

The Link

April 2004



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

This Month's Program: Local Ham Radio Reminiscences by K2RSK



This month we are going to receive a presentation from our own Peter Liaros, K2RSK, on various aspects of ham radio of the past in the local area. Peter has an extensive audio recording collection of QSOs as well as other memorabilia and will bring some of it for his talk.

This should prove to be a most interesting program for anyone, experienced ham or newcomer alike. Peter has been active in ham radio for many years and we look forward to his program. We hope to see you there.

Cole Road Site Work Starting Soon

As reported in the last *Link* newsletter, quite a number of physical plant projects are planned for the Cole Road repeater site this year. The first of these projects is starting Saturday, April 24th, weather permitting. At that time an electric line will be run to "Chet's Shack," the small white building on the site. Also on the 24th cleanup of the various junque on the site will be started.



While some members have stepped forward to lend their assistance in the projects, we could use more. Please contact Ted Ertl, WA2HKS, at 674-3325 or tertl@e1b.org, or Ed Swan, W2EAS, at 877-0417 or w2eas@arrl.net.

More projects are planned as the weather improves, like the resheeting of Chet's Shack, so lots of help will be needed throughout the summer.

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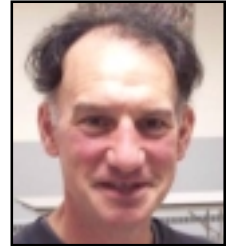
This publication is available in electronic format, delivered to your e-mail in-box fresh and free from the "special handling" of the postal service. The "E-Link" is provided in the cross-platform Adobe PDF format, and is in full color.

Samples of back issues of the electronic *Link* can be viewed on the club's web site, <http://barra.hamgate.net>. Sign up by dropping an email to the editor at dalderdi@verizon.net.

Hobby Highlights

Rich Sellers, KG2OR

I enjoy ham radio communications when conditions and propagation are excellent. When conditions dictate otherwise I then search for the barriers, and with some effort make changes, and regain better communication. I do not own an isotropic radiator. If I did then I would have the best of all worlds; great transmission, great reception.



Every operator in every shack works very hard to achieve a good SWR and a fine business QSO. Examine our modes for amateur communication and you will learn that it might seem cumbersome to be required by the FCC to have code elements in your license before you exercise your right to use phone, RTTY, television, or computer assisted experiences like PSK31.

The obstacles perceived by Morse code examination in amateur radio have increased to the point where in July 2003 the United Kingdom Regulatory Authority ended Morse code testing for amateur operators which enabled the classes to use phone privileges. Switzerland followed suit giving amateurs "provisional authority" to engage in privileges previously restricted without code in hand.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has set guidelines for the FCC since 1984. In July of 2003 they submitted to the FCC an amendment to change Part 97 for Morse code requirements in the United States and end the Morse code requirement! If you go to www.arnewslines.org/newspages/morse%20petition.pdf you can read the entire discourse for yourself. Basically, they are saying that computers can transmit and receive Morse code faster than anybody, so it stands to reason; buy a computer system equipped with Morse code software and operate code. It may seem illogical to need code just to use phone or other modes of amateur service. Requiring amateurs to show code proficiency can cause a loss of potential amateurs, and without Morse code testing it may save VECs and the FCC paper work. Also, the medical waivers in Morse code testing alter the testing process, and without that would thereby save the FCC work. They also make a point that in the last seventy five years the amateur service has seen frequency changes for things other than Morse code, and above code frequencies. Please refer to the the website above for Part 97.301 proposed changes as well as other parts.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

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Voice Repeaters

| | | | |
|--------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| WB2JQK | PL 107.2 | 29.68 - | Boston |
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| K2DSN | PL 107.2 | 146.73 - | Niagara Falls |
| W2EUP | | 146.91 - | Boston |
| N2YDM | PL 107.2 | 147.00 + | Kenmore |
| W2EUP | | 224.82 - | Boston |
| WR2AHL | PL 110.9 | 442.00 + | Wethersfield |
| WB2DSS | PL 151.4 | 443.925 + | Niagara Falls |
| WA2HKS | | 444.00 + | Buffalo |
| WB2DSS | PL 151.4 | 444.75 + | Kenmore |

RAWNY Net

Stop by Monday evenings at 7:00 pm and join the RAWNY club's net which meets on our 146.91 and 444.00 repeaters.

