

A Hamfest at last.... By Scott, KA7FVV

After a year and a half we had ourselves a great hamfest right here in Spokane. The last hamfest while the pandemic was getting started was March 2020, the Puyallup Hamfest. I attended this last hamfest selling items for a SK friend of mine's widow. With the pandemic ramping up about half of the sellers pulled out. Crowds were down as well. As I left the fairgrounds I remember one of the staff saying better luck next year. Well March 2021 came with no hamfest and the Seaside Hamfest was also cancelled. Hamfests right here in Spokane were cancelled as well. Our new Tailgate Hamfest and the Spokane Hamfest.

Thanks to the pandemic winding down with vaccinations increasing and Duane, KE7NUB organizing our Third Annual Tailgate Hamfest, skipping a year, we had our first hamfest in a long time. This year it took place at Plants Ferry Park Soccer field parking lot. Larger parking lot with a lot more participation made this a great tailgate hamfest. Thank you to Duane for organizing a great Tailgate Hamfest. Pictures courtesy of Duane, KE7NUB.





From the Ham Shack of our President

Kbara Members,

Well, hello again all. It is April 23. I have just finished reading the KBARA Gazette (Spring, 2021 issue) and have commenced work on my next President's letter for the Summer, 2021 issue, which will make its appearance sometime in July, by my calculations. Why so soon, you are no doubt thinking. Well, I guess that's just the way I prefer to do it, rather than doing nothing until late in the season, and being then forced to rush erratically through it all. I often wonder just what I'm going to write about in my next letter, so I start thinking on it just as soon as I can – I'll always come up with something – you can be sure of it. Matter of fact, for any of you thinking about submitting an article for publication, here are the steps I urge you to follow:

Once you've decided what to write about plus things to say, then "rough out" your entire article in long-hand writing with pen and paper. Make all the changes, revisions, scratch-outs, and re-writes you like. Put your entire article into "rough" form.

Next, what I always do is transform my "roughed-out" article into a readable and clear typed copy with an ordinary conventional typewriter. When doing this you will, along the way, discover many additional changes/re-writes you will want to make, plus numerous errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation that you absolutely must make – all things which eluded you altogether when working up your roughed out copy in step one.

Next, you will want to retype your article into a computer (Microsoft Word 2010). Even here, as you work, you will discover yet even more changes you will want/need to make in spelling, words, paragraphs, and content. When you are through this step, your article will be as close to perfect and error-free as anything ever has been. Take your computer to Scott KA7FVV, editor of newsletter, and he will transfer your article into his computer preparatory for publication. Rather than see him personally, you could just send it to him as an e-mail attachment.

It is easy, I would suppose, to look at all this and say "Golly, that must require a lot of time!" Well, start early in the season and devote 15-20 minutes daily to it. You will finish with time to spare, lots of it, I promise you.

Concurrent with our search for contributors of written articles for publication in newsletter, we are also on a never ending search for additional net controllers. Again, being a net controller is another hands-on experience you can tell others about and, trust me, it makes for a far greater impression on them all than just telling the grade of Ham license you happen to hold. I have now entered my ninth (9th) year as a KBARA net-controller – my specialty being the 7:00 am morning net, though I have done others as well. Just a few weeks back, there was a technical problem one morning at 7 am, just as the morning net was about to begin. I can't remember just exactly what it was, but operators on the West side (Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, etc.) could not communicate with the east side (Spokane, CDA, Newport, Post Falls, etc.). We (East side) could hear them, but they (West side) could not hear us. Anyway, it was utter chaos for a few minutes, and I wound up doing the morning net that Tuesday, again on the following day, and then again on Thursday, my normal, regular day. Harry W7HEE, net manager, was over on the West side to be with his wife who was undergoing stomach surgery, so there was little he could do to help out at the time. Anyway there's but one way to describe, just after bang, bang, bang, three days in a row, exactly how I felt – like a resurrected Rush Limbaugh.

All of this is neither here nor there. I lay it out here just to show all that being a net controller does have its demands, trials, and responsibilities. But its rewards can be and often are immense. A good net controller always tries to be around and dependable – ready always to "jump in" and take over if another controller is having problems (don't think for a second that I haven't had someone jump in for me when I was having problems. Vigilance, dependability, and readiness – the core hallmark traits of a good net controller. I leave it to you to figure out, maybe even imagine, just what rewards and benefits can, and most surely will be yours.

