



The Link

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

December 2002

Annual BARRA Christmas Party is This Month



It's time once again for Santa and the other trappings of the holiday season which means that it is time for the Annual BARRA Christmas Party. Monday, December 16th is the date for our fam-

ily get-together. The food is simple, pizza and wings, but the fellowship is always outstanding.

As an added bonus this year club president Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ, through his company, Crest A/V Electronics, has donated a DVD player to be raffled off as a door prize - you can't win it if you're not there. Nelson has also underwritten the entire Christmas Party so that there will be NO admission fee this year! Ever wonder what Santa Claus looks like? Look to our president!

This event is always a popular one in the BARRA calendar -- we hope to see you there.

Dues Are Due

Your editor failed to mention in the previous issue that membership dues are due for the upcoming year. Many of you, however, took the hint with the dues reminder on the mailing label of your newsletter and have already renewed -- thanks for your promptness!

Check the mailing label of your newsletter for the status of your dues. *E-Link* recipients will receive a separate e-mail "label" advising of their dues status.

BARRA's fiscal year runs from October to September so dues always become due beginning in October each year. We have, as always, tried to apply all applicable discounts to everyone's dues but if we have goofed up on something, let us know and we'll make the change.

E-Link Reminder

Members are reminded that this newsletter is available for distribution electronically in the cross-platform Adobe PDF format. The electronic version of *The Link* is in color and arrives at your e-mail in-box completely without the wrinkles, tears and stains that the paper version comes with.

The Adobe PDF reader needed to view the *E-Link* is free and a link to download it is available from the newsletter page of the BARRA web site. Also on the newsletter page are examples of the electronic *Link* so you can see what all the fuss is about.

To sign up to receive the *Link* by e-mail, drop a note to the editor at ka2wft@arrl.net.

Annual Raffle Begins Anew

The annual BARRA raffle, held several years now, has proven to be a good fund raiser for the club. The board has therefore decided that it will be held again this year. The drawing will take place, as always, at the BARRA Auction in February.

Prizes this year are a little different than other years, which had been strictly cash. Through an arrangement with Crest A/V Electronics we are offering these prizes for the 2003 edition of the BARRA Raffle:

1st Prize DVD player

2nd Prize VCR

3rd Prize \$25.00 Cash

Tickets are included in paper copies of this issue of *The Link*, and will be available at the Christmas Party on the 16th. Sell them to yourself, and/or to friends, neighbors and coworkers. Now's the time to eke your revenge on coworkers who sold you all that stuff from their kids' fundraisers!

However you do it, help the club with this popular fundraiser -- and hopefully win one of the prizes in the process!

Available at the Christmas Party!

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

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '03 634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '03 834-2664
Secretary	Brian Neri WA2CWF '05 941-5999
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '04 877-0417
Director	Voit Drankhan KA2WIO '05 941-5569

Committees & Chairs

Technical	<vacant>
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.	Karl Weir N2NJH

Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	29.68 -	Boston
K2ISO	145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2DSN PL 107.2	146.73 -	Niagara Falls
W2EUP	146.91 -	Boston
N2YDM	147.00 +	Kenmore
W2EUP	224.82 -	Boston
WR2AHL PL 110.9	442.00 +	Wethersfield
WB2DSS PL 151.4	443.925 +	Niagara Falls
WA2HKS	444.00 +	Buffalo
WB2DSS PL 151.4	444.75 +	Kenmore

UO-14 Retransmissions

The downlink of amateur satellite UO-14 is retransmitted on every pass over the Buffalo area on our 444.00 and 146.91 repeaters. For information on uplinking to the satellite, see the BARRA web page.

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>

Back issues of *The Link* and a membership application are available on our web site.

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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: ka2wff@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 ka2wff@arrl.net.

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.).

Membership and Elmer-ism: A different perspective

By Dave Halik KC2JUF

As some of you may know, I'm a new ham, licensed since June 2002. I met my ham radio Elmer when I was 13 years old -- that was 33 years ago. My Elmer is one of those people who keeps popping into my life just long enough to inspire and teach me something. So naturally the first thing I did after passing the test was contact him. I told him the good news about passing the test and he invited me to join BARRA, and asked me to work with the Technical Committee (I felt honored). At my first meeting I got to know a group of members that impressed me with their knowledge. Even though I have over 25 years of professional involvement with electronics, commercial radio, and broadcasting I was amazed by the high level of expertise present on the Tech Committee. The general membership is equally as impressive, possessing both technical and operational skills that rank them as Great Ham Operators. The members of the committee as well as the general membership are all what I would call great hams and have the potential to be Super Elmers.

