

The Link

April 2008



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

April's Program: SKYWARN Training

This month we will be visited by members of the Buffalo NWS office for SKYWARN training. SKYWARN spotters need to be retrained every few years and it is about time for BARRA to re-up, as it were. SKYWARN is a valuable program for the National Weather Service where hams are the eyes and ears on the ground for the NWS, verifying what forecasters see on their high-tech equipment. Plan on attending!

In other matters, at the business meeting that will precede the SKYWARN presentation, one item to be voted on will be the proposed change in the meeting schedule, as presented in the February *Link*. That proposal has us eliminating our January meeting, and moving the Technical Committee report to the September meeting. Due to the poor weather in January over the years, that meeting has often been poorly attended or indeed outright canceled on at least one occasion. We are in Buffalo after all!

Eliminating the January meeting will relieve members (and the board!) of making the decision to head out in less-than-optimal weather, and by moving the Technical Committee report to the membership to September, it will come on the heels of the usually busy summer months for the committee, when the bulk of the repeater site work is performed.

It looks like this will be an important meeting night, so we will see you there!

From the Archives

Item from the April 1983 Link newsletter

AT THE MARCH 1983 BOARD MEETING

Present: WA2ZSJ, K2GUG, N2IE, K2IGW, WB2CJL, KA2BIW, WA2QAL, WB2OIF, WB2VEU

The discussion of the by-laws changes were sent back to the committee for further inputs.

Treasurer reports \$3574.79 with 215.10 incumbered [sic].

New members: KA2BMA, WA2JEV, WA2LWO

Upgrade: N2DXL for repeater maintenance [sic]

WA2QAL, as a representative of the UB Amateur Radio club, expressed interests in supporting BARRA and possibly providing a repeater site.

REPEATERS: 31-91 GE power amp is being repaired. The 12 watt backup amp is in use. 51-17 Cause of a scratching noise is unknown. 13-73 40-00 223.22-4.82 449-444 All OK.

The new RTTY machine will use the Standard repeater which the club already owns. For early tests, a two meter antenna is needed. If you have one that you don't need call Dave, WA2TVT or Irwin, K2PWL.

Will anyone ever volunteer to be net coordinator? If you want to, Call Nelson, WA2ZSJ.

Spring State of the Repeater Site Report

Dave Halik, W2ZZA



As reported by WA2TVT there has been some damage to the new roof on Chet's Shack. Nearly the entire west side of the roof has been blown off due to the late fall and early winter wind storm. All is not lost, however, the entire east side roof is completely intact and thanks to the wise planning of Bruce, WA2HVE, the ice shield that was applied to the entire roof before shingling has saved the building from the elements.

As a result of the tragic loss of this roof we are planning a work party for Saturday, April 19th, to replace the west roof and do some basic pickup and clean up at the site.

The photo above of the west roof was taken April 6th. Please set aside a few hours of your time to help out on this very important work party. Start time 9:00 am. Rain date TBA.

Don't forget to check in with the BARRA
Tech Net

Wednesdays, 8 PM

146.91/224.82/444.00



Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '09	634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '09	834-2664
Secretary	Greg Miller K2GTM '08	565-1807
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '10	836-0417
Director	Dave Halik W2ZZA '08	824-3432

Committees & Chairs

Technical	Ted Ertl WA2HKS
Link Editor	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT
Associate Link Editor	Dave Sewhuk N2GH
WNYSORC Representative Chair	Ben Bass N2YDM
Membership,	
Roster & Passwords	KA2WFT, W2EAS
Activities List	Ed Swan W2EAS
ID Badges	W2EAS
Erie County Emer. Coord.	Vince Harzewski N2JRS
Erie County RACES Officer	Gene Kremzier N2OBW

Voice Repeaters

K2GTM	PL 107.2	29.68 -	Boston
K2ISO		145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2ILH	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
WA2HKS		444.00 +	Buffalo
WB2DSS	PL 151.4	444.75 +	Kenmore

APRS Digi-peater

K2ILH-2	144.39	Amherst
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BARRA Tech Net

Join the BARRA Technical crew on the 146.91/444.00 system Wednesdays at 8 PM for answers to your technical questions.

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>

Club Calls

BARRA holds club calls W2EUP and K2ISO in honor and memory of two of its founders, Gil Boelke, W2EUP, and Hugh Wilson, K2ISO.

CBS-Scanners-Ham-Marine-Business Radios-Radar Detectors

HIRSCH'S

WNY's Largest Communication Store Since 1961
219 California Drive - Williamsville, NY 14221

Hours-M,T,Th,F 10-5:30; Sat. 10-5:00; Closed Wed.

(716) 632-1189

Sales - Service - Installation

*WA2OLW (Leprechaun Graphics, 675-3764) still
has BARRA jackets and T-shirts available.*

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!

Only \$5.00 Each!

Available at all club meetings

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
P.O. Box 507

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. Regular mail recipients are charged \$4 beyond their dues.

