL AS A RESONANT ANTENNA; THE MAIN PROBLEM HAS TO DO WITH FEEDLINE LOSS DUE TO NON RESONANCE! That's my story & I'm stickin' to it. Also, special thanks to KD7DDQ, K7WET, & K7HPT for the assistance in the last installation. Without their help I probably would have several more damaged top rails on my fence (yes there is more than one bent top rail on my chain link fence from antenna mishaps).

#### Please remember to renew your membership for 2010

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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>**



**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:

#### **KB7ARA REPEATERS**

- 146.74 W7HFI** Kamiak Butte, near Pullman, WA, owned by Bob, W7HFI, Dan, K7MM, & John, W7OE
- 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 N7HTP
- 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 K7MM** Kamiak Butte, near Pullman, WA, owned by Dan, K7MM, Bob, W7HFI
- 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