

# The Link

December 2008



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

## Seasons Greetings

### BARRA HOLIDAY PARTY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2008

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"*

### 2008 Election Results

The 2008 edition of the BARRA board of directors election has been interesting! As reported in the last issue of *The Link*, we had four candidates vying for two positions. Thus, a ballot was distributed to all voting members of record as of the September meeting. The ballots were returned and the night of the October Annual Meeting a ballot committee was selected from the crowd and the ballots counted. The top vote getter was Charles Grammer, KA2CQQ, and secured a board position. Then things got interesting... Dave Halik, W2ZZA, and Jerry Musialowski, WB2VLV, tied with the next highest number of votes. The ballots were counted a second time. Dave and Jerry were tied, no question. What to do?

The by-laws were consulted and the issue of a tie is not addressed. The president couldn't cast a deciding ballot as he had already voted. It was decided by a motion from the floor to have a

run-off ballot in the next *Link*.

Then, days before your editor sat down to put this issue of *The Link* together and make up the runoff ballot, Dave, W2ZZA, withdrew his candidacy from the election.

Therefore, as the second highest vote recipient, Jerry, WB2VLV, has secured election to the remaining open board position.

So, after a little election drama, we have our two new board members, and we welcome Charles and Jerry to the board. The board will decide officer positions at their January board meeting.

We thank everyone for their participation. There was a significant percentage of the voting members who returned ballots, and it's been a long time since we have had a slate of four candidates for two positions. Come on out to the Christmas Party and greet your new board members.

## 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		<vacant>
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '10	836-0417
Directors	Charles Grammer KA2CQQ '11	886-4513
	Jerry Musialowski WB2VLV '11	893-7584

### 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
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### 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

WNY's Largest Communication Store Since 1961  
219 California Drive - Williamsville, NY 14221

Hours-M,T,Th,F 10-5:30; Sat. 10-5:00; Closed Wed.

(716) 632-1189

Sales - Service - Installation

*WA2OLW (Leprechaun Graphics, 675-3764) still  
has BARRA jackets and T-shirts available.*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

US Mail newsletter delivery: add \$4.00

**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*

This "Hobby Highlight" is about keeping good hearing in a noisy world. Excluding occupational risks, because you should take care of yourself on the job, I would like to heighten your consciousness regarding; wearing headphones. As amateurs we wear head phones while copying Morse code or other modes. It could also be



possible that in your spare time you listen to the MP3 player. I found in the Amateur Radio News Line a reference to a Belgium web site that focused upon researchers who want "100 db," one hundred decibels, to be the limit for people who are subject to intense sound for long periods of time. They conclude, that if a person remains in this environment for longer than five years, than permanent hearing damage can occur.

I see people of all ages using the MP3 players, and sometimes, if I am sitting close to someone listening to an MP3, I can hear the music coming from the tiny head phones. It should be our public service to warn people about the perceptual dangers occurring while listening to loud music. You can learn more about the Belgian report, and the demands France put on Apple Inc.; to limit decibel ranges to one hundred. Though, "Eighty nine" decibels is a dangerous level! Please see [http://www.Expatica.com/be/articles/news/EU\\_-turn-down-MP3-players-or-risk-hearing-loss.html](http://www.Expatica.com/be/articles/news/EU_-turn-down-MP3-players-or-risk-hearing-loss.html)

73 de KG2OR.

## Don't Forget to Check In With the BARRA



Wednesday Evenings at 8 PM

146.91/224.82/444.00

"Extra points for checking in on 220"

## Update on BARRA's Meeting Space Situation



As reported in the *Buffalo News*, *The Link*, and discussed at the October annual meeting, BARRA's general meeting site host, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, has split with the local Episcopalian diocese and is moving out of the Brighton & Fries Road church building in mid-December. This situation has obviously been a big concern to the club and the board has been in touch with the various parties since the news first broke.

What further complicated everything was the date of our Christmas/Holiday Party: it occurs the day after the St. Bart's congregation is to hold their last service in the Brighton Road building. Officially that congregation will be out of the building on Monday, December 15th, the date of our event, and the locks will be changed that morning.

After numerous phone calls to both the outgoing St. Bart's congregation and the Episcopal diocese office, BARRA has secured permission to remain at the Brighton Road site for now. Thus, we will be having our Christmas/Holiday Party in the usual place. Please note that the same evening the Episcopal bishop will be holding a meeting with potential congregants for a new church at the site, so there may be a lot of cars in the lot that night. They will be meeting upstairs and we will be in the fellowship hall in the basement, as usual.

In recent developments, things are looking good for BARRA to eventually move to St. Bart's new church building nearby on Eggert Road near Niagara Falls Boulevard, just a few blocks from the Brighton church. The board has been in contact with the St. Bart's people and they will be in a position to accommodate us after the first of the year. It may well be that our Annual Auction will be our first event at the new St. Bart's church building.

Watch the e-mail list serves and upcoming issues of *The Link* for further updates.

## Tech Net Continues to Attract Check-ins

Now into its fourth year, the popular BARRA Tech Net is continuing to attract an impressive number of check-ins each week.

There was some fear for the future of the Tech Net late this summer when co-founder and net control *extraordinaire* Greg Miller, K2GTM, left the area. Greg had done the vast majority of the net sessions up to that time and the backup controllers, who had collectively operated but a few nets, were suddenly in the spotlight.

