

# KBARA

# GAZETTE

Spring 2007

The Quarterly Journal of the Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association

KBARA, PO Box 30801, Spokane WA 99223-3013

## THE HISTORY OF KBARA

John Dempster, W7OE

I recently took time to interview Art, WB7AUK, to get a brief history of KBARA. KBARA was started in 1981 by Dan, K7MM, and Gary, K7VED. It was initially set up as a single repeater on Kamiak Butte. At the time, it was on 146.73 MHz, but later changed to 146.74 MHz when the repeater channels were changed from 30 to 20 MHz spacing. Dan helped operate KWSU TV on Kamiak Butte so he was able to gain access to that site. The financial support group, known as the Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association, was also formalized in 1981. Art, WB7AUK, took over the repeater when Dan left the area in the early 1980's. Art could not recall the exact date but it occurred when Art was a Deputy Sheriff in Whitman County. Art was able to obtain a FEMA grant to improve the repeater. He also installed the repeaters at Walla Walla in 1986 and Stensgar in 1989.

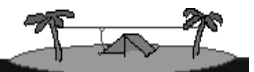
Art had an interesting anecdote regarding the Walla Walla site. He had a meeting with the owner plus a principal user of the site: the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Because Saturday was their Sabbath, they opposed any repeater work on Saturdays, which was the best day for Art. During the meeting, a 90 year old man, supported by two canes, stood up and said "don't complain - this repeater might help pull us out of the ditch": a tribute to emergency communications. After that, the church members voted unanimously to allow Art access to the site on Saturdays. Art did not know who this person was, but he must have been important.

Regarding the association with the Evergreen Intertie, in 1987, Karl, AK2O, formerly WA7YCP, had the first station in the Spokane area connected to the Intertie. A BEARS (Boeing Employee ARS) controller was supplied to him by Russ, N7HGE, the primary designer

of the Intertie for Karl's 147.20 MHz repeater. In 1989, Karl's Spokane operation was turned over to Art and KBARA. In addition, the 147.38 MHz repeater on Mica Peak had just been installed. Too, Art coordinated with Karl to use Karl's 223.90 MHz repeater on Stensgar to link the four repeaters Art had in operation. In 1990, Bob, WJ7F, and KBARA added the 147.02 MHz repeater at Lookout Pass, with the repeater call sign being changed to Art's in 1993. This last repeater was linked to the rest of KBARA and the Evergreen Intertie using links on UHF. Thus, by 1990, the basic KBARA system was complete as we know it today.

Art sold his repeaters to the current owners in 1996 and 1997 due to his health problems. I bought the 147.38 MHz repeater and the links on Mica Peak in 1996 and decided to partner with co-owners Royal, KB7WTO, Bob, W7HFI, and Neil, N7LVO at Stensgar Mountain, Kamiak Butte, and Lookout Pass, respectively. Walla Walla was sold to a single buyer, Rich AA7P, and later passed thru Walt and Charlene, W7ALT and KC7RQF, and then to Ken, KD7DDQ. In 2005 Mike, N1NG, added the IRLP, Echo Link, and a 70 cm repeater for the Echo Link.

So as you may notice, KBARA is a complex repeater system put together primarily by Art, WB7AUK and expanded by others. Thanks to Art, KBARA is one of the most capable repeater systems in the country.



## KBARA NETS

Please join us on IRLP reflector 9205

Weekdays	7:00AM 7AM NW Regional/International Net
Wednesday	7:00PM Wednesday Evening KBARA Net
Saturday	7:00AM Bozo Net
Sunday	7:30AM Roadrunners' Net

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSIONS

### **Coeur d'Alene, ID**

Contact: John Hollar, Jr., N7JU, phone: (208)765-5470  
email: N7JU@arrl.net; www.k7id.com

### **College Place/Walla Walla, WA**

Every May, August, November, February, third Sunday of month

Walla Walla College, Industrial Technology Bldg., SW 4<sup>th</sup> & Bade St., College Place, WA, 99324

Contact: Mable Babbitt, WB5AVH, phone: (509)525-7003  
e-mail: wa5zay@msn.com

### **Colville, WA**

March 17, 2007; April 21, 2007; 10AM, Hearth & Home Technology, 1445 N. Highway, Colville, WA

Please call ahead

Contact: Karl Miller, KC7KPA, phone: (509)258-8922,  
(509)684-6491 email: kc7kpa@arrl.net