Dennis, KF7UTH



Bob, W7HFI, SK

by Betsy, N7WRQ

With sadness, we regret to tell you Bob W7HFI became a silent key this last spring. He will be missed. Former co-owner of the Kamiak Butte repeater, Bob was also past KBARA president for many years as well as vice president of the club. He was a strong supporter of the hobby and of KBARA. He is pictured here at our 2004 Bear Lake WA Field Day event. Our condolences go out to his family.





Technical Update

by Jim, N7WRR

The Mica Peak 147.38 repeater is working well now. On April 4th John W7OE and I went to the site to install a 148 Mhz low pass filter on the receive side that eliminated the de-sense of the Yaesu repeater. There was still clipping though so on June 8th John and Mark K7HPT accompanied me to the site to adjust audio levels and reduce output of the 220 link. We eliminated the clipping and the 147.38 has better coverage then it ever has. The audio is slightly lower than the rest of the system, but it is working well.

The Mica site was transferred from the Air Force to the Department of Homeland Security some time back and all decisions come out of Washington DC. They have condemned the tower that we are currently using. I have been in contact with the local office of US Customs and Border Protection who are overseeing things locally and am working with them to try to secure a place for us. I was told only antennas from federal agencies could go on the new tower. After explaining that we had been at the site for over 35 years and were important in emergency communications, they said we may be able to put our Lookout link antenna on their tower. They had cut down the telephone pole it was on to construct their tower, but we would have to wait until later in the year. We are still registered with the Air Force and they and many other users (most are not federal agencies) are on the condemned tower as well, so something should work out for us one way or another. We would just need a place for the 2m Station Master antenna.

The Stensgar 147.36 repeater is currently down. It went down last week and John W7OE accompanied me to the site on July 12th; we recycled the power and got it working again for a day or two. Betsy N7WRQ and I went to site on July 15th and replaced the power supply and got it working again, but it was not the power supply but a problem with the radio; it went down during the next morning's net. The key-up heard during the net was from the controller at Stensgar; with the radio down the controller still had the link radio keyed up. I was able to disable it with tones via the 147.38. I am currently trying to buy a new 2m repeater to replace the one at Stensgar as soon as possible, but it will be at least a week or two to get a radio and program and covert it for use with our controller.

The Lookout 147.02 repeater is currently working well but not connected into the system. Currently we are looking at doing a trip there on the 25th of July to install the link radio, antenna and feed line.

The BEARS repeater in the Puget Sound Area has a problem with the IRLP link giving just one-way audio so we have not been hearing them the last few days. They are looking into it and thinking it may be a link problem between their East and West Tiger sites.

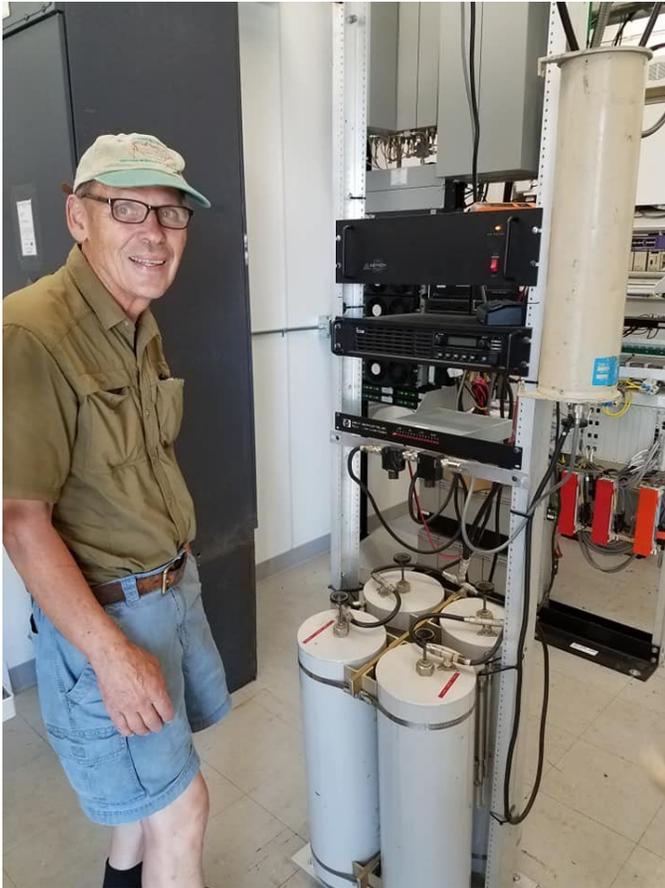
The West Twin 147.32 repeater is working great. We occasionally have a IRLP connectivity issue. Our local repeater control operator, Jim, WA7Vfq is a great help. I can connect up the repeater using the web dashboard but it also seems to always need to local touch tones to finalize connection. We appreciate having Jim in such close proximity to the repeater to be able to assist.

