



# The Link

Official Journal of the Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

April 1998

## Program for April: Operation Skywarn

At the general meeting on Monday, April 20th, members from the Buffalo office of the National Weather Service will return to BARRA to give us a Skywarn training session. The severe weather season will be upon us shortly and the NWS people will give us the information needed to be useful weather spotters.

In spite of the vast amount of technology available to weather forecasters, ground sightings called in over ham radio channels to the weather office are an invaluable aid to the forecasters. In the recent devastating tornadoes in Florida, ham radio operators were the ones to report actual tornadoes before they were indicated on the NWS's weather radar. Hams are credited for helping to get the warning out sooner than would have happened if the NWS was relying on radar alone.

So, come on out to the next meeting and learn all about severe weather and perhaps join Operation Skywarn.

## UHF Repeater Changes at Elmwood Ave Site

Since the last issue of *The Link* there have been some changes at the Elmwood Avenue site. The K2YW repeater on 442.575 MHz was removed and relocated to North Tonawanda by its trustee and BARRA member, Vic Gadzik, K2YW. The move was prompted by Vic's desire for better coverage of the northtowns than he was getting from the site.

Shortly after Vic moved out, a new machine was moved in. Operating on 444.75 MHz (+ input) and 151.4 Hz PL, WB2DSS/R is the newest member of the BARRA family and is owned by new BARRA member Dick Poczalski, WB2DSS. Dick operates a number of other repeaters around the Buffalo area.

The 444.75 repeater is a Harris repeater, with an output of 30 watts. As soon as a climber can be arranged to swap out K2YW's antenna, a 20 dB gain TX/RX UHF antenna will be the main antenna for this repeater. An S-Comm MRC-100 repeater controller operates this system.

BARRA welcomes Dick and his repeater to the fold, and we continue to thank Bill Kothen, N2QJG, for the use of the tower and building space for the BARRA repeaters located at the Elmwood site.

## ARATS Invites BARRA to Field Day

Our friends at the ARATS club have invited BARRA members to join them at their annual Field Day outing. It will be held at West Canal Park, Pendleton, NY. West Canal Park is directly across Tonawanda Creek from the Creekside Golf Course. In addition to the ham operating, there is the possibility of camping out with the gathered group.

For more information contact Vince, N2WUV at 875-5082, or [n2wuv@juno.com](mailto:n2wuv@juno.com)

## Child Care to Be Provided at Field Day

*Mary Rose Luckoski, KB2WSZ*

I am proposing that we include families in Field Day this year. I'm willing to help with this by offering to provide baby sitting and activities for children who might be around with their Ham parents. This way if there are Hams who can't come because of child care problems they could come and operate for a few hours, bring their kids with them, and a fun time could be had by all. This would also ensure that the kids would not be underfoot or in danger because of wires and other safety concerns.

I would operate my activity in a shelter or around tents. I would have games, toys and arts and craft activities for the kids to play with. I would set up near the play ground so that equipment would also be available to use.

I would run this activity from 10 am - 8 pm. on Saturday and I will need help from other adults or teenagers depending on the number of kids we have participating.

I also understand that we can camp there so maybe families would want to stay overnight.

I'm also very interested in knowing how other Hams feel about this idea. One of the reasons I'm willing to do this is so that Vince and I can both participate in Field Day activities. Since we have children, if we can't bring them with us then we both can't participate. I'm thinking maybe there are others who have the same problem. Please respond with comments and suggestions to Mary Rose Luckoski, KB2WSZ at 875-5082 or Packet KB2WSZ @ W2SEX or by e-mail, [n2wuv@juno.com](mailto:n2wuv@juno.com)

Thanks! Mary Rose, KB2WSZ.

*BARRA extends the blessings of the  
Easter and Passover seasons to its members and  
their families*

*Inside this Issue:*  
*No Code Founder Speaks out on No Testing . . . . . Page 2*  
*Repeater Reports . . . . . Page 4*  
*ATV Anyone? . . . . . Page 5*

## Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

### Club Officers & Directors

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Activities List	Ed Swan KD2JW
ID Badges	KD2JW
Erie County Emer. Coord.	Ray Baker N2DAY

### Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	29.68 -	Buffalo
K2ISO	145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2GUG	146.73 -	Grand Island
W2EUP	146.91 -	Boston
W2OXB	147.00 +	Kenmore
W2EUP	224.82 -	Boston
WB2HYP	442.00 +	Wethersfield
WA2HKS	444.00 +	Buffalo
WB2DSS	444.75 +	Kenmore

### Digital Repeaters

W2EUP-1	145.59	Niagara Falls
N2GH-1	145.59	Wethersfield, NY
K2IMF-1	145.01	Marilla, NY

### RACES Net

Stop by Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm and join the Erie County ARES/RACES net which meets on the 146.91 and 444.00 repeaters. N2DAY is net control.

