

The Link

April 2009



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

This Month's Program: Do You Know What an Antenna is and How it Works?

The program for this month's general meeting on Monday, April 20th, will be a presentation by BARRA's own Tom Foley, WA2EYF. Tom calls his program "Do you really know what an antenna is and how it works?" Tom has worked for many years in the broadcast field with antennas of all sizes.

Keep in mind that our general meetings are now at our new location, the "new" St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church at 2368 Eggert Road, near the corner of Eggert Road and Sheridan Drive. The church parking lot is accessible from either Eggert Road or Sheridan Drive. The driveway from the Sheridan side is to the left of the Advance Auto Parts building. Enter the church building by the large silver "School" sign. There was a map to the new location in the February *Link*.

We hope to see you at the meeting on the 20th. Tom's presentation should be very interesting.

Hobby Highlights

Richard Sellers, KG2OR

Years ago, if my memory serves me correctly, I sat in my shack, and a moment of solitude had its time. Naturally, finding a QSO was my primary goal, but also at this time I was extremely interested in receiving satellite telemetry, including typical functions and measurement units. Since our equipment is critical for reception I used my Swan-350 for Mode A, downlink ten meters, and uplink two meters. I just needed to listen to the telemetry. I focused upon using the RS 10 satellite. During this time AMSAT nets were on Tuesday, 9:00 PM on 3.840 MHz. I still have my notes concerning various books, articles, and telemetry notation.



Today I have found <http://www.hobbyspace.com>. When you access the site click "Radio" under the "Space Tech Column." You should research parts I, II, III. Briefly, there are more than 100 links, articles about space radio, The International Space Station, space stories, equipment for satellite to radio operation, AMSAT news, esoteric literature, and weather satellite information. It is a worthy library tool; especially if you are trying to locate resources for amateur satellite technology.

73 de Richard Sellers, KG2OR.

It's Almost Time for Field Day!

June is fast approaching which means that it is nearly time for the 2009 edition of Field Day. Once again, Bill Brown, KB2TOY, is chairing the event, which will take place at the club's Cole Road repeater site. The dates are June 27 and 28. The contest begins early Saturday afternoon and runs for 24 hours. We will begin to set up the Field Day station Saturday morning.



All members and interested parties are invited to participate. If you have an HF rig and want to use it, bring it along. If you don't have an HF rig, that's OK, too, as

we will have some available. Never run HF before? Not a problem, the experienced ops will help you get started. Want to spend the entire weekend at the site? Even better! We can use you! Operators for the overnight hours are especially welcome and encouraged.

The Field Day weekend is a fun time for all who participate. There is something for everyone. The station will be set up inside the recently renovated (on the outside) "Chet's Shack" so weather will not be an issue. If you plan on staying the night, please plan on bringing your own tent or other accommodations. Come and spend whatever time you can spare, we're sure you'll have a good time.

If you want to sign up, contact the event chair Bill, KB2TOY, at kb2toy@arrl.net or catch him at a meeting or on the weekly BARRA Tech Net.

Refreshment Chair Needed



As we reported in an earlier issue of *The Link*, we are in need of a refreshment chair for our general meetings. Please note that there will be *NO* refreshments at the April meeting unless someone contacts your editor before the meeting.

The refreshment chair is not a difficult task and is required only on the general meeting months, which are only six times a year.

If you, or a group of members, are interested in taking on the job, please contact your editor ASAP.

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	Charles Grammer KA2CQQ '11	886-4513
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K2ISO		145.17-	Wethersfield
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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

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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

Tips from an Expert Contester

Richard Sellers, KG2OR



As I glanced at The “IARU Championship Results” in the March 2009 issue of *QST*, page 79, the call N2WN fortuitously drew my attention. This call was in first place for QRP, CW, single operator. That is a nice award. I thought to myself, could this be a “Hobby Highlight?” Only asking N2WN would satisfy me. I wrote to Julius Fazekas, N2WN with some questions, and he sent me some great tips for contest participants. Also, it is a coincidence that he went to Buffalo State College in 1978-1980. N2WN said, “I participated in the CQ WW DX Contest stringing a single element delta loop between Tower 1 and Tower 2. I doubt anyone has done this since. I won the Second Call Area Award.”

THE INTERVIEW

KG2OR: “I was wondering if you could tell me the reasons for your success?”

N2WN: “Practice, luck and staying in the chair are probably the things I attribute most. I try to play to my strengths and learn from my mistakes.”