Scott, KA7FVV



Stensgar Repeater Visit in Pictures

by Jim, N7WRR & Betsy, N7WRQ



Upcoming 43rd Annual KBARA Meeting

August 15, 2021, Sunday, 1PM

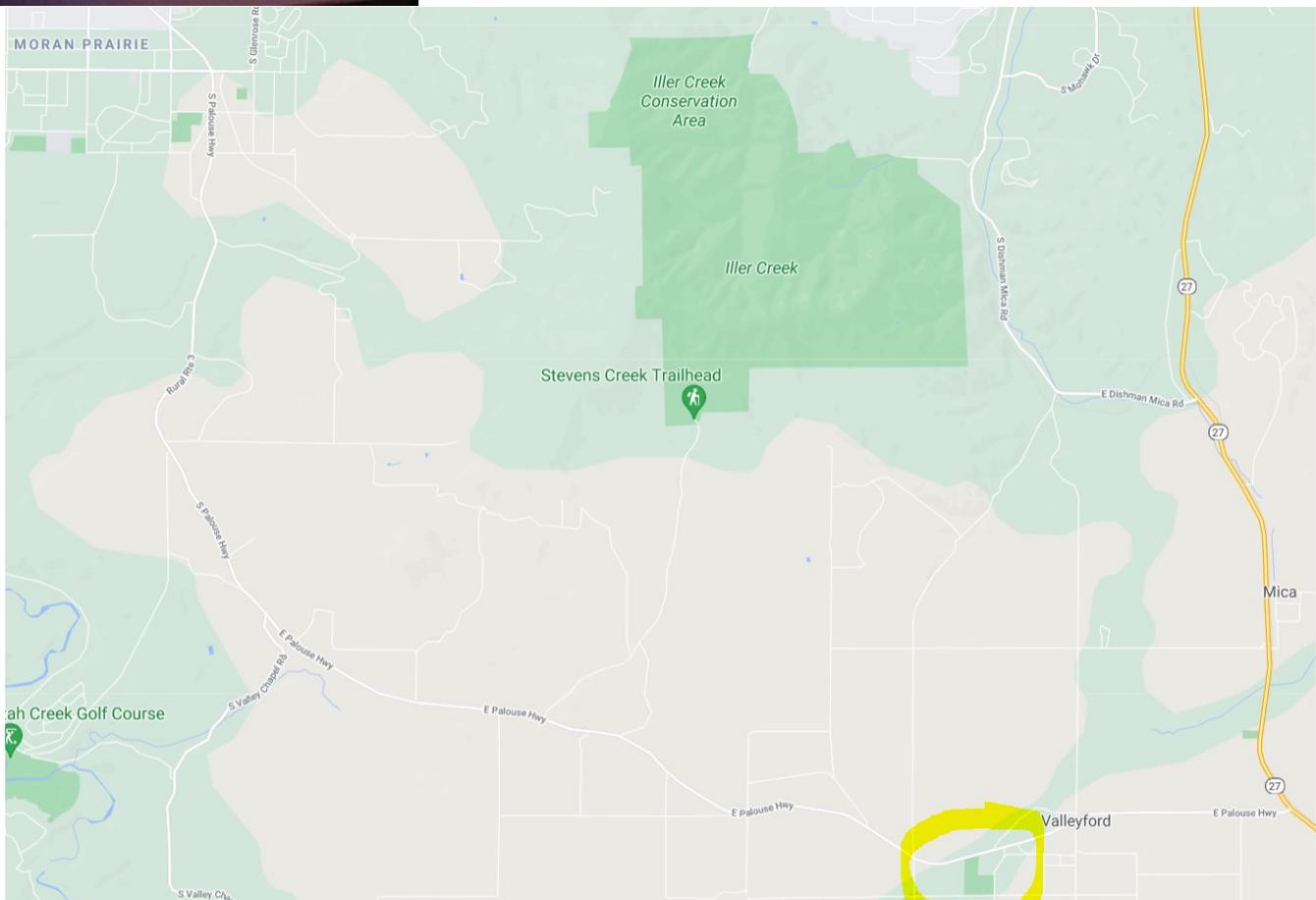
Valleyford Park, 11418 E Palouse Hwy, Valleyford WA