### BARRA Packet BBS

BARRA has a bulletin board area on the IPBUFF (N2NJH) Packet/Internet gateway system. Connect through any local node that shows IPBUFF in its node list. IPBUFF is also available to 9600 baud users on 145.53 MHz, and 1200 baud users on 145.63 MHz.

### BARRA Home Page

<http://hamgate1.sunyerie.edu/barra.htm>

## No-Code International Founder Speaks Out on No-Test Folks

The founder of No-Code International is saying -- NO -- to those who want to do away with all ham radio license testing. Bruce Perins, K6BP, who is the former leader of the movement to replace Morse exams with alternative testing says that those demanding all testing be abolished really do not know what they are talking about. We have this report:

Bruce Perins, K6BP, says that he started No-Code International to replace what he sees as obsolete elements of Amateur testing with more up to date ones. He wants to see Morse testing replace by additional exam material on theory or operating etiquette.

As reported recently on *Newsline*, a movement is growing on the Internet to challenge competency testing for an Amateur Radio license in the federal courts. Advocates of test free access to ham radio contend that any examination is a violation of their individual civil rights. They say that the Constitution and the Communications Act gives all citizens free access to the ham bands.

But in e-mail to *Newsline* Perins disagrees. He says that the right to free speech does not obligate the government or anyone else to provide anyone with a pulpit from which to practice it. This says Perins includes Amateur Radio or any other form of publication.

Perins says that he been contacted a number of times by people who claim that Amateur testing violates a persons right to free speech. He notes that many of these people are also characterized by their use of offensive language on the Internet.

And K6BP says that they all show a very poor understanding of the constitution and law in general, and should be ignored. That, says Perins is the way in which he treats them.

Perins says that he has avoided the Internet discussion groups such as [rec.radio.amateur.policy](http://rec.radio.amateur.policy) for years, because of the small population of "clueless individuals" who he says -- ruin these groups for everyone.

Perins adds that anyone wishing to see the way that those he calls -- responsible people -- work to change Amateur Radio policy should check out the website at: [www.nocode.org](http://www.nocode.org)

From *Amateur Radio Newsline*

### The BARRA E-Mail Listserver

To join, send an empty e-mail message to:

[barra-subscribe@perdix.acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:barra-subscribe@perdix.acsu.buffalo.edu)

To send a message to the list subscribers, address your e-mail to:

[barra@perdix.acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:barra@perdix.acsu.buffalo.edu)

The *Link* is published eight times a year by BARRA, the Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc. The opinions expressed herein, however, are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors, nor of BARRA. Letters to the editor are solicited and must be signed. Names and addresses will be withheld if requested. Material for the *Link* should be sent to the Editor:

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n  
 P.O. Box 507  
 N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507

or may be submitted electronically to the editor's CompuServe address: 73323,672. If submitting through the Internet, the full address is 73323.672@compuserve.com. The editor may be reached by telephone in the evenings at (716) 833-8375.

**ARTICLES**

Articles for the *Link* on any subject, technical or general interest, are always welcome and encouraged. When submitting material to the *Link*, please type it or submit it electronically, if possible. Remember that the editor reserves the right to make necessary changes including reformatting and condensing for space and that Full Membership may be obtained by writing articles.

**LINK DEADLINES**

All material must be submitted to the Editor by the end of the month previous to the issue (e.g. December 31st for the January issue). Of course, if the material is received earlier than that date, you will have a better chance of getting your article in the next issue. All advertising is subject to the same deadline.

**ADVERTISING**

Want-Ads are free to BARRA members and are published in the next available issue. Ads from other hams are accepted free on a space-available basis. Ads appearing in other club newsletters with which BARRA has an exchange agreement are reprinted on a space-available basis.

Display advertising is available at the prevailing rates. Business card size is currently \$2.00/mo; full page is \$16.00/mo. Contact the editor for rates for other sizes.