KG2OR: “Is equipment the key?”

N2WN: “Yes, I tried being competitive with some older Yaesu equipment and it just didn't cut it. After a lot of research, I went with an Elecraft K2. The reasons for this were: 1. It had one of the best reputations as a hot CW machine with a top notch receiver. 2. I built it and all the related equipment. That alone provided a great sense of accomplishment, doing well in contests was icing on the cake. 3. I could repair it, versus needing to send it out. I don't regret the decision and have added a K3 to the arsenal. Is that the only option? No, find a radio you're comfortable with and that has a bulletproof receiver. Many I know love their Ten Tec's, Yaesu and Icoms. Pick a radio that is easy to interface to various equipment and a computer.”

KG2OR: “Do you use a paddle, computer, or straight key?”

N2WN: “I never could get the swing of a paddle. I use a computer and K1EL keyboard for most contests. I do love my straight key and use that in some contests as well.”

KG2OR: “Do you transmit and receive on the same frequencies?”

N2WN: “99% of the time I tx/rx the same frequency on CW, and so far on RTTY. I have just started getting back into SSB, and split operation is more common, particularly in DX contests.”

KG2OR: “Is there a ‘magic band’?”

N2WN: “The ‘magic band’ is 6M isn't it? My favorite band

these days is 160. I am fortunate enough to have a decent QTH: 'quiet and a bit bigger than your average lot. This can be an advantage, particularly running QRP as many QRP contest stations don't venture to the ‘Top Band’.”

KG2OR: “Do you do better on Grey Line time?”

N2WN: “It depends on the contest, domestic contests the Grey Line is less important. For DX contests, I do watch it and it is a factor. Sunset and Sunrise openings definitely help when running LP or QRP.”

KG2OR: “Do you think that your score in the IARU in 2008 compared to 2007; which showed a decrease in points for the CW QRP category was due to the low sun spot cycle?”

N2WN: “Conditions were just not as good last year... Some of it was definitely due to where we are in the cycle, particularly if there are limited openings on 15 and 10. With IARU, the EU multipliers are harder to pick up on 80 and 160, particularly QRP, because less EU stations are available. Even 40 presents fewer multipliers, as many EU stations don't have the room for effective lower band antennas. I prefer 15 over 20, too.”

ADDENDUM

N2WN: “As a recommendation for new testers, try state QSO parties! There is a plan to resurrect the NY QSO Party this year and with the ‘ARRL Triple Play Award,’ activity is up in all the state contests. These events range from very laid back to very intense. Following the mobiles is a lot of fun, and many states have folks drive in from all over the country to run counties. It's an easier way to win awards including plaques and goods from that state. Some examples include: wild rice from Minnesota, wine from California, peaches from Georgia, lobster dinner from New England.”

CONCLUSION

I found communicating with N2WN a great way to get ideas relating to how an amateur radio contest champion thinks. He takes the time to set up the maximum amount of tactics, and as a position, his station is in a quiet, efficient broadcast-like environment. Equipment is paramount, and reliability is a necessity. More about N2WN can be found at QRZ.com. There is a list of his equipment and competition titles. “The Tennessee Contest Group” described at <http://www.k4ro.net/tcg/index.html> is also a good site storing a power house of contest players, and he gave everyone an open invitation to join the “Tennessee QSO Party” this year in September. N2WN said, “We'd love to have anyone and everyone participate in the Tennessee QSO Party, Sunday, Sept. 9th. We have a good plaque program and plenty of mobiles.”

73 de Richard Sellers, KG2OR.

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. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, 2368 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, near Sheridan Drive. Doors open at 7:00 pm for rag chew, business meeting at 7:30, with program following.

Monday, April 20, 2009 -- Tom Foley, WA2EYF, will present "Do you really know what an antenna is and how it works?"

Monday, June 15, 2009 - Program TBA.

Saturday - Sunday, June 27-28, 2009 - Field Day at the Cole Road repeater site. Plan on coming out to help operate and earn points for BARRA!

Monday, July 20, 2009 -- Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic at the Cole Road repeater site in Boston, NY.



**NO GENERAL MEETINGS IN JANUARY,
MARCH, MAY, AUGUST OR NOVEMBER**

The *Link* is not published in March, May, August and
November.

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.

Remember that the
BARRA General Meetings
now take place at the new
St. Bartholomew's location:
2368 Eggert Road
Tonawanda, NY