

KBARA

GAZETTE

Fall 2006

The Quarterly Journal of the Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association
Please note our new mailing address: KBARA, PO Box 30801, Spokane WA 99223-3013

The President's Corner

Greetings,

Those Amateurs who volunteer their time, their energy, their money to the cause deserve our respect & gratitude. So "here's to you", Bob, W7HFI! Thanks for all your efforts as KBARA President these last four years. Too, the Club thanks John, KE7CSF, for having the Club QSL cards redesigned & printed in time for Field Day, for instigating & designing the very prestigious Moe Checkin's Net Controller Award, for the mini-Moe Award just recently received by Warren, N7YRN, and for again recruiting the help of Standard Battery & Rosauers at Field Day. Too, our appreciation goes to Dennis, WQ7O, for hosting one "fine business" Field Day, and hope he will consider heading up that event again next year. A new 70 cm. repeater, 444.35 (+) 192.8 tone, N1NG, located on the South Hill of Spokane, will be hooked to EchoLink & connectable to KBARA. This will give operators the option of using IRLP on 2 meters or EchoLink on 70 cm. Thanks go to Mike, N1NG, for his efforts on that & also to Royal, KB7WTO, Wayne, K7ZOX, & Bozo, N7DRA. Also, an amplifier purchased by KBARA was installed on Stensgar to boost the signal of the 223.90 Mhz backbone repeater. Our appreciation goes to Doug, N7BFS, & Jeremiah, KD7DMP, for installing that. And last, KBARA feels mighty lucky to have one seriously dedicated Technical Director, John, W7OE. Please give him a pat on the back for his tireless efforts in keeping this repeater system running.

See you at the Spokane Hamfest September 23!

73,

Betsy, N7WRQ

KBARA President

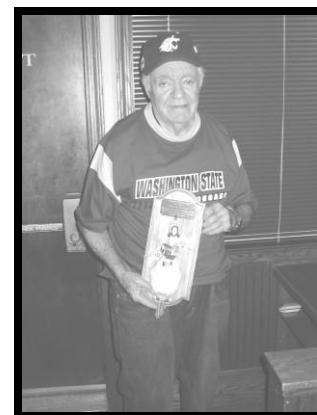
Spokane Hamfest Chairman



MOE CHECKIN AWARD



Bozo, N7DRA, with KB7ARA'S
Moe Checkin's Net Controller Award, July 1, 2006



Warren, N7YRN, "Your Radio Nut"
Co-founder of the KBARA 7 A.M.
NW Regional International Net
On August 15, 1996
With the Mini-Moe Award



Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association
 Annual Meeting Minutes
 June 24, 2006, 1:06PM
 Bear Lake Spokane County Park, Chattaroy, WA

The meeting, presided by President Bob Lemon, W7HFI, began with the reading and approval of the July 9, 2005 annual meeting minutes. Treasurer Neil Gallup, N7LVO, and Secretary Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ, gave an accounting of the club treasury. Income was meeting the normal club expenses.

The Technical Director, John Dempster, W7OE, gave a recap of the repeater problems and repairs made over the last year.

The following members were nominated and elected to office:

- President: Elizabeth Ashleman, N7WRQ
- Vice President: Kenneth Crosswhite, KD7DDQ
- Secretary : James Ashleman, N7WRR
- Treasurer: Neil Gallup, N7LVO

Spokane Hamfest seed money of \$400 was approved, and \$100 was approved for donation to the Evergreen Intertie. The new club representatives were congratulated: Southern Representative, George Copeland, W7ZVD, and the Silver Valley Representative, Bill George, KE7FPC.

The yearly informal March KBARA meeting approved last year, is not required by the Club to take place. A \$25 Starbucks gift card was presented to Bob, W7HFI, as a token of the Club's appreciation for his service; and the Moe Checkin's Net Controller Award was made to Bozo Bosold, N7DRA. And a special thanks went to KBARA's hard working volunteers: the Technical Director, John, W7OE, the newsletter editor, Wes Taylor, KD7HGG, and the many others that keep KBARA running. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
 Secretary, 2005-2006
 Elizabeth A. Ashleman, N7WRQ
 Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association



Christina Lake 2006 summer picnic!

Northern Reps Report:

Well, our 8th Annual Christina Lake Amateur Radio Picnic was another big success. We had 87 attendees, with about 14 campsites filled up and a few of the rooms at the Inn. We had 21 people from the US. We'd like to give a big thank you to all the people who donated prizes for this event. Everyone went home with a prize as usual.