**DUES**

- Basic membership rate . . . . . \$20.00
- Family member in the same household as first member . . . . . 3.00
- Discounts from basic rate
- Senior Citizen (65+) . . . . . -5.00
- Disabled . . . . . -5.00
- Voting member . . . . . -5.00
- Full-time student with ID . . . . . -5.00
- Each new member recommended . . . . . -1.00

**Note:** A voting member is a member who has performed a service for BARRA (e.g. helped out at an activity, written a *Link* article, etc.).

**Report of the  
 1998 Annual BARRA Auction**

This year's edition of the Annual Auction was a rousing success for BARRA. Thanks in part to a sizable donation of equipment to the club by Joseph Plesur, ferried to the auction by Ben, N2YDM, the club netted a sizable "take" which resulted in a banner year for the Auction. Seventy nine people attended the event and many deals were to be had. Once again, Bob "Dutch" Dutschman, K2JGI, provided an evening of deals and laughs.



The annual BARRA raffle was drawn at the end of the evening, and a last-minute fourth place prize, a \$10 gift certificate to East Coast Amateur Radio, was donated the night of the auction by Ray Reichert, KF2WG.

The winners were:

- \$100 Dave Vari, N2RHL
- \$ 50 Charles Johnson
- \$ 25 Matt Stock, KC2CJK
- Gift Cert. Tom Kocialski, KC2CAG

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to KF2WG for the additional raffle prize.

*Our Advertisers*

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# REPEATERS

**29.68** - The 10 meter repeater is working well, and the return of good weather will bring the return of the remote receiver project at Cole Road for this machine.

**145.17/442.00** - Our Wethersfield repeaters have had a good winter. After a problem with the supplier, the crystals are finally in hand for the new 442 repeater, part of the project for new equipment at that site which will include the new controller, a solid state 2 meter repeater, and a new 442 repeater. Our thanks to WB2HYP and N2GH for slaving away over the winter getting all this stuff ready. No word on a cutover date yet.

**146.91** - The power amp failed around the beginning of March. A trip to the site soon after by K2DSN restored the repeater to the air with the transmitter exciter, so while it was on the air, the repeater had a weak signal. At the shop, the power amp was found to have an iffy tuning capacitor which was replaced. The return of the amp to service was hampered by the sudden dose of snow, but was reinstalled the weekend of the 28th.

**146.73** - It has been a typical winter for 146.73. When the temperatures drop below freezing, the machine works well. When the temps go up, it gets bad again. Gotta be the water in the feedline...

**147.00** - The 147 machine has been relocated to the basement of the Elmwood Ave building, which will get it out of the way of the personnel and customers at that site.

**224.82** - The 220 repeater has been performing well all winter since the intermittent problem was corrected last fall.

**444.00** - On March 16, WA2HKS and KA2WFT ventured over to the UB site and installed a new electrical power switching system, designed and built by WA2HKS. This new system allows Ted to remotely "pull the plug" on the repeater to exercise the backup batteries. It also contains circuitry to shut down the repeater if, while on batteries for an extended period of time, the battery voltage drops too low. Ted has also assembled a remote base that he operates from his home and can use it to link the 444 repeater to other repeaters in the area. On the way home from the work session on the 16th, Ted linked up the 444 and the 147 repeaters. Look for more activity of this new feature of the repeater.

**444.75** - See the article on Page 1 about BARRA's newest repeater.

**Toronto Link** - At the end of January, the TFMCS group announced that it would be adding PL decode to the Toronto Hub system by the end of February. That necessitated a quick scramble by the Tech Committee folks to get an encoder purchased and installed in the Toronto link transmitter. Our thanks to K2DSN for purchasing and installing the PL board, and doing it in such a way that the link was down only 24 hours.

## Next WNYSORC Meeting is May 3

BARRA WNYSORC representative Ben Bass, N2YDM, would like to advise the membership of the dates for the upcoming WNYSORC meetings. Sunday May 3rd is the next meeting, and BARRA members are needed to attend the meeting. BARRA is entitled to three voting seats at the meetings and it would be a shame if we do not fill them all. If you are able to help the club and attend this meeting, please let Ben know at 833-8683 or [bbass@bluemoon.net](mailto:bbass@bluemoon.net)

The fall meeting of the repeater council is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 13th, so if you cannot attend the one next month, pencil in the fall date now.

