



The Link

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

December 1999

Time for the Holiday Party!

Yes, girls & boys, it's that time again already -- time for the annual holiday BARRA get-together called the Christmas Party. As always, the food will be the plain & simple (but always delicious) pizza and wings, and plenty of coffee and soft drinks will be available.

Bring out the spouse to meet the other members' spouses - they can commiserate with each other about being saddled with a ham... But seriously, the Christmas Party is always an evening of good food and fellowship. Three dollars per person (\$5 per family) will be collected at the door to help defray costs. See you there!!

Dues are Due

As reported in the last *Link*, it's time for BARRA dues renewals. Check your mailing list for the status of your dues. Many dues have already been received and as always we thank everyone for their promptness.

All applicable discounts have been taken, but we may have missed one or two. If you believe a discount to which you are entitled was not taken, deduct the amount from the dues you owe and put a note with your check so we can correct our records.

K2IMF III

We are sad to report that after having returned home from the hospital for a time, at this writing Don Ismert, K2IMF, is back in intensive care at Kemore Mercy Hospital. He has a number of concerns that the medical staff is dealing with and Don could certainly use the good thoughts and prayers of the BARRA family at this time.

Members: Don't Throw This Issue Out!

At least not before removing the special insert included in copies sent to members. The insert provides new information on utilizing the linking codes for the Cole Road microcomputer system. See the article on Page 3 for the full details.

The BARRA E-Mail Listserver

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

barra-subscribe@perdix.acsu.buffalo.edu

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

barra@perdix.acsu.buffalo.edu

New Members

BARRA welcomes the following hams to its ranks:

W2KJV	Mark Grigajtis	West Seneca
KB2QBQ	Mary Grigajtis	West Seneca
KD2QV	Rick Doherty	Getzville
KB2YJ	Gary Zanghi	Angola
N2OJW	Callan Dickerson	Tonwanda

Welcome to all!

Remembering John Otto

Ben Bass, N2YDM

[Editor's Note: While there has been much already in the local media on the passing of Buffalo radio legend John Otto, this reminiscence by a BARRA member who knew and worked with him seemed appropriate.]

I had the pleasure of working with John at WGR for four years in the mid seventies. I was working weekends on sister station WGRQ at the time and used to fill in as John's engineer (today they're called producers or board operators) for Extension 55. There was no call screener, John screened calls himself during commercial or news breaks and put them on hold. John pioneered the format of talk radio way back in the 60s.

John was always a true gentleman. Quick-witted and with his own unique style, inflection and command of the English language. John had a dry sense of humor and an infectious laugh. What John may have lacked in formal education, he more than made up for with his extensive reading. He would literally have stacks of reference material in the studio each night.

I have fond memories of my time working with John. My favorite story is one time WGR had hired a new engineer. This guy walked around with a cup of coffee, but often didn't do much else. John had complained of a problem with his headphones and filed the appropriate report with the engineering department. Because of the tape delay (we used two reel to reel machines to produce a seven second delay so obscenities could be deleted from the air) good headphones were essential to his program. This new engineer returned the report to John with two Q-tips taped to it, implying John should clean the @#\$\$ out of his ears. John was visibly angered and expressed his displeasure to me in no uncertain terms as only he could do. I asked if I might look at the headphones and John agreed. Five minutes and a couple of dabs of solder later, the headphones were good as new. John never forgot that, and I had a friend for life.

It was a treat to run his board. He was a very animated character, continually making gestures to the caller on the

continued on page 3

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Mark Lienert KG2DE '00	447-1738
Vice President	Steve Riek N2QJE '00	731-3452
Secretary	Brian Neri WA2CWF '02	838-1673
Treasurer	Ed Swan KD2JW '01	877-0417
Directors	Voit Drankhan KA2WIO '02 941-5569 Keith Hendershot KB2VKK '02 668-0391 Gene Kremzier N2OBW '01 632-4369	

Committees & Chairs

Technical	Gil Boelke W2EUP	
Link Editor	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT	
Associate Link Editor	Dave Sewhuk N2GH	
WNYSORC Representative Chair	Ben Bass N2YDM	
Membership,		
Roster & Passwords	KA2WFT, W2EUP, KD2JW	
Activities List	Ed Swan KD2JW	
ID Badges	KD2JW	
Erie County Emer. Coord.	Karl Weir N2NJH	

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
WR2AHL	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. N2NJH 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 available to 1200 baud users directly on 145.63 Mhz.