The greatest part of having this picnic is that there are always enough people lending a hand and having fun. We always say that if it weren't for the great people, this event wouldn't be so much fun. It's the people who make it a success. If you want to meet the people you talk with on the air, this is the place to come.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year. We should have the first announcement out by the beginning of 2007. Next years event will be held one week later, on August 18, 2007, due to a wedding in the family on our usual date. We have talked to the "owners" of the Motel & RV Campgrounds and he says that everything will be a go for next year. We will learn more as time approaches and we will keep you all informed. So, mark your calendars for the 9th Annual Christina Lake Amateur Radio Picnic.

We'll see everyone at the Spokane Hamfest on September 23, 2006. We know that it will be a great event. We always have fun.

73
 Jan, VE7QE & Roy, VE7IS
 Okanagan Falls, BC Canada
 Your Northern Reps.



Antenna project at Christina Lake Picnic

SPOKANE HAMFEST & ARRL WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION

September 23, 2006

Hosted by seven clubs at University High School, 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley, WA

Seminars, Displays, Activities & Demos

"HF 101" by Ward, N0AX ~ "Official Observers & ARRL Monitoring System" by Chuck, K0BOG, from ARRL Headquarters ~ "Tower Climbing" by Karl, AK2O ~ "Junque" Open-Cry Auction ~ "How High Should Your HF Antenna Be?" by LaMar, WA7LT ~ "Copper Pipe J-Pole Construction" by Pete, W7OW (please contact him in advance for list of antenna making materials at (509)466-6427 or w7ow@hotmail.com) ~ ARRL Forum ~ "Twin Lead Antenna Construction" by Jack, K7AZN, & Mike, KE7PG ~ "The Big Project & Amateur Radio at University High School" by Steve, WA7WKX ~ EMD Satellite Trailer with Ed, N7NVP, Mario, KD6ILO & Ed Toft ~ National WX Service Display ~ "Radio Test Gear" table by Jack, AD7FO ~ APRS display by David, K7GPS ~ DXCC QSL card checking by LaMar, WA7LT ~ ARES/RACES Forum ~ BBQ lunch by Owens Grocery & Deli ~ License Exam ~ Commercial & non-commercial vendors

Raffle & Door Prizes

Yaesu FT-897D, Kenwood TM-V708A, Yaesu VX-6R, Kenwood TM-271A, ICOM IC-V8 & many other door prizes to be given away

Friday, September 22: vendor setup, 7PM-9PM

Saturday, September 23: 8AM doors open to vendors

Saturday, September 23: 9AM - 5PM doors open to public

Refreshments & confectionaries available, BBQ lunch by Owens Grocery & Deli, Auction 11AM (donations & consignments accepted, 20% consignment donation), license exam 2PM, post Hamfest dinner Saturday, 5:00PM at the Old Country Buffet, 12209 E Sprague Ave. (corner of Sprague & Pines), Spokane Valley

SPOKANE HAMFEST REGISTRATION

Name _____

Call _____

Address _____

Phone number or E-mail Address _____

Please make checks payable & mail to:

KBARA

PO Box 30801

Spokane WA 99223-3013

_____ Registrations @ \$5 each \$ _____

Age 18 & under free

_____ Commercial Tables @ \$15.00 each \$ _____

_____ Swap Tables @ \$7.50 each \$ _____

Total \$ _____

No admission charged for license exam only. Prepaid registrations will not be mailed, but will be held at the ticket table & available for pickup starting Friday, 9/22, 7PM, and Saturday, 9/23, 8AM. Tables available while they last; admission not included in price of table. Admission tickets available at the door. Talk-in frequencies: 147.24 MHz (+offset), & 146.52 MHz; for information contact: Betsy, N7WRQ, (509)448-5821, n7wrq@aol.com, <http://www.kbara.org>



Field Day & Andrew. KE7EMH

The Hub Amplifier
John Dempster, W7OE

Thanks to the KBARA Repeater Fund and the installation by Doug, N7BFS, and Jeremiah, KB7DMP, the KBARA linking hub on 223.90 MHz has an amplifier which increases the power another 9 db, from 2 to 16 watts. The amplifier is a Mirage C-106-G which is rated to 60 watts on intermittent duty cycle but will work on continuous duty cycle at 16 watts. This cost about 1/3 the price of a commercial-grade repeater amplifier but seems to work excellently at the reduced power. We no longer drop out at Walla Walla--the most distant site--but are now fully-quieting most of the time. Doug and Jeremiah should also be thanked for remounting the hub antenna that was disturbed by icing last winter.



