

The Link

April 2011



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

This Month's Meeting: Movie Night!

Finding ourselves without a program presentation this month we have enlisted the assistance of Ben, N2YDM, to provide us with a Movie Night. Ben has put on these movie nights in the past and they have always been entertaining as well as informative, featuring technology-related gems from the various video archives on the Internet. Previous movie nights have provided us with a glimpse at how LP records were made, an old TV interview with Vladimir Zworykin (inventor of the iconoscope), and even an old "Watch Mr. Wizard" episode. The best part of Ben's movie nights, though, is quite possibly the cartoon short that starts the evening!

We hope to see you there!

Field Day is Getting Closer!

The weekend of June 25-26, 2011 is this year's date for the ARRL Field Day competition. Once again BARRA will be mounting an entry and your help is needed! Bill Brown, KB2TOY, is the chair of the event and is beginning to take names of those who wish to participate.

Folks are needed throughout the weekend, from setup on Saturday morning to tear-down on Sunday afternoon, and most especially help is needed for overnight operating. Come for as long as you can! Operators are needed continuously, and aren't restricted by your license class. Since control operators with the necessary license classes will be on-site, anyone can help make contacts. Field Day is a great way to get your feet wet in HF operating if you've never done it before.

Mark the June 25-26 weekend on your calendar now and plan on stopping by for at least a little while. Contact Bill, KB2TOY, with your plans so he can have a good idea of personnel that will be on hand. Bill may be contacted at kb2toy@arrl.net or 771-2369.

Refreshment Chair Still Needed

It's about time to put out our call again for someone or someones to take on the role of refreshment chair for our general membership meetings. The job is not difficult: set up coffee and bring some doughnuts to the meetings. The church provides us with the coffee pots, we bring our own "makings." There are only six general meetings through the course of the year, so it's not a terribly demanding job. Split it up with another member or two and it becomes even easier!

If you, or a group of you, are interested in becoming our refreshment folks, contact a board member or your editor.

Work Parties to Begin at Cole Road

With winter finally fading away it's time to turn our attentions to the Cole Road repeater site and the various projects that await us there. Several ambitious projects are envisioned for this spring and summer and the help of our members will be needed.

Among the projects on the board for this year is the interior work on "Chet's Shack," which has been a plan for several years now to turn that building into an HF operations center. Each June it has served as the station for BARRA's Field Day entry, and the vision for "Chet's Shack" is for it to be available for HF operations year-round ... or at least when there's no snow on the ground. When the plans were first made there was a "Give a Sheet" donation program where members donated money to be used to finish the shack's interior, probably with sheets of plywood or other sheet material hence the name of the fund drive to "Give a Sheet."

In addition to the interior of "Chet's Shack," the exterior needs some finish work. The building was re-sheeted and a new roof applied a few years ago and there is some trim work yet to be completed.

Over at the A-frame that houses the 146.91 and 224.82 repeaters there's exterior work to be done in the form of painting and minor repairs.

In short, there is plenty of work to go around for as many members who wish to join in on the fun. Dave, W2ZZA, our trustee for the Cole Road site is collecting names and contact information of those who want to help. Dave may be contacted at w2zza@arrl.net or by phone at 656-8010.

Call for Programs

As we head toward the summer break from our general membership meetings, it's not too early to be thinking of meeting programs for next fall. Have you been building something interesting to use on the air? Maybe you've been trying out one of the new digital modes, or bought one of those new whiz-bang ham rigs. Any of those topics, and more, could be a program for your fellow BARRA members! As we all know, hams are a curious bunch and technical topics not directly related to ham radio would also make good program topics.