Even though BARRA has what is clearly the most advanced system of repeaters and links in the area and the most experienced members, its membership is in decline. The trend is quite obvious to me: the growth of the Internet, the common place use of cell phones, and the general lack of interest in ham radio, all make it hard to increase membership. However other clubs in the area are growing and prospering with less in the way of resources and expertise.

After a short time with the club it became obvious that the problem of membership is a topic of conversation at almost every meeting. In fact the membership problem seems to be paramount. Without an increase in membership the club's very future may be in question.

The membership issue is by no means an easy problem to solve. However some things stand out in my mind. Let's look at other clubs in the area: club houses, repeaters, club stations, club parties and cookouts, hamfests, license exams, electronics training, and auctions. Of course some of these things are impossible to put in place, and others are things BARRA already has to offer its members. Many of these things are contributing factors in membership but let's not overlook the human factors.

The human factors are as diverse as the members themselves. However the single common factor that the members have can be described best as ELMER-ISM. Yes, ELMER-ISM, a made up word but it seems to fit.

The KC2JUF dictionary defines ELMER-ISM as efforts and actions that pass on tradition, practices and techniques; to mentor; as in protégé, one who protects or trains or who furthers the career of a person, a person of experience, prominence, or influence. Even those members who are new to ham radio bring life experiences to the club that qualifies them as ELMERS. The membership problem can be solved, and all it takes is a little ELMER-ISM by everyone.

Share and instruct other ham and potential hams. Pass on the enthusiasm and joy that lead you to ham radio. Your valuable experiences and knowledge may be the very thing that attracts new members to BARRA. Don't underestimate yourself or your skills. Remember, when a curious 13-year-old comes to your door and asks to see your radios, be a SUPER ELMER and let him or her in, fire up the rig and do a demonstration of ham radio.

Elmer-ism is how we will grow membership in BARRA and in ham radio together.

PICTURE PAGE!

A collection of photos from recent work at some of the BARRA repeater sites. Our thanks to Jim Collins, KA2IWK, (Cole Rd) and Ted Ertl, WA2HKS (Elmwood).



The Elmwood crew of N2YDM, N2ZDU, WB2DSS, and N2MHG start gathering parts in the parking lot.



Brian, WA2CWF, gets a fresh coat of paint on the window frames of the A-frame. Note also the new roof material on the shack.



Keith, K2DSN, does some vacuuming after the removal of the work bench from the A-frame at Cole Rd.



Ol' Snoopy is showing his age on the A-frame door. Is anyone with an artistic bent interested in repainting the door and Snoopy next summer?

At the October general membership meeting, Rich, WB2DSS, modeled some new BARRA apparel now available through Carl Brittain at Leprechaun Graphics. These are high-quality items that let you show your club colors in style. The available items and their prices are shown below. Return this page with your payment to the address at the bottom of the page to order.

BARRACustom Imprinted Order

Name _____ Phone _____



T-Shirt - \$7.00



Sweatshirt - \$11.00



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 Quilt Lined
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 Flannel Lined
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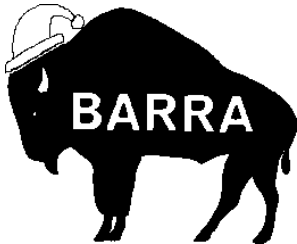
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Calendar of Events

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, December 16, 2002 -- Annual BARRA Christmas Party. Come out and join in the holiday spirit with BARRA friends and families. DVD player door prize raffle courtesy of Crest A/V Electronics!

Monday, January 20, 2003 -- Annual report of the Technical Committee to the membership. Come hear and see the year in review of BARRA's repeaters, sites, and projects.

Monday, February 17, 2003 -- Annual BARRA Auction! Turn trash into treasures at BARRA's popular yearly event.

Monday, April 21, 2003 -- SKYWARN presentation by members of the NWS Buffalo office.

**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 Crest A/V Electronics, 1570 Main Street, Buffalo, between Michigan and Ferry Streets. 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.