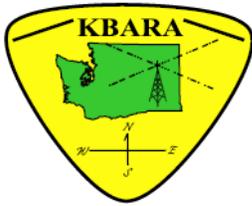


This year's meeting will again be held at Valleyford's beautiful park, located on the Palouse Highway near Spokane. All are welcome. It's a good opportunity to meet some of the people you hear on the air.

Along with the usual lively discussions of the club's business and election of officials, the Moe Checkin' award will be presented once again to one of our net controllers.

Too, some lucky deserving individual will be receiving a copper j-pole antenna, donated by Tom, KG7DQP. It's a 'splittable' copper J-Pole that can be taken apart for portable use or permanently installed and it was built by Cliff Rozar at www.kc0sdv.com.





Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association
KB7ARA
PO Box 30801
Spokane WA 99223-3013



KBARA is a support group for several privately and club owned linked Amateur Radio repeaters. The system covers an area from NE Washington to NE 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 and IRLP. The repeaters' frequencies, call signs and locations are as follows:

- 147.380 MHz (100.0 Hz tone) N7WRQ on Mica Peak near Spokane, WA, owned by Betsy N7WRQ & Jim N7WRR
- 147.360 MHz N7WRR on Stensgar (Stranger) Mt. near Chewelah, WA, owned by Jim N7WRR & Betsy N7WRQ
- 147.320 MHz (103.5 Hz tone) KA7FVV on West Twin near Moscow ID, owned by Scott KA7FVV, & KBARA
- 147.280 MHz KB7ARA on Pikes Peak in the Blue Mountains near Walla Walla, WA, owned by KBARA
- 147.020 MHz KB7ARA on Lookout Pass on the Idaho-Montana border, owned by KBARA
- 223.900 MHz AK2O hub repeater on Stensgar (Stranger) Mt. near Chewelah, WA, owned by Karl AK2O
- IRLP Node #3638 in Spokane WA owned by Glen K1RR
- IRLP Node #3636 on East Tiger Mt, near Issaquah, WA owned by KBARA
- EchoLink KB7ARA-R (947272) in Reardan, WA owned KBARA

All licensed Amateur Radio operators are welcome to use this open repeater system.

To support KBARA, please send your contributions to: **KBARA, P.O. Box 30801, Spokane, WA 99223-3013**

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

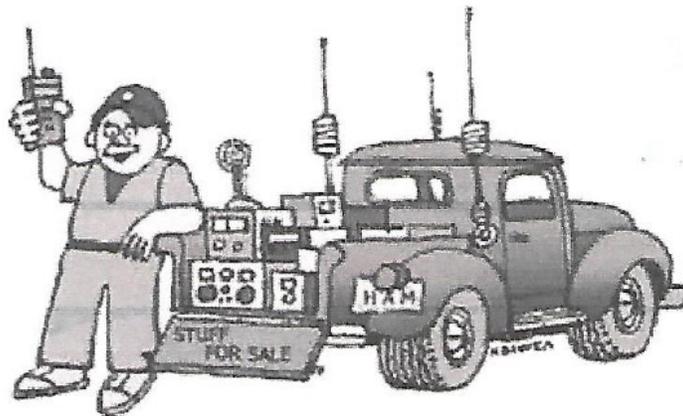
City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Amount Paid _____

Email Address _____ ARRL Member? _____

Dues are \$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. Also, any contribution to the Repeater Fund will be gladly accepted. For more info, please visit our website at www.kbara.org. See us on Facebook.