## Congrats to BARRA's "First Family"

We are happy to report an addition to the family of BARRA president, Mark Lienert, KG2DE, and his wife Lisa. Alexander Steven arrived February 17th and weighed in at 7 lbs 13 ozs. Alexander joins brother Kevin, now 2 years old. BARRA sends its congratulations and best wishes to the happy family!

## Club Corner

### Meeting Information for local WNY Ham Clubs

**PAWNY** Meetings are held the second Monday of every other month. (i.e.: Feb, Apr, June, etc.) The meeting location is the Cheektowaga Fire Training Academy on Broadway, near Union Rd. Meetings start at 8:00pm and everyone is welcome.

**GRAM** (Genesee Radio Amateurs) meets the third Friday of each month (except July, August and December) at the NYS Emergency Management Office, 221 State Street, Batavia, NY (behind the NYS Armory). Board Meeting begins at 1830, General Meeting at 1930.

**WNYDXA** Meets the Second Friday of the month (except August) at Denny's Restaurant in Williamsville, NY (across from Eastern Hills Mall). Starts at 7:30 PM. All are welcome. There is a usual business meeting followed by a program. Many come early for a snack or dinner.

**LARC** Meets monthly the first Tuesday of each month at the Aurora Street Middle School, Lancaster, NY. Meetings begin at 7:30PM, and the meeting lasts about 1½ hours. LARC's Technical Sessions meet weekly each Thursday at the LARC Clubhouse, 525 Pavement Road, Lancaster, NY, at 7:00PM, lasts for about 2 hours, and covers an informal technical session, repair/service of member equipment, operation of club stations and general ragchew.

**RAWNY** Meetings are every 2nd Tuesday for the months September through May. The meetings start at 7:30pm. They are in the basement of the Church of the Nativity just North of Sheridan on Colvin Blvd in Kenmore.

## ATV Anyone?

David S. Faul, VE3TIJ/N2ZVK  
davidfaul@compuserve.com

I have set up a 70 cm Amateur Television (ATV) station at my residence in Ajax. The station transmits in colour and sound and produces a signal similar to commercial TV broadcasts. Since I live in an apartment and face east towards Oshawa, I cannot transmit west into Toronto or Buffalo due to the RF shield offered by my building. I have had two test transmissions received in the past months. Ian, VE3IEM, actually made a video tape of my transmission. His copy was fair. Peter, VA3PWH, (North Oshawa) has also received me. Peter had a poor copy on me. In Ian's case, his line of sight was blocked by my building. In Peter's case, his antenna required some alterations. However, I issued QSL cards to both -- a first for myself and them. It is a start. Amateur activities include testing, improving and learning from mistakes -- for sure.

70 cm ATV is readily received by standard home consumer electronic equipment -- a cable ready VCR or TV is all that is needed. My ATV transmit and receive frequency is 439.250 MHz. This is at the bottom of the 70 cm ham band in Canada. Coincidentally, cable TV cable channel 60 is also at 439.250 MHz. Therefore, to receive an ATV 70 cm ham TV signal, set your TV or VCR to cable channel 60. Remember *cable* channel 60 *not* off air channel 60. An external UHF TV antenna should be connected to the appropriate antenna input on the VCR or TV for an incoming cable signal, not a standard off air signal. Please refer to your appliance owner's manual for specific instructions.

I am still looking forward to my first ATV QSO. However, I have learned a few things about television. The ATV signal is 6 MHz wide and loses considerable energy as it passes through the air. As a comparison, recall that a standard 2m FM signal is 5 kHz wide. Hence, my 10 watt (PEP) ATV transmission is easily missed if one treats the weak incoming signal as a 10,000 watt (or more) conventional TV broadcast signal. Slow and patient receiver tuning is required. Again a reference your owner's manual is suggested as many appliances have hidden or seldom used fine tuning controls.

My two test transmissions were conducted with a 2m voice repeater (VE3SPA) as a means to adjust the antenna by confirming reception of the ATV signal. I would adjust the direction of the transmitting antenna while the receiving person would provide a reception commentary on the 2m FM radio. I found that I could produce a picture at the receiving end in colour or black and white by varying the antenna direction just a few degrees. The sound was to a large degree constant. The 2 m repeater dialogue was a major factor in setting up the antenna.

