

The Link

December 2004



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

It's Time for the Annual BARRA Holiday

Party!



Monday, December 20th

Doors Open at 7:00 PM

Food Arrives around 7:30

We will have our traditional simple
fare of pizza & wings
Beverages provided

Door Prize

Door Prize Provided by Crest AV Electronics

NO COST TO ATTENDEES

Our annual function is being
graciously underwritten by our
President, Nelson, WA2ZSJ

Dues Are Due!



Remember that not only is the holiday season upon us, but also the BARRA dues renewal season, too! On your mailing label, or in a separate email for E-Link recipients, is the current status of your dues. As of press time 34 members have renewed and we thank everyone for their promptness.

Dues, as always, can be paid in person at the holiday party, or by mail to the club's PO box. Your dues help keep our many repeaters on the air for all to enjoy. Enlist a fellow ham you've heard on the air who is not currently a member to join. Many hands (or in this case, dues) make for light work. A membership application is always available on the BARRA website, <http://barra.hamgate.net>, click on "Membership."

From the Archives



Using the mobile unit in his car, Gil Boelke talks with a brother "ham" in Toronto. His conversation is received and relayed by the repeater station.

On September 28, 1969, a lengthy pictorial spread about BARRA, repeaters, ham radio and emergency preparedness appeared in the Sunday magazine of the *Courier-Express*. Among the many photos was this shot of Gil, W2EUP, and his mobile installation.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '06 634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '06 834-2664
Secretary	Brian Neri WA2CWF '05 941-5999
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '07 836-0417
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.	Gary Wysocki N2WLS

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.

Club Call

BARRA holds the club call W2EUP in honor and memory of one of its founders, Gil Boelke, W2EUP.

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

CBs-Scanners-Ham-Marine-Business Radios-Radar Detectors

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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

RAWNY's November meeting was its annual youth night. Although the sun spot cycle was high and made HF very weak, many other exhibits showed young boy scouts that amateur radio operators are serious workers. As I walked around the room and discovered for myself the items on each operator's table, I saw many inquisitive scouts asking questions about licensing and methods. Some of the exhibits on the floor were: Skywarn, miniature radio, SSTV, APRS, SWL, QSL cards, Echo Link, HF operation, UHF/VHF, and fox hunting.



One exhibit especially caught my attention. It was KM2L's, Dr. Bruce Small's certificate of achievement: the award for QRP DXCC sponsored by the ARRL. Given all the modes of operation available to us it is performance which leads to the rewards in our hobby.

I went to the ARRL web site and found at www.arrl.org/awards/ a page which describes an array of awards the ARRL gives us for certain accomplishments. Briefly, at this section, you will find, the QRP DXCC award, given to operators who have at least 100 DX QSOs at five watts or less, WAS Worked All States, Five Band WAS Worked All States, Specialty Certificates for satellite, CW, VHF, etc, and WAS Worked All States in the 90th, for listeners and operators who can document two way emissions in each of the 50 states. The ARRL has an award for mixed modes and contacting 100 entities from their DXCC list, DXCC Century Club, and the #1 Honor Roll includes a plaque for working all entities in the DXCC list. The DX area still has more to offer, the DXCC Challenge Award, another plaque for hitting 1000 entities. There is also the VHF/UHF Century Club, the A1 Operators Club; a grand award for an operator maintaining high standards. This operator must be nominated by two operators who are presently in the club. You probably already know about the ARRL's Code Proficiency Certificate. Listening to W1AW's code practice is a popular way to maintain code proficiency and if you copy a minute of it at various speeds you can obtain those certificates. Near the end of the list are Worked All Continents, and the new Extra Class Certificate. There is a nominal charge for these awards so be sure to look at the web site for more information and prices.

You never know what you are going to see or who you'll meet at one of RAWNY's Annual Youth Nights. I was fortunate enough to be there and notice some great displays including KM2L's QRP DXCC award. KM2L has quite a bit of "wall paper." Keep scoring and good hunting.

73 de Richard Sellers, KG2OR.



John Latta, W2PVL, Founding Member of BARRA, Silent Key

In mid October BARRA learned the sad news that one of its last surviving founding members, John Latta, W2PVL, had passed away. John, 88, was BARRA's last remaining life member.

In the early 1960s as ham radio operators around the country began to explore the concept of radio repeater systems, a small group of hams in the Buffalo area joined in, and eventually set the pace for the rest of the country. Led by the late Gil Boelke, W2EUP, this group put up a two meter repeater station around 1963. Experiencing lackluster support for this new facet of ham radio from the area's established ham radio clubs, the group struck out on its own and eventually became BARRA. John, W2PVL, was part of this cutting edge collection of knowledgeable ham radio operators which included Gil, W2EUP, Fran, K2GUG, "The Hughs," WA2ZZZ and K2ISO and Bernie, WA2EBI. John served on the BARRA board of directors in almost every position during the early years of the club, and was its president in 1970.