**Ham Radio Estate and
Garage Sale Party**
Hosted by
The Idaho Renegades
(AKA N7ESU-N7UVH-K7TM)



Saturday July 24, 2021
8:00 AM to ???

Lots of Ham Radio Stuff, Parts & Books

Talk-in Repeater: 147.22 +600 No Tone

Location: 12970 Chase Rd, Rathdrum, ID

(Metal 1,000 Sq Ft Building Disguised as Fire Station

Chase Rd North of Hwy 53 Between Rathdrum & Hauser

Go North up Chase Rd about 1.1 Miles

NOTE: Address on Bldg is incorrect. Google Maps is Accurate

**Feel free to bring your own stuff to sell while shopping our
stuff. Bring your own table or you can tailgate if you wish.**



Upcoming Hamfests and Events

Courtesy of N7CFO.com

Check the above page for cancelation as events get closer.

July 16-18. Glacier Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest. (Always the third weekend in July) Glacier Meadows Campground, 13 miles west of East Glacier on MT Hwy 2. <http://www.gwhamfest.org/>

July 24. Chehalis Valley ARC Ham Radio Tailgate Swapmeet. Southwest Washington Fairgrounds, Chehalis, WA. [Flyer in PDF \(590K\)](#) Contact John Ellingson, K7OSK. k7osk@boatanchor.com . <http://www.cvars.org/>

August 7. Kootenai Amateur Radio Society Field-Fest. Post Falls, Idaho. <https://www.k7id.org/> Contact: Edward Ed Stuckey , AI7H, 2300 W Polo Green Ave Post Falls, ID 83854. (208)699-7743, president@k7id.org

August 7. Pacific Northwest DX Convention. (Virtual Event) <http://pacificnwdxconvention.com/>

August 15. Puget Sound Antique Radio Association Swapmeet. Per their website, "This event may be canceled". <https://www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/>

September 10-12. Digital Radio Summer Gathering. Valley Camp, North Bend, WA. Contact: Thom, k7FZO@WA7VC.org

September 18. N7YRC Tailgate/Swapmeet. Union Gap, WA. [Flyer in PDF](#). (150K)