A Chronicle on Repeater Repair
John Dempster, W7OE

The Lookout Pass repeater stopped working in June of this year. After some testing, it was determined that the receiver still worked, but the transmitter had failed. We had been using a commercial Motorola Mitrek converted to use as a repeater. I figured the repair would be simple: just bring another Mitrek to the site and drive its amplifier stage with the exciter stage on the original repeater.

After spending time isolating the amplifier stage of a Mitrek, a trip was made to the repeater site. My efforts failed. I could not get the amplifier stage to work even though the exciter was working on the original repeater (the amplifier was not retuned to the amateur frequency).

On the second trip, I took another completely converted Mitrek and attempted to replace the entire repeater. Again it wouldn't work. However, it worked fine with the 153 MHz crystal (into a dummy load of course). I persuaded Doug, N7BFS, to tune and align the unit to 147.02 MHz, using his extensive experience with Motorola gear as part of his job as a technician.

On trip number three, the installation was uneventful and the unit worked great. I adjusted the power to 60 watts out and left the site, confident that the mission was accomplished (if you are sharp you will appreciate my humor with this term).

The next day the repeater started putting out noise which disrupted the whole linked system all the way to Seattle. I turned off the repeater using DTMF controls and planned another trip.

On trip number four I went back to the site and adjusted the external squelch control, installed a fan donated by Wilbur, KD7QLT, and left the site thinking that I solved the problem.

The noise returned. On trip number five I brought several Motorola control heads with me with the belief that the problem was in the control-head squelch circuit. A big problem was noticed--none of the three control heads matched the one being used by the repeater.

However, I started messing around with the connections and noticed that the noise would go away by tapping a couple of transistors. I resoldered the transistors and crossed my fingers. Two days later the noise returned.

On trip number six I brought replacement transistors and adult supervision, Royal, KB7WTO. We replaced the transistors, resoldered all the connections to the repeater panel and adjusted the audio. That was August 3 and the repeater has been working flawlessly since then.

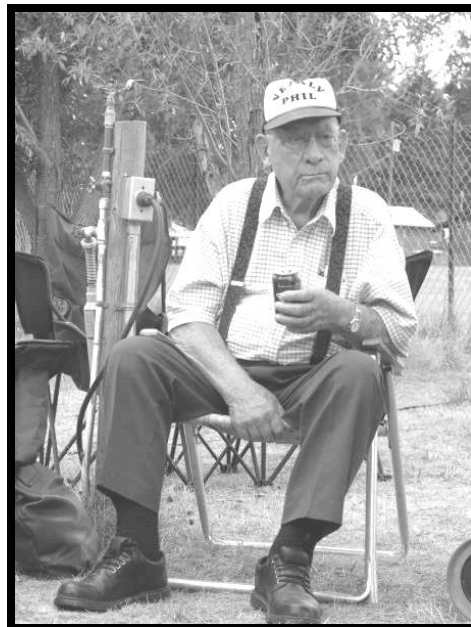
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



Our Technical Director, John, W7OE



Mike NING



Phil, VE7ALV

Officers

President

Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ
509-448-5821
n7wrq @ aol.com

Vice President

Ken Crosswhite, KD7DDQ

Secretary

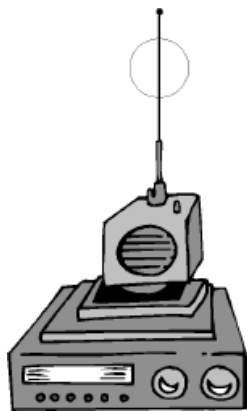
James Ashleman, N7WRR

Treasurer

Neil Gallup, N7LVO
509-209-3109

Newsletter

Wes Taylor, KD7HGG
KD7HGG@yahoo.com



*I say
"stick with tradition!
Turkey is low in fat
and the perfect choice
to assure that I, uh, I
mean you, have a*

*Happy
Thanksgiving!"*



With the help of Standard Batteries & Doug Hanson from the Garland Rosauers, our Field Day was a success.

Field Day tower project



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