BARRA on the Internet

<http://barra.hamgate.net>

Back issues of *The Link* and a membership application are available on our web site.

SpaceLink

Please note that due to a serious problem with the UO-14 satellite, the SpaceLink is no longer in operation.

Don't Forget to Get Your BARRA Mug!



These great looking, sturdy, quality ceramic mugs sport the BARRA buffalo logo, are dishwasher safe, and let you show your club colors in style!

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The BARRA E-Mail List Serve

To join, send an e-mail message to:

majordomo@hamgate.net

with the message [subscribe barra](#) in the main body of the note.

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

barra@hamgate.net

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 or membership 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
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N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507

or may be submitted electronically to the editor's e-mail address: ka2wft@arrl.net. The editor may be reached by telephone in the evenings at (716) 834-2664.

DISTRIBUTION

The Link is available in both print and electronic formats. If you wish to receive *The Link* in the Adobe cross-platform PDF format by e-mail instead of regular mail, please notify the editor at ka2wft@arrl.net.

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.).



Hobby Highlights

Rich Sellers, KG2OR

In my October issue of Hobby Highlights I mentioned that NASA launched The Space Infrared Telescope Facility, 8-25-03. This space vehicle has been subject matter in a few of my Hobby Highlights. The final element of the competition has been fulfilled. In February of 2004 NASA named The Space Infrared Telescope Facility "The Spitzer Telescope."

My first question: who was Spitzer? I learned who he is at www.spitzer.caltech.edu/about/spitzer.shtml. Lyman Spitzer, 1914-1997, was a great astrophysicist. He held many posts in various Ivy League institutions like Yale, Harvard, and Princeton. The Spitzer Space Telescope is now sending to us amazing pictures from outer space. It uses cryogenic cooled infrared arrays. You can find out about the technical tools at the following sites. Please see www.space.com/scienceastronomy/sirtf_first_030904.html and <http://sirtf.caltech.edu> and www.spitzer.caltech.edu/media/releases/ssc2004-01/index.shtml. Also at this site you can play around with the /ssc2004-##/ year and number and find new sites, for example /ssc2003-06/ or /ssc2004-02/. Have fun finding the new pictures and sites.

The Spitzer Science Center is a facility for research and fellowship. You can learn about the center and its purpose as you read from the web sites I have given you. As amateur radio operators, learn more about the communication hardware used in these NASA devices, and perhaps it will enlighten your shack.

73.

BARRA Apparel is Still Available!

T-Shirts \$7.00

Sweatshirts \$11.00

Quilt Lined Jackets \$35.00

Flannel Lined Jackets \$25.00

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Calendar of Events

GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Brighton and 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 19, 2004 -- Recall local ham operators and QSOs of the past with the help of the vast audio archive of Peter, K2RSK, who will regale us in an evening of reminiscences.

Monday, June 21, 2004 -- Meeting program TBA.

Monday, July 19, 2004 -- Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic at the Cole Road repeater site. You provide the eats, BARRA provides the grills. Tour the Cole Road facility and enjoy some summer evening fellowship with the BARRA gang.

**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 the Athens Family Restaurant, 2801 Harlem Rd, Cheektowaga, between Genesee Street and George Urban Blvd. 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 formal meetings the first Friday of every month at 7:00 PM in Room 117 of the BOCES Potter Road Career and Technical Center, 705 Potter Road, West Seneca (Corner of Slade, Potter and Orchard Park Rds). 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.

Save the date!
BARRA Mobile Clinic & Picnic
Monday, July 19, 2004