### **Davenport, WA**

First Wednesday of the month, 12:00PM

By appointment only

Contact: Glen Day, K7CPO, phone: (509)722-3505  
email: FlyT@turboisp.com

### **Kennewick, WA**

March 18, 2007, 2PM, American Red Cross Bldg, 7202 W. Deschutes Ave, Kennewick, WA 99336

Contact: Andrew Rakowski, W7UNX; phone: (509)734-9507; email: w7unx@arrl.net

### **Lewiston, ID**

March 6, 2007; April 3, 1007; 7PM; EAA Hanger-Nezperce County Airport, Lewiston, ID

Contact: Lyle Cable, phone: (509)758-8374 e-mail:  
llcable@clarkston.com

### **Sagle, ID**

No walk-ins; Sagle Senior Center, 650 Monarch Rd, Sagle, ID 83860; PLEASE CALL AHEAD

Contact: Russ Arndt, AA7XM, phone: (208)265-4534  
(after 8PM) email: russell.arndt@verizon.net

### **Spokane, WA**

March 8, 2007; April 12, 2007; May 10, 2007; 5:00PM, upstairs meeting room, Trading Co. Stores (formerly Tidyman's Grocery), 13014 E. Sprague Ave., Spokane Valley, WA (corner of Sprague & McDonald)

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

March 8, 2007; April 12, 2007; May 10, 2007; Spokane Community College Room I-252, 1810 N Greene St, Building facing Mission Street, Spokane, WA; call for time & walk-in info

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

March 21, 2007, 5PM & 7PM; Spokane Valley LDS Stake Center, 21022 W Wellesley, Spokane Valley, WA; must pre-register;

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



### **Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association Field Day & Annual Meeting/Camp Out**

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2007 will be held June 23-24, 2007.

Stay tuned for further details as to the location of this year's KBARA Field Day.



Elisabeth, KD7WOL, & Katie Chase at last year's Field Day



## THE RADIO AMATEUR CODE

The Radio Amateur is:

**CONSIDERATE**....never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL**.... offers loyalty, encouragement, and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE**... with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

**FRIENDLY**... slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur service.

BALANCED... radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC... station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Amateur's Code was written by

Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

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### Web Sites of Interest

#### Pacific Northwest Hamfairs

<http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm>

#### Washington State ARES/RACES

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

#### Spokane County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

<http://66.193.37.86/>

#### NW Saturday Swap Net

<http://www.nwhams.com/>

#### IRLP

<http://www.irlp.net/>

#### Personal Comfort/Survival Equipment List

<http://66.193.37.86/EquipmentLists.html>

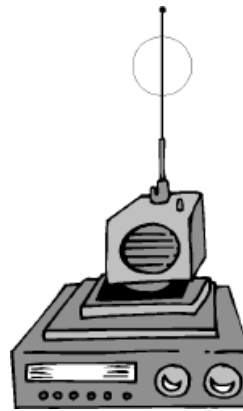
#### Amateur Radio Repeaters in Washington

<http://www.artscipub.com/repeaters/dsprpts.asp?state=Washington&order=freq>

#### For Useful Links

[http://www.kbara.org/useful\\_ham\\_links.htm](http://www.kbara.org/useful_ham_links.htm)

<http://maxsonlab.com/n1ng.htm>



Greetings,

Here is an important, time-sensitive message that is applicable to all Washington State Amateur Radio licensees. This message originated early this morning (February 27) from the Western Washington Section and Ed Bruette, N7NVP, ARRL Section Manager of Western Washington.

Thank you.

73,

Steve Ewald, WV1X, at ARRL HQ (who is assisting to get this message out to Eastern Washington ARRL members.)  
[sewald@arrrl.org]

Hi again,

#### The Problem

All Amateur Radio Licensees living in Washington State will be affected by a new interpretation of state Tax Law by the Washington State Department of Revenue. This new "interpretation" will result in repeater operators potentially having to pay hundreds to thousands of dollars in taxes for the value of the use of repeater sites as valued by the Department of Revenue.

This is particularly a problem for sites where repeater operators pay a token of the actual costs that other site users pay. This is likely to result in many repeater operators being forced to shut down and remove their repeaters, potentially crippling emergency preparedness and response as well as harming the hobby.

Amateur Radio Licensees of Washington State we need your help. Many of the amateur radio repeater systems that we all use are at leased sites on public land. The Washington State Department of Revenue has determined that these systems are subject to leasehold excise taxes. These leasehold excise taxes are a significant percent (12.5%) of the fair market value for the space used on the tower and site. The market value of these sites, because of their commercial value to cellular telephone providers and other commercial users can in many cases be quite high. With this leasehold excise tax assessment it will become cost prohibitive for many amateur radio repeaters to remain at the excellent commercial and public sites where they are currently located.

