



The Link

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

December 2000

Time for the BARRA Holiday Party!

Where does the time go? It is once again time for the annual BARRA holiday party, that gathering of holiday-inspired fellowship. Monday, December 18 will see this year's version of this yearly event. We will gather at the usual time, doors open at 7 PM with food to follow around 7:30.

The food isn't fancy -- pizza and wings -- but is tasty. Three dollars per person or five dollars per family will be collected and will cover the cost of the food and beverages.

Join BARRA for this annual get-together, and see you there!



New BARRA E-Mail List Serve

BARRA has a new e-mail list serve, thanks to the efforts of Karl Weir, N2NJH. The list serve that we have been using for the last few years at UB suddenly disappeared earlier this fall. The member who had set that up for us hasn't renewed in some time, so we have had the benefit of "free" use of that list for a while.

When the new list was established, all known e-mail addresses of our members were submitted to it, requiring a confirmation to join the list being returned from each member. Many have done this and are now on the new list.

If you wish to join this list, see the directions in the box below.

Also, at the same time that this list was established, a list was created specifically for the activity reports of the BARRA Technical Committee. All members who were previously on W2EUP's private e-mail list have been placed on this new list serve, however it is open to everyone. If you wish to join that list, use the same information below, but substitute subscribe barra-tech for the "subscribe barra" information.

The BARRA E-Mail Listserver

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

Cherry Creek Site to be Returned to W2OXB

As the result of discussions between Jack O'Connor, W2OXB, the BARRA Technical Committee and the BARRA Board of Directors, a vote was brought to the membership at the Annual Meeting in October about relinquishing the ownership of the land on which the Cherry Creek repeater site stands back to W2OXB.

W2OXB donated and deeded the repeater site land to BARRA in the late 1960s and for many years this location was the home of BARRA's all natural-powered repeater, W2OXB on 147.00 MHz. A severe lightning hit to this site in the mid 1980s took the machine off the air and the complicated and custom rebuild for the equipment at that site took many years. By the mid 1990s the main building at the site was falling into disrepair due to the severe freeze/frost cycle and indeed has since weakened tremendously and most recently was subject to a burglary which has removed every possible item of value from the shack.

In light of these developments and his advancing years, Jack had begun to express the desire to take back the site land over a year ago. Since the terms of the deed specify that BARRA was forbidden from selling the land, and indeed is landlocked by the rest of Jack's property, this was BARRA's only possible action.

It was with sadness that the Technical Committee and the Board agreed with Jack's wishes and presented the case to the membership at the October meeting. The motion to return the land to Jack was passed unanimously, with the thanks of the club for the many years' use it has received from it.

Dues are Due!



It is time for BARRA dues to be renewed. Our year runs from October to September and dues become due beginning October 1 each year. Check your mailing label for the amount you owe (E-Link recipients will receive a separate e-mail with their dues amount). All applicable discounts have been hopefully applied. If you believe the amount of your dues is in error, please contact your editor or BARRA treasurer Ed Swan, W2EAS.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	
Vice President	
Secretary	Brian Neri WA2CWF '02 838-1673
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '01 877-0417
Directors	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '03 834-2664
	Voit Drankhan KA2WIO '02 941-5569
	Keith Hendershot KB2VKK '02 668-0391
	Gene Kremzier N2OBW '01 632-4369
	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '03 634-6394

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, W2EAS
Activities List	Ed Swan W2EAS
ID Badges	W2EAS
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 Home Page

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

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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.).

Board Election Report

As is always on the agenda for the October Annual Meeting, board elections took place and two names not unfamiliar to the BARRA board found their way back to the list. Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ, and Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT, were both elected to replace outgoing board members Mark Lienert, KG2DE, and Steve Riek, N2QJE.

The membership elects directors to the BARRA board and the board then elects officers from the roster of directors. The November board meeting is the time that the officers are usually elected, but due to scheduling conflicts with many of the board members, this meeting did not take place. The election of officers will take place at the December board meeting, which will occur as this issue of *The Link* is being distributed, so you'll have to come to the Holiday Party on the 18th to find out who's who!

BARRA sends its heartfelt thanks to Mark and Steve for their many years on the BARRA board. Their terms have seen some interesting times, not the least of which was the attempted Frontier Cellular deal when Mark found himself the "lightning rod" for the Cole Road neighbor's unpleasantness.

Thanks from KG2DE

Mark Lienert KG2DE

As the outgoing president of BARRA, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words to the membership.

I have been a board member for the last six years, and president for approximately five of those years. BARRA has come a long way in that time and has accomplished many things, and it has been a pleasure for me to have been a part of it. But the time has come for me to move on to other things.