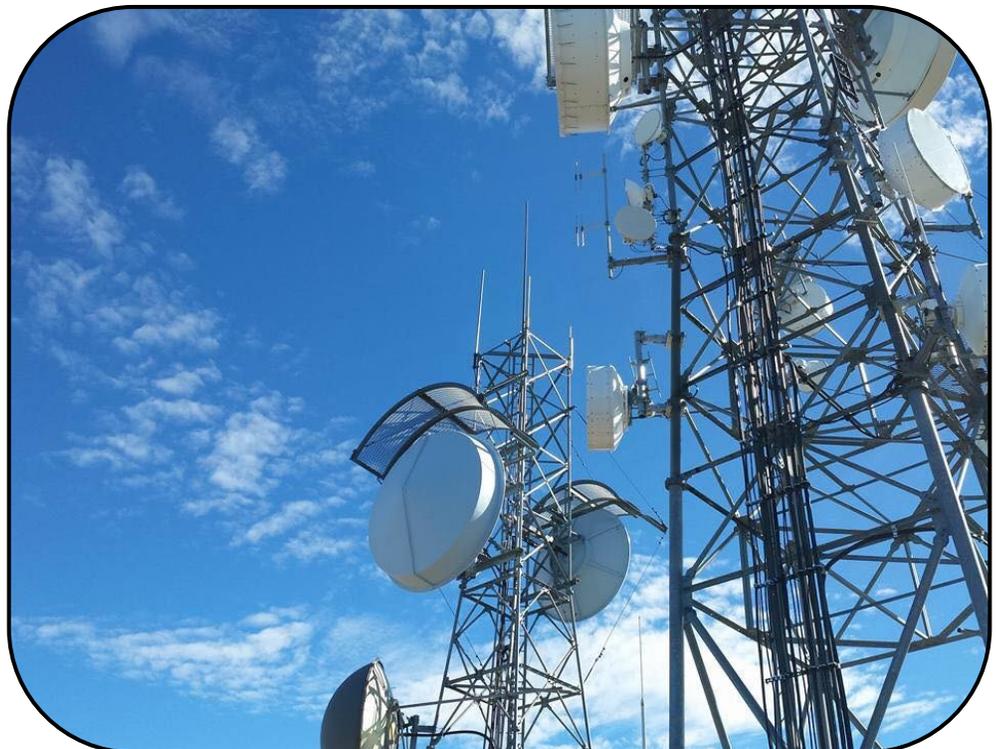
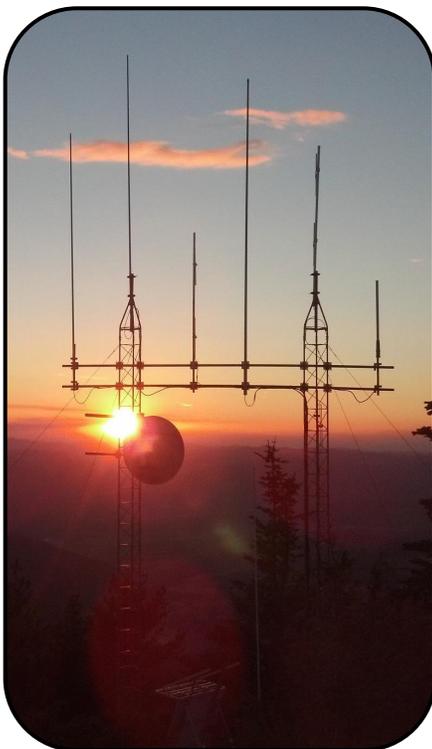
September 25. Washington State Convention (Spokane Hamfest), Spokane Valley, WA. (Always the 4th Saturday in September)

October 16th. SwapToberfest. Rickereall, Oregon. Per the Mid-Valley ARES Board of Directors, they will make a go-no go decision on this event on July 14th.



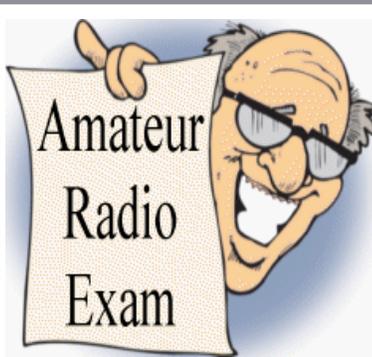
KBARA Repeaters and Echolink/IRLP Nodes

Frequency	CTCSS Tone	Location	Call sign	RF Link
Repeaters				
223.90 MHz	None	Stensgar Mtn	AK2O	Hub
147.38 MHz	None	Mica Peak	N7WRQ	AK2O—223.90
147.36 MHz	None	Stensgar Mtn	N7WRR	Hard wired Hub
147.02 MHz	None	Lookout Pass	KB7ARA	W7OE—147.38
147.28 MHz	None	Pikes Peak	KB7ARA	AK2O—223.90
147.32 MHz	103.5	West Twin, Moscow	KA7FVV	IRLP
Links				
Echolink KB7ARA-R	N/A	Spokane, WA	KB7ARA-R	AK2O - 223.90
IRLP Node 3636	None	East Tiger Mt	KB7ARA	145.33 & Ref 9075
IRLP Node 3638	None	Spokane, WA	K1RR	AK2O—223.90 & Ref 9075



KBARA Membership / Support Information: The KBARA repeater system consists of several club & 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. All licensed Amateur Radio operators are welcome to use this open repeater system. Your support would also be greatly appreciated. Please visit this site for more information:

<http://www.kbara.org> for more information about the club and repeaters.



Testing is held the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Brought to you by Glen, K1RR. If you have any questions please contact Glen at glen@k1rr.com or 509.216.0666.

Contact Glen for updates on testing during the pandemic

To support KBARA, please send your contributions to:



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PO Box 30801
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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. This can also be done via PayPal on our webpage at www.kbara.org.

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