

The Link

December 2005



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

Seasons Greetings

BARRA HOLIDAY PARTY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2005

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM

FOOD ARRIVES APPROX. 7:30 PM

MENU:

STANDARD "BARRA FARE" OF PIZZA & WINGS

KINDLY UNDERWRITTEN BY OUR PRESIDENT,
NELSON OLDFIELD, WA2ZSJ

"BRING A FRIEND"

New Board Members Elected

At the October Annual Meeting of BARRA, two new board members were elected from the slate of candidates offered. New to the BARRA board are Dave Halik, W2ZZA, and Greg Miller, K2GTM. They were in a three-way race for the two available board seats with incumbent Brian Neri, WA2CWF, a nine-year member of the board. We thank Brian for his long service on the board.

According to BARRA's by-laws, the board now must elect officers from the new slate of board members. Not all of the new board members could attend the November board meeting and the December meeting had to be canceled due to a scheduling conflict. So, as of this writing we do not have a new board secretary, but anticipate one being elected very soon.

Dave and Greg, while both relative newcomers to BARRA, are not completely unknown to the club. Dave took over the trusteeship of the Cole Road repeater site after the death of the site's former trustee, Keith Laudenslager, K2DSN. Dave has also been active in the BARRA Technical Committee.

Greg, K2GTM, is probably best known as the voice of the BARRA Tech Net, held every Wednesday evening at 8 PM pm on the 146.91/224.82/444.00 repeater system. Greg has also been a driving force behind BARRA's participation in Field Day the last two years.

We welcome Dave and Greg to the board and look forward to their further contributions to the club and its activities.

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	
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '07 836-0417
Directors	Dave Halik W2ZZA '08 825-4417 Greg Miller K2GTM '08 565-1807

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
K2ILH	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

BARRA Tech Net

Join the BARRA Technical crew on the 146.91/444.00 system Wednesdays at 8 PM for answers to your technical questions.

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>

Club Calls

BARRA holds club calls W2EUP and K2ISO in honor and memory of two of its founders, Gil Boelke, W2EUP, and Hugh Wilson, K2ISO.

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

HIRSCH'S

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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

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

Look to your ham shack as the new year approaches and you prepare for the holidays. Straight key night is coming! It runs from 7 PM (local) December 31, 2005 through January 1, 2006 7 PM (local). There is an article in the December *QST*, pg. 89, concerning the event. I have participated in it for many years.



It is a challenge to obtain QSOs, but you might be "best fist," or "most interesting QSO." The ARRL also provides a "Soap Box" for pictures and messages after SKN. The art of sending CW with an old style key is rewarding. It is low voltage, continuous wave, and then the radio sends the signal into the atmosphere from your antenna.

You can submit your log to an ARRL robot, and then your call sign will be published in the April *QST* under SKN. It grows more and more each year. You do not have to sit in for twenty four hours. I usually begin with a call, celebrate the new year, and then check out the event from time to time until it ends. So, have a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and happy new year!

73, de Richard Sellers, KG2OR.



Don't Forget to Check In
With the BARRA



N2YDM Graphic

Wednesday Evenings at 8 PM
146.91/224.82/444.00

More Hobby Highlights

Rich Sellers, KG2OR

Famous people who are hams are good for our hobby. They are role models for everyone. They can come from all walks of life. For example, Walter Cronkite, the former news anchor, is KB2GSD.

This Hobby Highlight is about another famous person who recently paid twenty million dollars to a Russian space company so he could spend seven days aboard the International Space Station. His name is Gregory Olsen, KC2ONX. You can obtain information about this mission from the ARRL web site, or www.space.com.

Olsen's credentials are impressive. He is well educated with a Ph.D, a BSEE, M.S. and a B.S. He majored in physics and materials science. He has written many papers, heads corporations, earned patents, and created improvements in the indium gallium arsenide technology. He manufactures optoelectronic devices for fiber optics through Sensors Unlimited Inc. He has capitalized hundreds of millions of dollars.