While a board member, I have worked with many of you, but three people stand out and I think they need to be recognized.

Thanks to Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT, for his undying interest in BARRA, and for taking the time to publish *The Link* almost single-handedly for all these years. Also thanks to Ed Swan, W2EAS, our treasurer, who has many times gone above and beyond the call of duty as our "legal guy." Ed has been known to spend countless hours of work on matters such as the Frontier Cellular Deal, our land acquisition at Cole Road, and our recent land relinquishment at Cherry Creek.

Finally, thanks to Gil Boelke, W2EUP, and all the guys on the Tech Committee for maintaining all of our repeaters over the years. I know Gil has spent countless hours writing and programming code and visiting Cole Road, not to mention all the hours spent at the shop working on the other repeaters.

Thanks to Doug, Ed, and Gil, as well as all the other volunteers in BARRA, (you know who you are), for making BARRA what it is today. Because of your selfless efforts, you've made it possible for others to enjoy our wonderful hobby.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Records from the Lost Archive

Rich Sellers, KG2OR

One of my favorite movies is "Raiders of the Lost Ark." An archaeologist discovers the ancient Hebrew Ark of the Covenant. Rival Nazis, who want the ark, destroy themselves by foolishly unleashing its supernatural powers. My next hobby highlights is not about the ark, or nazis, but the lost RAWNY archive. I have been asked to find out where W2PE came from, and how the club got on the USS Little Rock? "Records from the Lost Archive" is a suitable title for this article.

Since our archive is in the minds of members I tried calling our senior members and found Max Bargman, N2CMB. Max is 87 years old. He remembers that in 1927-1930 RAWNY met at Gratwick Hall on High Street in Buffalo. This was the cancer research institute. A Dr. Simpson arranged that meeting hall. Antennas were meeting topics and Max recalls that the club held ethical debates in the meeting program. Max cited a 1959 call book and told me that W2PE lived at 570 Rice Road in Elma, New York. Do you know who this person was?

Both Max, N2CMB, and Kevin, WA2FKV, remember W2PE as Mr. Larry Gino. Max also said that he was a Policeman and may have been influential in the development of police radio in Buffalo. Remember the Police Call Boxes?

Here is where we need help. From 1930 to 1980, fifty years of RAWNY history seems to be lost. KD2V, Harold, said that the club met at the Salvation Army on Main Street in Buffalo, then moved to the Buffalo Savings Bank in Tonawanda, then again to a Kenmore School, and finally to the Church of the Nativity in Tonawanda.

RAWNY's club call became stationed on the USS Little Rock in the late 1970's. Charles Knowlton, WA2OJV, worked on the ship at the time and was also a member of RAWNY. When RAWNY was looking for something to do the powers that be put our club on the ship.

Perhaps you have knowledge about the QSOs or other programs, the membership lists, or the technical essays of the time. If you can help give any of RAWNY's board members a call. RAWNY's future may depend upon building its past.

Thanks to Our Niagara Falls Volunteers

BARRA thanks the following members for their help in whatever form in making the move of the 146.73 machine to the hotel in Niagara Falls:

W2EUP Gil Boelke, KG2DE Mark Lienert, WB2DSS Rich Poczalski, N2MHG Don, KB1XW Stan Niesiolowski, WA2HKS Ted Ertl, and N2YDM Ben Bass. If your editor has left anyone out, let him know!

146.73 Moved to Niagara Falls Site

After many months of talks between BARRA and the Best Western Inn on the River in Niagara Falls, the 146.73 K2GUG/R repeater was moved to that site and placed on the air. BARRA lost the long-time home of this repeater at WUTV when Channel 29 put up a new tower and slated the old one for demolition.

With the relocation of the repeater per the requirements of the Western New York Southern Ontario Repeater Council (WNYSORC), CTCSS or "PL" has been installed in the machine on a frequency of 107.2 Hz. The plan is to have the tone switchable so that it may be disengaged during times of little interference, ducting, and other RF "trash."

Transmit coverage from this site is very good and some impressive reports have been received already.

One drawback so far is that the machine is a bit "deaf," suffering from local interference from some of the TV equipment in the hotel. A five-man crew recently visited the site with various test gear in hand to attempt to locate and measure the interference. An impressive array of photos taken at that work party appear on page five of this issue.

Plans are to also have a link radio attached to this repeater so that it may be linked into the Cole Road system, thus providing autopatch access and connectivity to the other BARRA repeaters and Toronto. W2EUP is currently building the equipment necessary for this.