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 \$2.50/mo; full page is \$20.00/mo. Contact the editor for rates for other sizes.

DUES

Basic membership rate: \$25.00

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

US Mail newsletter delivery: add \$4.00

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

The case between the FCC and Pembroke Pines Elmira Ltd. exemplifies enforcement, the interdependence of government departments, and public safety. According to Arnewsline this case demonstrates the power of the FCC to levy an initial fine, \$19,000.00, and reduce it to \$15,200.00 because the company has in the past performed well. Pembroke Pines Elmira Ltd. manages WEHH, and WELM in Horseheads and Elmira New York. The company tried to further reduce the fine on grounds the FCC treated as new the FAA offense separately; the company did not fix a lighting outage problem on a tower prior to the FCC examination of the site, nor did it notify the FAA, and it did not maintain power output requirements. They did not dispute the violations. The FCC proved the company was aware of the antenna lighting problem since September 2005. This information is in docket, <http://www.fcc.gov/eb/Orders/2008/DA-08-497A1.html>



I am aware that standards of amateur conduct are defined in Codes of Federal Regulations Title 47, Part 97. When you pass your test and obtain a license you begin a law abiding amateur radio life; you have learned your lessons well, but yet we are reminded when others perform unlawfully that culpable offenses can be punished. Interference, business, profanity, music, operating outside band limits, power restrictions, equipment violations, or many other geographical and environmental fundamentals can cause the FCC to suspend, fine or revoke a licensee's privileges.

Our individual state of rights are protected by federal rules which are subject to enforcement by federal standards. It is like having a federal operation in a state wherein the federal enterprise is free from state laws. It is the responsibility of the operator to maintain the station's safety, emissions, and quality according to the rules. I realize that commercial operations are under different FCC rules, however I have used FCC vs. Pembroke Pines Elmira Ltd. for example to initiate a personal examination of your station, and secondly, to ensure your station's compliance with other departmental rules as well as the FCC; since other departmental violations may be combined under one order.

73 de Richard Sellers, KG2OR..

BARRA to be at Rochester

BARRA will have an informational table at this year's Rochester Hamfest on Saturday, May 31st in the Dome Arena. The purpose of the table, as in past years, will be to recruit new members and to "put a face" on the club. We are planning to have photos on display presented at the Technical Committee report of our repeater sites and work parties to help show that we are a club "on the go." If you would like to help out with the table and spent some time staffing it, please contact your editor, KA2WFT, at ka2wft@arrl.net or 834-2664 evenings.

Auction Pix!

Your editor grabbed a few candid of life at the annual BARRA Auction in February.



Jim, W2IMY, and Bill, KB2TOY, root through a box of treasure.



The crowd anxiously awaits the start of the event.



"Just who was that nasked man? I think it was the Tech Net control op... He needs to protect himself from the brightness of the check-ins' knowledge."



Nelson, WA2ZSJ, keeps track of the lots called by Dutch, K2JGI.

Save the Date!

Monday, July 21st

THE ANNUAL BARRA MOBILE CLINIC & PICNIC

at the Cole Road repeater site

Bring a friend

Ripley Hamfest

Bring Your Ham Radio, Computer Gear, and Electronics leftovers to Ripley and make a few bucks! Meets lots of old and new friends and have a good time!

Sunday May 4th, 2008

7:30 am to 11 am

Ripley Fire Hall

Ripley, NY

(1500 feet south of the only traffic light in Ripley at Rts 20 & 76)

Prizes: Cash

Breakfast will be available

Admission: \$3.00 ---

Tables: \$3.00

For more Information Call or E-mail:

Joe Lis N3MLX at 814-825-5565 or n3mlx@roadrunner.com

Fred Krause N2LXD at 716-736-4688 or emily2@cecomet.net

For More Information Visit Us Online at:

<http://ripleyhamfest08.tripod.com>

Cheektowaga Historical Museum



3329 Broadway • Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Visit us for Inspiration from the Past

Historical Programs the third Thursday of each month.
(except Jan., July & Aug.) Held at Alexander Community
Center, 275 Alexander St., Cheektowaga.

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2:00-4:00 PM. (Other times by appointment)

Also available for Scout, school
and other group tours. (By
appointment only)

**Call 684-6544
for more
information
or go to**

www.cheektowagahistory.org

**Antique
Appraisal Day**

Sat., June 7th

10:00AM-2:00PM

Held at the Cheektowaga

Senior Center

Broadway

(behind Town Hall)

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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 21, 2008 -- SKYWARN training with members of the National Weather Service.

Monday, June 16, 2008 -- Meeting program TBA.

Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29, 2008 -- ARRL Field Day. BARRA will operate a station from the Cole Road site.

Monday, July 21, 2008 -- Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic at the Cole Road repeater site.



**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.

Work Party at Cole Road this Weekend!

Saturday, April 19th, 9 AM

See Page 1 for details!