If you'd like present a program at future BARRA meeting, contact your editor to discuss a date.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '12	634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '12	834-2664
Secretary	Charles Grammer KA2CQQ '11	886-4513
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '13	836-0417
Director	Damon Edwards, AB2UK '12	847-2140

Committees & Chairs

Technical	Ted Ertl WA2HKS
Link Editor	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT
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

W2EUP	PL 107.2	29.68-	Boston
K2ISO		145.17-	Wethersfield
K2ILH	PL 107.2	146.73-	N. Tonawanda
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 Serves

To join, send look up the group "barrabflo" on

<http://groups.yahoo.com>

The Tech Committee also has an email group, BARRA-Tech, on Yahoo Groups. Or, email the editor to receive an invite to join either or both groups.

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

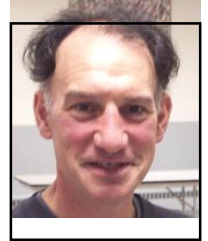
Note: A voting member is a member who has performed a service for BARRA (e.g. helped out at an activity, written a *Link* article, etc.).



Hobby Highlights

Richard Sellers, KG2OR

I found this "Hobby Highlights" topic at <http://www.southgatearc.org>. This club meets at the Hazlewood Lawn Tennis and Squash Club in London, England. They advertised a DXpedition to Revilla, Gigedo Island, March 4-19, 2011. The call will be 4A4A. The details and management of the expedition are on the site. The island is west of Mexico in the Pacific Ocean. As I looked at the club's site structure I found a connection to one of my writings.



Under their news index button I found years of data, and for the month of February a daily cross cultural news list of links. This is very close to my idea of a great data base for club news and literature. In September 2001 and March 2010 I wrote in "Hobby Highlights" that we need to "keep local operators' writings from club news into a computerized storage and retrieval system. If the authors of ham related topics in club news are not within the scope of database research then perhaps we lose contact with each others' efforts, and the ability to footnote" as well as being entertained by the reading. "The best we can do is keep in touch with the writing and interject when possible." I would like to envision more coordination in the future. These resources can be seen as titles when visible, but I still have visions of key word in context, or out of context retrieving concepts. "Only time will tell if clubs ... are willing to build the base." Given what I have seen at the Southgate Amateur Radio club's site the future outlook for sharing club news in the world is closer to an updated daily centralized database. Monopoly is the game!

73 de Richard Sellers, KG2OR. USA.

Your Article Here!

Maybe this should be titled a call for articles for *The Link*. Your editor, after 16+ years is a little tired of writing nearly every word that appears in every issue, save for those from our columnist. Articles are always welcome in *The Link*! It doesn't have to be long, and it certainly doesn't have to be eye-glazingly technical. Just write about what you've been doing in ham radio lately. Work some interesting DX? Work a new (to you) mode? Achieve DXCC or WAS? Work some great skip on VHF or UHF? Tried out the LEO satellites? Interface a computer gadget to your station? Whatever, it's all good and all material for an article. Recounting your experience might inspire another member to try it, too ... call it virtual Elmering!

Send your submissions to your editor ... everyone will benefit!

It's Not Too Early to Save the Date!

Monday, July 18th

**THE ANNUAL BARRA
MOBILE CLINIC & PICNIC**
at the Cole Road repeater site
Bring a friend

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Calendar of Events

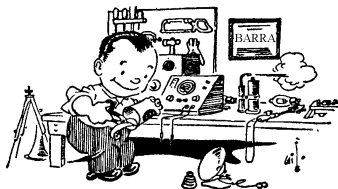
GENERAL MEETINGS

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 18, 2011-- Movie Night! Ben, N2YDM, will provide some archival video gems for our enjoyment.

Monday, June 20, 2011 -- Mark Humphrey, K3WY, will speak on hamfesting in Europe and other technical matters relating to ham radio.

Saturday-Sunday, June 25-26, 2011 -- Field Day! Join the BARRA gang at our Cole Road repeater site for our 2011 station entry in ARRL Field Day.



**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 first Tuesday 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.

Field Day is Coming Soon!
Save the weekend of
June 25-26
Come out and help BARRA with its
Annual Field Day Station
See Page 1 for Details