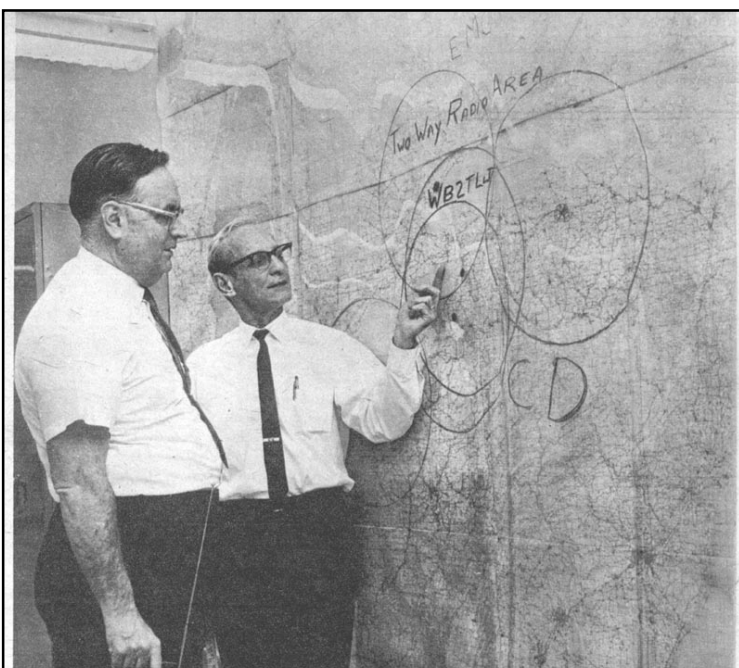
A veteran of WWII, John saw service in the European theater and was a Staff Sergeant in charge of a half track -- with a radio, of course, since he was a radio operator. He was a recipient of the Bronze Star.

Following the war and a couple of different jobs, W2PVL landed at Bell Aircraft as an electrical engineer. While at Bell he was involved with the Bell X2 aircraft project as well as the Nike missile systems. After those projects John checked specification compliance of various Bell projects for the government, many of which that were top secret. He retired with more than 25 years of service at Bell.

John remained active in BARRA until very recently, attending general meetings whenever he was in town, and donated his nearly complete collection of BARRA *Link* newsletters to the club's archives.

BARRA was indeed fortunate the have had the benefit of John's knowledge, expertise and friendship.

The editor thanks John's son, Bill, for providing some details of John's life before BARRA.



John C. McEvoy, Civil Defense communications officer, and BARRA member John Latta study a map in Erie County Civil Defense Headquarters in Chestnut Ridge Park. Circles indicate radio coverage provided by BARRA members.

W2PVL was pictured in an article about ham radio and repeaters that appeared in the *Courier-Express* Sunday pictorial magazine, September 28, 1969.

Remember that *The Link* is available in full color as an e-mailed PDF document. Other clubs are stopping printing of paper newsletters altogether. While we aren't getting that drastic just yet, we'd like to encourage all who are able to participate in this beneficial program -- the club saves the postage and you get a nifty copy of *The Link*. To sign up e-mail the editor, ka2wft@arrl.net





Kenwood TM-742A Rig Up for Bid

Another rig from the estate of K2DSN is being offered to the membership. It is a Kenwood TM-742A tri-band rig, with installed modules for VHF and UHF. A third module could be installed in the radio, and the modules turn up frequently on eBay.

The radio comes with a DTMF microphone, DC power cable, original Kenwood owner's manual, and a performance report by N2YDM, who checked out the rig for us.

The radio is rated for up to 50 watts output on two meters and 35 watts on UHF. N2YDM measured this radio's output at 35W on 2M and 30W on UHF. Each band of the radio has 100 memory channels and the radio has both CTCSS encode and decode functionality.

The original sales receipt is with the radio and cost \$709.90 when new in 1999. The club is looking for fair market offers on the radio.

The bid process will work as follows:

All bids must be received in writing **no later than December 31, 2004** either by email to the editor, ka2wft@arrl.net, or by mail to the club PO Box.

No bids will be divulged before December 31st and will be known only to the editor. The editor is **NOT** bidding on the radio.

In the case of duplicate high bids, the one with the earliest postmark or email time stamp will be the winner.

If you wish to place a different bid from one previously submitted (and before the 12/31 deadline), you may do so, **clearly indicating** that you are replacing any of your previous bids with the new one.

Delivery of the radio will occur only after the entire winning amount is paid by the winner.

If you have any questions about the radio, your editor will do his best to answer them. Contact him at ka2wft@arrl.net or 834-2664 evenings.

BARRA Approached for May Public Service Event

BARRA has been approached to provide communications for the annual Amherst International Memorial Soccer tournament on Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, 2005. Some members may recall that this same group approached us last spring for the 2004 version of the event but it was too close to the tournament to pull together the needed help. This time they have asked us with plenty of lead time.

What is required are hams at each of their five locations at fields around the Town of Amherst to report back to their control station the results of the soccer matches that take place at each field. The results are very important in determining matches later in the weekend. The games take place from 8 AM until 8 PM each day so we need shifts of volunteers for each of the five locations. With the matches taking place in Amherst, the use of the 146.91/444 machine seems optimal. Perhaps with this advanced lead time something utilizing packet radio and/or APRS could be planned? What say you, gang?

Please check your schedules NOW to see if you can help BARRA with this public service event for a shift or two Memorial Day weekend. Contact your editor if you can help.

More details on the event will be in future *Links*.

The Annual
BARRA AUCTION
is coming soon!

Monday, February 21, 2005

Ham Radio Gear • Computers • Parts
And Much More!

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

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

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

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Calendar of Events

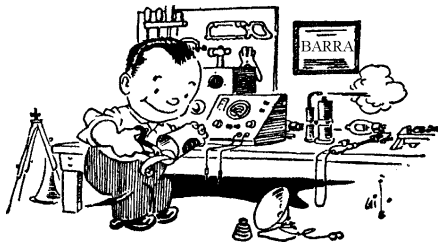
GENERAL MEETINGS

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 20, 2004 -- Annual BARRA Christmas Party. Bring the spouse and share some holiday fellowship with the BARRA gang.

Monday, January 17, 2005 -- Annual report of the Technical Committee to the membership.

Monday, February 21, 2005 -- Annual BARRA Auction!! Let's turn trash 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 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.

