

The Link

December 2007



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

Seasons Greetings

BARRA HOLIDAY PARTY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2007

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"

Dues Are Due

It's the time of year when we await Santa, but BARRA also awaits your dues renewals. BARRA's fiscal year runs from October to September, so starting October 1 dues were once again due. More than half of us have renewed already and we thank everyone for their promptness.

As always, the status of your dues is indicated on the mailing label of printed newsletters and email *Link* recipients receive a special email. You can always contact your editor or treasurer W2EAS to confirm your dues status.

Dues can be paid in person at meetings (including this month's party) or by mail to the club's PO box (address on the back page). Membership cards for renewed members are mailed with paper newsletters, others need to pick them up at a meeting.

K2ILH-2 APRS Digipeater Now Affiliated with BARRA

At the December Technical Committee meeting, Bill Pike, K2ILH, trustee/owner/operator of the northtowns APRS digipeater at the UB Amherst Campus expressed an interest in affiliating the digi with BARRA. This was approved by the Technical Committee and by the BARRA board at their meeting December 10th.

The digi at UB has been on the air for many years and until Bill's recent takeover of the machine, it had been operated by Sid Chiswell, W2ICZ. Anyone who has operated APRS in the WNY area has used this digipeater whether or not they know it!

We welcome the K2ILH-2 APRS digi to the BARRA "family."

The Annual BARRA Auction is coming soon ... Monday, February 18, 2008... save the date!

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------|
| President | Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '09 | 634-6394 |
| Vice President | Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '09 | 834-2664 |
| Secretary | Greg Miller K2GTM '08 | 565-1807 |
| Treasurer | Ed Swan W2EAS '10 | 836-0417 |
| Director | Dave Halik W2ZZA '08 | 824-3432 |

Committees & Chairs

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Technical | Ted Ertl WA2HKS |
| 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. | Vince Harzewski N2JRS |
| Erie County RACES Officer | Gene Kremzier N2OBW |

Voice Repeaters

| | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|---------------|
| K2GTM | 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 |
| WA2HKS | | 444.00+ | Buffalo |
| WB2DSS | PL 151.4 | 444.75+ | Kenmore |

APRS Digi-peater

| | | | |
|---------|--|--------|---------|
| K2ILH-2 | | 144.39 | Amherst |
|---------|--|--------|---------|

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. Regular mail recipients are charged \$4 beyond their dues.

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 \$2.50/mo; full page is \$20.00/mo. Contact the editor for rates for other sizes.

DUES

Basic membership rate: \$25.00

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

Rich Sellers, KG2OR

The folks in here are devising ways to use commercial technology for amateur radio. For example: Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), and QSL cards. Remember Johnathan Taylor, K1RFD, the creator of "Echo Link." Steven Ford, WB8IMY, has written a good article in QST, 2003, about Echo Link. Please see www.arrl.org/qst/2003/02/voip.pdf. At that time people were wondering if Echo Link was legal. In the article, Ford put VoIP into the framework of FCC Part 97 Rules. Debate about Echo Link's propagation; there is voice over the Internet, and amateurs do not have to battle with atmospheric conditions.

On 11/12/07, I used Echo Link, and I found a QSO under node type, search conferences, and LI_NY Long Island (3). Michael Leek, W2SWR, and his website, is the basis for this "Hobby Highlights." He meets daily at 8:30 AM, except Sunday. His website <http://www.W2SWR.com> contains biography, and a family history of their EKKO stamps. He writes about his Grandfather Alfred, and his Uncle Alfred W. Leek, the late W2MWP. I asked him about the EKKO stamps and he said, "they started around the time of commercial radio. The station would issue EKKO stamps to people who could verify reception, and for the most distant receiver the commercial station gave a prize." His Grandfather's collection stayed in the family; along with an article about EKKO stamps by Moe Leff. I learned more about EKKO, and the Chicago company at http://www.antiqueradio.com/gilbertcombs_ekko_6-97.html

This is certainly a beginning; if ever there was a tale about amateur radio. My rag chew with W2SWR on Echo Link brought me from the beginnings of radio into the relevance of VoIP, and QSL cards for amateurs. I you have time, tune into Echo Link for his conference. 73 de Richard Sellers, KG2OR



From the Archives



Here's a blast from the past submitted by Tom, WA2EYF. It's a view from the WUTV tower looking at the 146.73 antenna, circa 1976. The 146.73 antenna was located at around the 800-ft level of WUTV's original tower and was home to the 73 machine until Ch. 29 replaced the tower in the late 90s.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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 17, 2007 -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party. Come out and enjoy holiday fellowship with the BARRA crew.

Monday, January 21, 2008 -- Annual Report of the Technical Committee to the membership.

Monday, February 18, 2008 -- Annual BARRA Auction. Turn electronic trash into treasure at our fun-filled event.



**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 Holidays to all of our
members and their families.
See you at the Party on
Monday, December 17th!*