BARRA Home Page

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

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 12-9:00; Sat. 10-5:00; Closed Wed.

(716) 632-1189

Sales - Service - Installation

FFL#
16-12569

N.Y. STATE LIC. #
DEALER - D555
GUNSMITH - G428

K2PWL
IRWIN LASHER
DEALER IN FIREARMS & ACCESS.

CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR
NRA - PISTOL - RIFLE - SHOTGUN
N.Y. STATE - HUNTER TRAINING

838-1468 EVE.

DEPAOLO ELECTRIC



ROBERT DEPAOLO, Licensed Electrician
P.O. Box 1194
N. Tonawanda, New York 14120

Licensed
&
Insured

694-5817

Service
&
Installations



EAST COAST AMATEUR RADIO, INC.

WESTERN NEW YORK'S FINEST
AMATEUR RADIO AND COMPUTER CD-ROMS
— RADIO REPAIR —

<http://www.eastcoastradio.com>
e-mail: ecar@eastcoastradio.com

314 Schenck St.
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

Phone: 716-695-3929
1-800-995-1787
Fax: 716-695-6067

When you patronize our advertisers, tell them
you saw their ad in The Link!

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.).

John Otto Remembered, continued from page 1

phone. Back then he was flicking his Bic to light another "More" cigarette. I remembered the fun we had when John hosted election night coverage. The guest analyst was former Amherst supervisor (and Buffalo radio legend) Jack Sharpe. The two of them had the staff in stitches, as they took turns taking shots at Don Dussias and the others when they called in.

The last time I spoke to John was in May of 1998 when he was inducted into the Buffalo Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame. John was in ill health at the time, carrying his oxygen tanks with him. His acceptance speech was vintage self-deprecating Otto. As he made his way from the stage, he saw me sitting there. His eyes lit up and he came over. I gave him a big hug and the kudos he had earned. He was truly overwhelmed that so many of his friends had gathered to honor him. I have a collection of his jingles and several classic John Otto bloopers that I will always cherish.

So let us remember our friend, John Otto, and recall all he has given us over the years, as he has hangs up on Extension 55 for one last time. We're all going to miss him.

New Repeater User's Guide

As has been reported in the pages of *The Link* over the past year or so, Gil Boelke, W2EUP, has been working on revising and revamping the code which drives the microcomputer controller at the Cole Road site, which in turn drives all of the RF equipment at the site, including the links to other repeaters like WA2HKS 444, TFMCS, WB2JQK 10 meters and others to come.

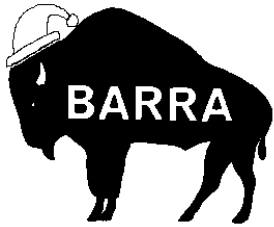
The micro was designed and built by BARRA members back in 1983 -- 17 years ago!!! While linking controllers with password control schemes similar to BARRA's exist today, for many, many years BARRA's was the only one out there because it was home-grown -- a testament to the technical prowess of the club.

Some time ago, the Technical Committee saw the need to re-work the linking scheme implemented by the controller, along with other more esoteric software modifications. The result of this was a major overhaul of the programming code, most if not all of which was done by Gil. Gil has dubbed the new software "Links 98."

In the next two issues of *The Link*, there will be a special supplement included in the copies sent to members which outline the terminology, codes and examples necessary for utilizing the controller to its full potential when linking to other repeaters.

There are a total of eight pages to the supplement, and the first four appear with this issue. Save these supplement pages and add them to the final four which will be included with next month's issue.

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



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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, December 20, 1999 - Annual BARRA Christmas/Holiday Party. Bring the spouse or significant other and join the BARRA crew for some holiday fellowship.

Monday, January 17, 2000 - Annual report by the Technical Committee.

Monday, February 21, 2000 - Annual BARRA Auction. Bring your old goodies and turn them into cash!

**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.