This leasehold excise tax is based on the fair market value of the site, not on the value of the rent being collected. In most cases the leasehold excise tax will be much higher than the actual rent being paid. For example: the Federal Way Amateur Radio Club's repeater, a repeater used to support the City of Federal

Way with emergency communications, occupies space at in a King County communications site rent free but is being assessed leasehold excise tax at the commercial rate. The resulting bill is estimated to be about \$125 per month!

While many of these systems provide a critical resource to governmental emergency management organizations, this public service use or role provides no protection against this leasehold excise tax assessment.

The current Washington State law simply does not provide an exemption for these amateur radio repeater systems. The applicable RCW is 82.29A. It can be reviewed at

[http://www.mrsc.org/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=lepage.htm\\$vid=rcwwa](http://www.mrsc.org/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=lepage.htm$vid=rcwwa)

### **The Solution**

Representatives Skip Priest and Mark Miloscia have introduced **House Bill 2335** which, if passed, will provide an exemption from leasehold excise tax for amateur radio repeaters located on public property and used to support emergency management. The bill is currently in the house finance committee, where it needs to be approved. A hearing has been scheduled for March 2 with the house finance committee. It is very important that Hams in Washington State let their representatives in the Finance committee and the rest of the House know how important it is for this bill to be approved.

### **A Call to Action**

Please send your representatives in the house finance committee respectful and articulate reasons why it is critically important for emergency communications that we have Amateur Radio repeaters. Tell them how in your community your local repeater provides a critical resource to your emergency communications plans. Explain that Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations forbid amateur radio groups from charging to use repeaters and consequently repeater owners do not have the funds to pay the leasehold excise tax burden. Approval of this bill is critical to the continued operation of these amateur radio repeater systems. With the hearing coming up on March 2nd it is important that you act as soon as possible. Please be friendly, respectful and articulate in your correspondence. We need the support of these representatives and anticipate that they will be supportive of our cause if they are briefed in a friendly manner by their constituents. Please write to them today. If your group or club operates a repeater that local emergency management uses, let them know about this bill and ask them to contact their lobbyist, inform them of the problem, the solution, and how they can help to insure that a critical resource is there for them when they need it.

The Bill

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session By Representatives Priest and Miloscia

Read first time 02/21/2007.

Referred to Committee on Finance.

AN ACT relating to exempting certain amateur radio repeaters from leasehold excise taxes; and adding a new section to chapter 82.29A RCW. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON: NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 82.29A RCW to read as follows: (1) Any leasehold interest in an amateur radio repeater, which is made available for use by, or is used in support of, a public agency in the event of an emergency or potential emergency to which the agency is, or may be, a qualified responder, is exempt from tax under this chapter or any similar tax imposed for the lease of public property. (2) For purposes of this act, "amateur radio repeater" means an electronic device that receives a weak or low-level amateur radio signal and retransmits it at a higher level or higher power, so that the signal can cover longer distances without degradation, and is used by amateur radio operators possessing a valid license issued by the federal communications commission.

The.... members of the finance committee can be found at:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/committees/fin/>

Thank you for your help and support.

Submitted by KC7RRH with support from KL7BB and KB7WSD

73,

Ed, N7NVP

ARRL Western Washington Section

Section Manager: Edward W. Bruette, N7NVP

[n7nvp@arrl.org](mailto:n7nvp@arrl.org)

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### **KBARA Officers**

#### **President**

Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ  
(509)448-5821, [n7wrq@aol.com](mailto:n7wrq@aol.com)

#### **Vice President**

Ken Crosswhite, KD7DDQ  
(509)927-9865

#### **Secretary**

Jim Ashleman, N7WRQ  
(509)448-5821

#### **Treasurer**

Neil Gallup, N7LVO  
(509)209-3109,

#### **Newsletter**

Wes Taylor, KD7HGG  
[kd7hgg@yahoo.com](mailto:kd7hgg@yahoo.com)

Hi All,

The January 20th Spokane Hamfest planning meeting in Spangle was very productive in spite of the low attendance. Here's what went on:

1. Washington State Gambling Commission rules were reviewed for the unlicensed raffle held at the event: no free tickets or tickets as gifts, prizes must be owned by the organization prior to the drawing, records must be kept at least one year, the buyer & seller must be at least 18 years old, the seller must be a member of the organization, the tickets may not be sold at a discount (eg. 6 tickets for \$5), and the name of the sponsoring organization must be clearly printed on the raffle ticket along with other info. Since the Spokane Hamfest is not a formal organization (it has no bank account, no tax ID number, no bylaws, etc), but is made up now of seven different clubs, it was suggested that the lead club, KBARA, which is a formal non-profit organization, be discretely listed on the raffle ticket, as well as the Spokane Hamfest, in order to be within the Gambling Commission's guidelines. Too, sellers of the raffle tickets would be made members of KBARA, if they weren't already.
- 2.. The budget for prizes was set at \$2,200, along with the stipulation that the raffle ticket sales should more than pay for these prizes. In past years, that has been the case. Several prize options were discussed, with the final decision being two ICOM 706MKIIG radios as the two prizes for the raffle. Door prizes will be selected later.

3. ARRL state convention status was received several weeks ago.
4. Advertising rates will remain unchanged: full page ad \$120, half page \$70 & quarter page \$40. Too, classified ads might be offered.
5. Prices for commercial tables & swap tables at the event would again be \$15 & \$7.50 at the door, but \$12 & \$5 if paid for early (by 9/06/07)
6. Plans for seminars should now begin, along with inviting the League guest. A silent auction was recommended for this year, with all merchandise auctioned for benefit of the Hamfest Too, the usual post Hamfest dinner should be offered.
7. Seed money should now be solicited:  
From NW Tri-State ARO, IEVHF Club, Spokane DX Assn., KBARA, \$400 may be contributed; from SRA & Palouse Hills \$200 may be contributed. Checks should be made payable & sent to: KBARA, PO Box 30801, Spokane WA 99223-3013
8. And last, deferring some profit each year for the next year's operating expenses was discussed, but decided against. So, that's our progress. The next endeavor will be preparing the flyers & raffle tickets in time for the March 10 Puyallup Hamfest.  
73 & onward,  
Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ  
Spokane Hamfest Chairman

**KBARA Income/Expenses  
7/01/2005 to 6/30/2006**

	<b>KBARA</b>	<b>KBARA</b>	<b>Total KBARA</b>	<b>Hamfest</b>	<b>Bank</b>
	<b>Checking</b>	<b>Savings</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Checking</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Beginning Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$311.31</b>	<b>\$392.71</b>	<b>\$704.02</b>	<b>\$792.40</b>	<b>\$1,496.42</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Memberships/Donations	\$1,790.00	\$0.00	\$1,790.00		\$1,790.00
Hamfest Profit	\$369.51	\$0.00	\$369.51		\$369.51
Hamfest Seed Money	\$401.00	\$0.00	\$401.00		\$401.00
ARRL Testing Fees	\$47.00	\$0.00	\$47.00		\$47.00
Interest Earned	\$0.00	\$1.58	\$1.58		\$1.58
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,607.51</b>	<b>\$1.58</b>	<b>\$2,609.09</b>		<b>\$2,609.09</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Lookout Pass Site Rental	(\$370.00)	\$0.00	(\$370.00)		(\$370.00)
Pikes Peak Site Rental	(\$360.00)	\$0.00	(\$360.00)		(\$360.00)
Stensgar Site Rentals	(\$200.00)	\$0.00	(\$200.00)		(\$200.00)
Evergreen Intertie	(\$200.00)	\$0.00	(\$200.00)		(\$200.00)
Gift for Bob, W7HFI	(\$25.00)	\$0.00	(\$25.00)		(\$25.00)
Hamfest Seed Money	(\$400.00)	\$0.00	(\$400.00)		(\$400.00)
Insurance	(\$325.00)	\$0.00	(\$325.00)		(\$325.00)
Check Printing	(\$25.00)	\$0.00	(\$25.00)		(\$25.00)
Newsletter/flyer Printing	(\$130.07)	\$0.00	(\$130.07)		(\$130.07)
Postage	(\$245.70)	\$0.00	(\$245.70)		(\$245.70)
Post Office Box	(\$47.40)	\$0.00	(\$47.40)		(\$47.40)
Washington State Filing	(\$20.00)	\$0.00	(\$20.00)		(\$20.00)
Adjustment	(\$0.41)	\$0.00	(\$0.41)		(\$0.41)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$2,348.58)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$2,348.58)</b>		<b>(\$2,348.58)</b>
<b>Hamfest Activity</b>				\$732.37	<b>\$732.37</b>
<b>Ending Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$570.24</b>	<b>\$394.29</b>	<b>\$964.53</b>	<b>\$1,524.77</b>	<b>\$2,489.30</b>