

The Link

December 2003



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

It's That Time Again!
**The Annual BARRA Holiday
Party!**

Monday, December 15th, 2003
Gather at 7 PM, food arrives at 7:30

Food will be our annual fare of pizza & wings



All are welcome: Spouses, Friends, Non-members

DOOR PRIZES

Fun • Friends • Fellowship • Frivolity

Dues are Due

It is that time of year when BARRA's annual dues are due. Many members have already re-upped and we, as always, thank them for their promptness. The current status of your dues is shown on your mailing label. Electronic newsletter recipients will receive a special email concerning their dues.

Dues are payable either in person at the Holiday Party or by mail to the club PO box. Don't fall behind! Renew today!

Annual Raffle Begins

In this issue of *The Link* will be found a book of tickets for the annual raffle. The grand prize this year will be a DVD player, courtesy of Crest A/V Electronics. As in the past, the tickets are \$1 each or a books of six tickets for \$5.

The proceeds from the raffle will help us to keep dues increases at bay.

The Annual
BARRA AUCTION
is coming soon!

Monday, February 16, 2004

Ham Radio Gear • Computers • Parts
And Much More!

ANYONE CAN BUY OR SELL
Start digging out your goodies to sell!

DVD RAFFLE

Doors open at 6:45 PM
Auction begins at 7:30 PM

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.	Gene Kremzier N2OBW

Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	PL 107.2	29.68 -	Boston
K2ISO		145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2DSN	PL 107.2	146.73 -	Niagara Falls
W2EUP		146.91 -	Boston
N2YDM	PL 107.2	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

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.

SpaceLink

Please note that due to a serious problem with the UO-14 satellite, the SpaceLink is no longer in operation.

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!

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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: 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.

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.).

Hobby Highlights

Richard Sellers, KG2OR

How is your QSL card collection? Is it in a box, or hiding in a drawer, or closet? Mine are hanging on a string, with paper clips, in an attic. If you are hanging them on a wall then read, 2/73, *QST*, pg. 46 "Easy method of mounting QSL cards on wall without causing marks." It was written by W8HCL, Joseph Vucco. RAWNY's QSL design by AA2FZ, Dick Leach, reminded me of my QSL inventory computer program I wrote and published in the RAWNY *QSO* during the early 1980s. I ran received and not received QSL cards from my log book through a BASIC computer program, and it printed not returned QSL cards. I easily caught up on my QSL card inventory.



Further, I took a look at the ARRL periodical index, and found some interesting hints and kinks, and strays focusing upon QSL cards. There is a history of QSL information in the *QST* magazine. For example, I found these titles, and you might want to look them up: 12/64, *QST*, pg.71, "Homemade QSL cards" by, Alex Burr, K3NKX; 8/64, *QST*, pg.86, WA1ALB, "QSL Cards as Art Form?"; 3/54, *QST*, pg. 49, W6OPU, "Mickey Mouse QSL Card"; 2/58, *QST*, pg. 51, "Silk Screen QSL Cards", by W0BMW; 4/29, *QST*, pg. 28 "Zinc engraving QSL cards" by W7OQ; 8/27, *QST*, pg. 31, "Photo mounts for QSL cards," by 8BEN; 7/95, *QST*, pg. 13, "Your Move(Home-brew QSL card)", by Emerson Hoyt, WX7E; 7/95, *QST*, pg. 73, "Making your own QSL cards," by KR4GJ, Scott Hotchkiss.

Where are QSL cards going? Basically, in the mail! From there it is anyone's guess as to how long it will take to receive them. I usually get domestic cards within a couple of weeks, and DX cards take longer. I remember getting one a year after a QSO. I am not the only one with stories. How about 19 years! 10/76 *QST*, pg. 31, "19 years to receive QSL card," or "Slow QSL card delivery", 12/56, *QST*, pg. 14, W5APM received card from W2LS from 1926, by Tilton. How about QSL card returned after six years, "Insufficient Postage," 12/55, *QST*, pg. 178! It is obvious, QSL cards are a center of attention in our hobby. If you send a QSL card to an operator, you should request his, or hers in return. The game is how many cards can you collect. Some hobby hunters look for countries, counties, or cities. You can even obtain awards for your efforts, "Worked All States," or the DX "Century Club." What a hobby! Good hunting, and good luck! 73 de KG2OR.

Editor's Note: There's a QSL card award offered by our friends in the Harrisburg Radio Amateur's Club, The Pennsylvania Keystone Award, for making contact with 100 or more Pennsylvanian stations. There is a \$3 application fee, and details can be viewed at <http://hrac.tripod.com>



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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 15, 2003 -- Annual BARRA Christmas Party. Bring the spouse and/or a ham friend and enjoy holiday fellowship with the BARRA gang. Good food, fellowship and door prizes await those who attend!

Monday, January 19, 2004 -- Annual report to the membership of the Technical Committee.

Monday, February 16, 2004 -- Annual BARRA Auction! Turn trash into cash and put a smile on the spouse's face!

**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 the Airport Cafe, 4212 Union Rd, in the Airport Plaza, at the Union Road exit of the 33. 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.

The best of the holiday season to
the members and friends of BARRA!