While on board the ISS he performed experiments, and spoke to some students in New York and New Jersey. He returned to earth on October 10th. You can research Dr.Olsen and his biography in the web. The price of this aviation ticket is expensive so save wisely.

73 de KG2OR, Richard Sellers.

*Dues are due!
Check your mailing label for your
renewal amount.*

Recruit a member!

**Use the membership application on
Page 5 to invite a ham radio friend to
join BARRA!**

Remember that the Link is available as an emailed full color PDF document attachment by email. The club saves postage costs and you receive a sharp-looking unmangled copy of the newsletter. To get your next Link by email, contact the editor at ka2wft@arrl.net

BARRA Dues to Increase in 2007

At the November board meeting the subject of dues and financial status of the club was discussed. Anticipating the discussion, your editor did a little digging through old *Link* newsletters to do some research on the club dues structure.

Through this dive into the old newsletters, it was found that the last time the club had a dues increase was 1978! It boggles the mind, especially when one considers what \$20 was worth in 1978 and the fact that the club had a couple of HUNDRED members at that time! Doing a quick look on the Internet and finding the site eh.net, \$20 in 1978 was worth \$56.43 in 2003.

It is also interesting to note that the the 1978 dues increase DOUBLED the dues of 1977. Voting membership went from \$6 to \$15 and regular membership went from \$10 to \$20.

Today we are facing, as many clubs and organizations are facing, a diminishing membership and increasing costs. BARRA is in a unique position for a radio club in that we own our own repeater site. However, with that comes responsibility for various expenses like property and school taxes and electricity. Operating the club, whether we own property or not, requires that we carry commercial liability insurance whose premiums, while fairly stable over the last few years, represent a cost of more than \$600 each year.

With all this in mind, the board has elected to increase dues starting next October. Dues for voting members will increase to \$20 and regular club membership will increase to \$25 -- note that it didn't double this time!

Over the course of the next few *Links*, we'll be taking a look at the club's expenses and where your dues money goes, and none of it goes to waste.

The Annual
BARRA AUCTION
is coming soon!

Monday, February 20, 2006

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 Association

Post Office Box 507
North Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____ Date _____

Telephone No. _____ E-Mail Address _____

Can we print your phone # in the club roster? YES NO

I wish to receive the newsletter in PDF format by e-mail attachment YES NO

I hereby make application for membership to the Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association and agree to abide by the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations set forth by the FCC and this Association and shall to the best of my ability work towards the advancement of Amateur Radio and the goals set forth by the Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association.

Your Signature _____

Recommended by _____

BARRA dues structure: Initial Application \$20.00 (US Funds. Please deduct \$5.00 for each item below that applies)

- Senior Citizen (Age 65+)
- Disabled Member
- Full-time student with ID

Total enclosed dues, less any of the above (if applicable) \$ _____

Applications are voted upon once a month at our Board meetings. You will be advised of your status by the Membership Chairman.

Are you a member of any other Amateur group? If so, which ones? _____

Are you a ham? _____ When did you become a ham? _____

License Class _____ What bands/modes do you operate? _____

Member of ARES _____ RACES _____ ARRL _____

Other hobbies and interests _____

What is your occupation? _____

Name wanted on your name tag (first name, one only, please) _____

Why do you want to become a member of BARRA?

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

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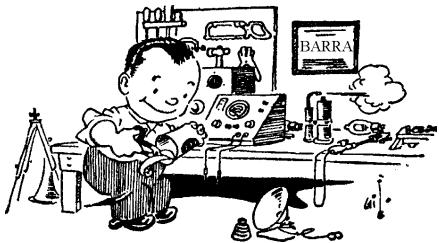
Calendar of Events

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 19, 2005 -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party! Bring a spouse and/or a ham radio friend and join the BARRA gang for some holiday fellowship.

Monday, January 16, 2006 -- Annual Report of the Technical Committee to the membership. Hear the year in review of the work of the Tech Committee.



**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.

Happy Holiday

to all of our members and friends
from the BARRA Board of Directors