

Recently the CARS Board Members presented and approved a plan to address the interference problems and lack of depth that could significantly affect our ability to respond and serve the community if an event created a shortage of available communication modes and the CARS VHF 146.700 MHz 2-Meter Repeater failed or experienced similar interference problems that have been present intermittently for the last year or so. In addition to the interference issues, the repeater as currently configured, will not allow a proper implementation of Echo-Link, IDs in periods greater than 10-minutes, lacks the ability to directly effect control functions without an on-site visit, some aging electronic components need to be replaced, and other miscellaneous issues need to be updated for maximum effectiveness.

The current plan as approved calls for fund raising to purchase, configure, and install at the present site, KGON Tower in the SW Portland hills (with minimal down-time, basically a swap), a newer (used) repeater that will address the failings of the old repeater and add new options and capabilities, improved reliability, and increase power capabilities. In addition the plan calls for refurbishing the present repeater, harden it to resist/reduce interference issues and keep it as a “hanger queen” for a quick temporary substitute if we ever experience issues with the new repeater and other temporary uses as needed. Lonnie Johnson’s son (I believe he works for a communications company) has agreed to effect the work on the old repeater for the cost of parts and shipping.

If we as supporters of emergency communications in the greater Portland Region close ranks and encourage each other to participate in the fund raising campaign by donating funds ourselves (remembering that CARS has 501c(3) designation and donations are typically tax deductible – check with your tax adviser), offering the opportunity to those we associate with, advising our employers and vendors of this opportunity to support the greater community (many employers will match your personal charitable donations), I suspect we will be able to reach our goal in a reasonably short time.

As part of my donation I have secured a nice wall-plaque, which will list the call signs of donors under the monetary categories listed on the donation form, which will take a place of honor in the CARS Radio Room.

I have started calling some of the CARS members explaining what our plans are and the most common response has been, “this is great as the repeater has been difficult to use at times” and, “how can I help!” One individual has committed to a \$500 donation as soon as the form is available (the form, thanks to Ken Tolliver, is attached to this Email and will soon be available at our Web Site [CARSRADIO.ORG](http://CARSRADIO.ORG)).

Please return the form with a check made out to Cascade Amateur Radio Society (CARS) to the address listed on the form, or bring it to any CARS meeting or activity.

I know that there are other LDS Repeater Associations worthy of our support and I encourage you to support those as well.

If you have any questions, concerns, or are willing to assist in spreading the word regarding this Repeater Replacement and refurbishing campaign please contact me, or any other CARS Board Member.

Thank you.

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