My equipment is as follows: Sharp 8 ViewCam, PC Electronics TC70-10 ATV transceiver and a KLM 6 element beam designed specifically for ATV. I have set up my beam in a horizontal configuration to be compatible with traditional house style TV receiving antennas and to avoid potential interference with some 70 cm backbone packet links. I use 9913 clone lead in and N connectors to keep attenuation to a

minimum. My cable length is 25 feet. The antenna is mounted on a small tripod and mast on my balcony. The shack is set up so that the camera always looks over my shoulder to a large, thick, black VE3TIJ logo posted on the wall. I also transmit my ID as one would on voice.

How do I receive incoming transmissions? The TC70-10 has a standard cable TV "F" connector outlet. A regular 75 ohm cable TV feedline goes between this outlet and the TV cable input connector on the back of the TV set. The ATV transceiver is tuned and the composite picture and audio shows up on the TV set tuned to cable channel 3. I tune a receive-only tuner on the transceiver that selects the appropriate incoming frequency.

How do I set the quality of the outgoing transmission? Another outlet on the back of the transceiver allows for a standard shielded patch cord to be connected to the video monitor input on the same TV. I set the TV to cable TV channel 3 and rotate the transceiver's transmit video gain knob to produce a "monitor" picture that has consistent colours, appropriate brightness and does not "bloom". The TC70-10 outgoing picture is adjustable without transmitting a picture by using the TV monitor function in this fashion. The outgoing audio is not so easy to set. I have to transmit a real signal and receive a reception report. The transmitter and receiver must not be in the same room or else feedback will occur. The line audio gain is adjusted by rotating the audio gain knob to produce an acceptable audio level in the receiver. I experimented with test transmissions in the apartment by transmitting a test signal to our bedroom TV and having the XYL monitor and comment on the incoming signal.

I am careful to ensure that the ATV receive TV is disconnected from the incoming cable company line in my apartment during my transmissions. I would not want any signal spillover from my system into the commercial cable TV distribution system. I have also checked the cable 60 cable company signal for any incoming ATV signal leakage. Cable 60 on our system is a pay TV movie channel. The SWR on the ATV transceiver is critical as the TC70-10's finals will burn up at an SWR of 2:1 in approximately 10 seconds. The manufacturer cautions owners about this twice. As a precaution, I run an in-line SWR meter at all times as the repair depot is in California. This is why I bought an antenna specifically made for the ATV band. The first test on air SWR was 1.1:1. I had to make a short patch cord and use PL-259 plugs on the the SWR input and output. This is the only part of the installation that I am not satisfied with. I will test out the insertion signal loss by removing the SWR meter during a test transmission when I have regular contacts with other stations.

Anyone wishing to set up a test transmission or information on setting up their own ATV shack please contact me. I monitor VE3SPA (147.375+) or can be contacted by e-mail (davidfaul@compuserve.com). It is a little lonely on 439.250 MHz. I need some company. So far I have had lots of fun and have met the technical challenge of setting up the station. I am sure that there is more to learn and interesting contacts to make.

See the following web site for more ATV information and links: <http://www.hamtv.com>

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*"Serving Western New  
York and the Niagara  
Peninsula"*

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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# Calendar of Events

## GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Brighton & Fries Roads, Tonawanda, across from Kenmore East HS. Doors open at 7:00 pm for rag chew, business meeting at 7:30, with program following.

**Monday, April 20, 1998** - Operation Skywarn presentation by members of the National Weather Service.

**Monday, June 15, 1998** - BARRA member Bob Rohrer, KD2SF, will give a talk on his experiences working on the development of the Bell X-1.

**Monday, July 20, 1998** - Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic at the Cole Rd repeater site.

**Sunday, July 26, 1998** - All-WNY Ham Picnic, Akron Park. More details to follow.

**NO GENERAL MEETINGS IN  
MARCH, MAY, AUGUST OR NOVEMBER**  
**The *Link* is not published in those months**

## BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at GLB Electronics, 151 North America Drive (formerly Commerce Pkwy), West Seneca. The meetings begin at 7:30 pm and members are always welcome to sit in on a meeting or bring concerns to the board.

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



The Technical Committee has work parties every Wednesday evening, 8:00 pm, at GLB Electronics. Stop by and give a hand to a repeater or other BARRA project.

The Technical Committee has formal meetings the first Friday of each month around 7:30 pm at GLB. Come on out to BARRA's own CCITT (Coffee & Crumpets Interrupted by Technical Talk), where progress of current projects is evaluated and new projects are planned. The meetings usually conclude with munchies at a nearby restaurant.