So, if you haven't already check it out, put 146.73 on now and hear it for yourself. Many thanks to all of the members who have made this move possible, especially Mark Lienert, KG2DE, who played telephone tag for months with the hotel!

442.00 Returns to the Airwaves!

The owners of the Wethersfield home of BARRA repeaters 442.00 and 145.17 have completed nearly all the upgrades and changes to the site such that the 442.00 WR2AHL repeater has returned to service, with 145.17 to follow shortly.

Now on a community antenna with other site tenants, the UHF repeater is already showing coverage improvements over its former installation. Problems with the community VHF antenna system are holding up the final connections to the 145.17 machine. We are told that things should be ready any day now.

With the changes to the transmitter site many benefits to all tenants have come about: backup power and power filtering (greatly needed since we like the other site users were wiped out in a lightning hit), building renovations, and increased security of the building and grounds.

We are hoping to have some photos from this site soon for an upcoming issue of *The Link*.

Picture Page!

Some views of the recent work at the Niagara Falls hotel repeater site and new home to K2GUG/R. Our thanks to Ben Bass, N2YDM, for these great shots.



The gathered crew works on the equipment. Seen from left are Ted Ertl, WA2HKS; (kneeling) Stan Niesiolowski, KB1XW; Dick Poczkalski, WB2DSS; and Gil Boelke, W2EUP.



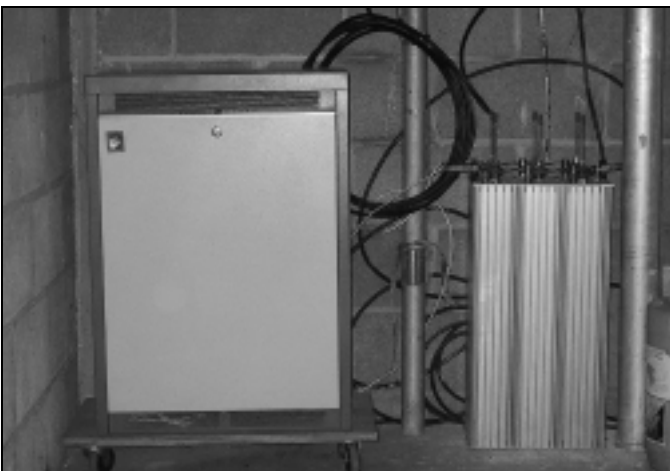
Stan, KB1XW, checks things out on the Marconi.



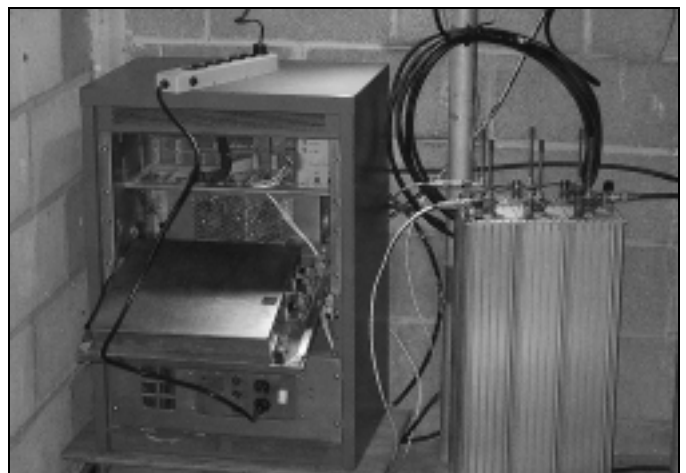
Dick, WB2DSS, installs the PL boards in the GE MastrII while Gil, W2EUP looks on.



Gil, W2EUP, tries to key up the machine on his HT.

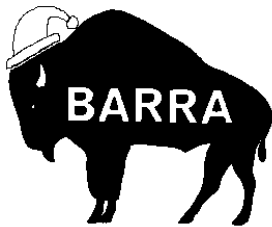


K2GUG/R, 146.73 MHz. A GE MastrII repeater and Sinclair duplexer. The duplexer is courtesy of Andy, WB2VEU.



The repeater with the RF decks open.

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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 18, 2000 - Annual BARRA Christmas Party. Bring the spouse and come out and meet the extended BARRA family!

Monday, January 15, 2001 - Annual Report of the BARRA Technical Committee to the membership.

Monday, February 19, 2001 - Annual BARRA Auction! Start putting aside goodies now for this popular junk-to-cash event.



*Happy Holidays
from
BARRA*



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.

**NO GENERAL MEETINGS IN
MARCH, MAY, AUGUST OR NOVEMBER
The *Link* is not published in those months**