However, led by Damon, AB2UK, the Tech Net is continuing as before. Helping out with the control duties are Bill Brown, KB2TOY, and occasionally your editor, Doug, KA2WFT. Bruce, WA2HVE is our backup controller should the rest of the group not be available some week.

There is almost always an interesting topic or question posed each week with many of the check-ins participating. If you haven't already done so, check in to the BARRA Tech Net on Wednesdays at 8 PM on the 444/146.91/224.82 system.

## Expanding Horizons with Ham Radio

Bill Pike, K2ILH

Recently many call signs not of this area have been emerging on 444.000 and conversations with hams from other parts of the world have been heard. It's not the propagation, it's Echolink. By connecting through the Internet with stations outside of Western New York, we are able to expand our ham radio experience.

Until last Spring this Internet connection was available to us through the 146.73 repeater. That repeater has limited coverage both geographically and in users. After some discussion between repeater trustees the Internet connection has been made available on the 444 repeater and, via linking, any other repeaters that may be connected to it. While it is indeed up and running, some improvements are under consideration pending the outcome of our experience with it in this configuration.

Every day, random and planned connects are heard. Please answer them if you are available. Most are hams that have never reached this area before; they may be making a random connect. Some are old acquaintances now living in other places. No special action is required by you. Just operate as if you were talking with a local.

You can make a connection yourself. You have probably heard DTMF tones making connections. The system uses the standard Echolink tone sequences found on the Internet. These tones are passed through the repeater and decoded by the Igate, but the repeater needs an asterisk (\*) to start passing the tones. So, just start the tone sequence with an asterisk. The repeater may respond independently that it does not recognize the tone sequence but that will not affect the Igate decoding. A single asterisk will cause the Igate to identify.

As with any radio operating, good practices are encouraged. This includes listening first, identification, sharing and courtesy. Enjoy the fun, make new friends, find out what's happening in the parts of the world.

## 146.73 Repeater Site Host Woes

As reported at the Annual Meeting but not yet in these pages, the Niagara Falls hotel site at which is located the BARRA 146.73 repeater is having some issues, to put it mildly.

The short version of the tale is that the hotel lost electric power back in August due to a fire in their electrical equipment. Restoration of the power and backup power to the building has been ensnarled in a lot of problems from the hotel management's end, and as of this writing the hotel still remains without power or an occupancy permit, and the 146.73 repeater is still off the air.

The Technical Committee and the board have plans to remove the repeater and antenna from the building in the near future. Negotiations for a new site in the same area are currently underway. It is the hope that by spring -- or sooner -- 146.73 will be operating from a new location.

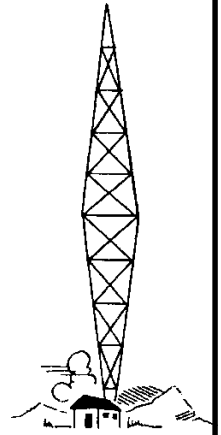


It's time for the

# Annual BARRA

Ham Radio & Electronics

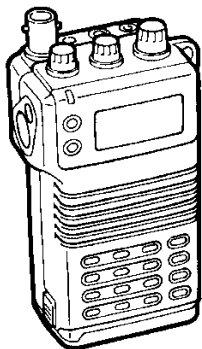
# AUCTION



And Everyone's Invited to Buy or Sell!

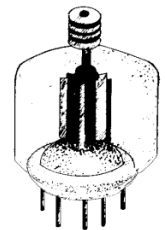
Ham Radio Gear · Scanners · Computer Equipment · Parts  
Books · CBs · Test Equipment · More!

**Monday, February 18, 2008**  
**St. Bartholomew's Church**



**Tonawanda, NY**

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

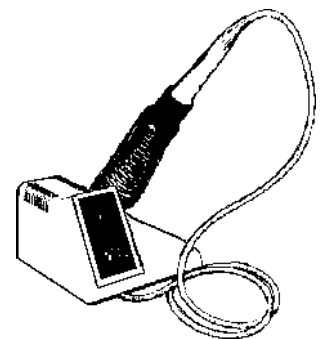
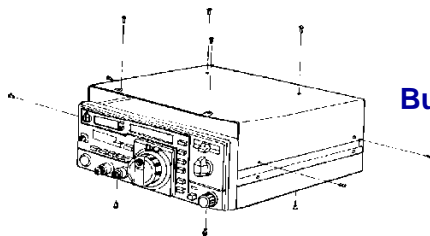


BARRA Retains 10% of each item's selling price.

**\$2.00 per person donation**  
Refreshments Available

**50/50 RAFFLE!**

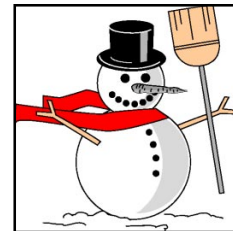
For more information contact:  
**Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association**  
PO Box 507  
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120  
<http://barra.hamgate.net>



# 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 15, 2008** -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party. Come share seasonal fellowship with the BARRA gang.

*Per membership vote earlier this year, there will be no longer be a January meeting.*

**Monday, February 16, 2009** -- Annual BARRA Auction! Turn your unused electronic goodies into cash!

**Monday, April 20, 2009** -- Program TBA.



**NO GENERAL MEETINGS IN JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, AUGUST OR NOVEMBER**

The *Link* is not published in March, May, August and November.

### 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  
from the  
BARRA gang!