

# The Link

December 2009



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

## Seasons Greetings

### BARRA HOLIDAY PARTY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 2009

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 is once again that time of year when BARRA membership dues are due. BARRA's fiscal year runs from October to September, so beginning each October dues are subject to renewal. Many of you have already re-upped for the coming year and we thank you, as always, for your promptness. The status of your dues is shown on the mailing label of paper copies of *The Link* and e-mail recipients of the newsletter receive a separate email message. You may also always contact your editor or your treasurer about your dues.

Dues can be paid at the holiday party (details above), or by mail to the club's PO box address (on back page).



### Field Day is June 26-27

OK, you're thinking here we are thinking about Santas, man-gers, menorahs, negative wind chills, multiple inch-per-hour snow falls, and we're talking about Field Day!?! Perhaps, but it's not too early to put Field Day on your activity calendar now!

The weekend of June 26-27 will find the BARRA crew once again mounting an entry in the ARRL Field Day event at the Cole Road repeater site. BARRA has had a Field Day station each year since 2004 after our participation had been dormant for a number of years.

Operators of all ability levels are needed -- beginners are always very welcome! Helpers are needed for set up Saturday morning and take-down Sunday afternoon. Bring your own battery-powered HF rig, or use the rigs that will be on-site. Mark the weekend now and plan on joining in.

## Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

### Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '12	634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '12	834-2664
Secretary	Charles Grammer KA2CQQ '11	886-4513
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '10	836-0417
Director	Damon Edwards, AB2UK '12	847-2140

### 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

W2EUP	PL 107.2	29.68-	Boston
K2ISO		145.17-	Wethersfield
K2ILH	PL 107.2	146.73-	N. Tonawanda
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 Serves

To join, send look up the group "barrabflo" on

<http://groups.yahoo.com>

The Tech Committee also has an email group, BARRA-Tech, on Yahoo Groups. Or, email the editor to receive an invite to join either or both groups.

*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.).



## Bruce Barrows, WA2HVE, SK

BARRA was saddened to learn of the passing of one of its dedicated members, Bruce Barrows, WA2HVE, on November 18th. Bruce had been fighting pancreatic cancer for nearly two years.

Bruce was active in many BARRA activities, possibly the most important being the spearheading of the project to give "Chet's Shack" at the Cole Road repeater site a much needed and long overdue facelift. That structure, while quite sound structurally, certainly showed its nearly 50 years on the wind-swept hilltop of Boston, NY. Bruce and his seemingly never ending supply of tools took up the leadership of the project to install new windows, siding, a new door, a new roof, and box in the eaves of "Chet's Shack," gently guiding the rest of us in what needed to be done next, and how to do it if we weren't quite sure which end of the nail gun to hold.



Bruce also supported BARRA in other ways. In his job in the cellular telephone industry he was able to secure for the club a great set of backup batteries that were being rotated out of service by his employer. We had a standby generator for Field Day one year, courtesy of Bruce. He was a regular at the general and Technical Committee meetings. When we had "Other Hobbies Night" Bruce brought some beautiful examples of his remarkable woodworking talents.

Though his illness sapped his energy, he refused to sit out of BARRA projects and did things like supervising the replacement of the east windows on the A-frame, keeping the Field Day campfire burning, and filling in as net control on the BARRA Tech Net.

We will all miss Bruce's drive and enthusiasm for BARRA and its activities, as well as his tool shop! Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

*There's another photo of Bruce on the next page.*

## Don't Forget About Goodsearch!

Don't forget that BARRA gets the benefit of your web searches and web purchases if you use the Goodsearch web site. With holiday shopping upon us it is time for a reminder.

To use the site and help BARRA financially, go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and in the box labeled "Who do you Goodsearch for?" enter the club's full name: [Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association](http://www.buffaloamateurradio.org). You only need to do that the first time you use the site, after that it remembers who you Goodsearch for. To make it even easier, go to the club web site, <http://barra.hamgate.net> and click on the Goodsearch logo toward the bottom of the page and it will take care of entering the organization name for you.

## Hobby Highlights

*Richard Sellers, KG2OR*

Back in 2003 I wrote a "Hobby Highlight" about SWR. I used Steve Ford's article in *QST*, April 1994, pgs. 70-74, entitled "The SWR Obsession." He noted that our obsession with the 1:1 SWR value is too narrow, and we should allow values from 4:1 and lower, and still feel comfortable with our operating. I related his work to functionalism, and in this "Hobby Highlight" I am going to write about SWR again. Since writing in 2003, I maintain limits of 3:1 or lower for my SWR. If you are concerned about power loss in your feed line, and the life of your transmitter, then you should not create a situation which could destroy your equipment.



Something can be said for the "Smith Chart," it teaches us about resistance, reactance, SWR, power line loss, and impedance; it helps us to evaluate the system. Loading power to the antenna requires operating practice, while you wait for a fine signal report. The matching game between antenna and transmitter goes back a long time in amateur radio. Gamma, Delta, and Stub matches were feats of architecture and design. The technological advances in tuner design has given us the ability to tune various kinds of radiators to different bands without much trouble. If you try to tune your rig without a tuner then you have to adjust wire lengths to obtain a good SWR. This seemingly elementary writing should give you a better experience when you tune and operate your radio. I guess there is still some fun left in the shack after all the switches are turned on.

73 de KG2OR.

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I read an article in "Arnewsline" by Bruce Tenant, K6PZW, and I want to share with you some of my thoughts concerning the death of three people. They died while trying to erect an antenna mast in darkness. First, beware the "shadow of darkness." On October 12, 2009 in Palm Bay Florida a father, mother, and their son perished, because an antenna mast touched a high voltage wire on the property of a ham licensee. The three were not FCC licensed. The wire was apparently invisible during the construction process, and they held on to the mast until they became unconscious. The mother died at the scene, and later in the hospital the father and son were declared dead.

Please regard this "Hobby Highlight" with sympathy for these three people. Pay attention to radio safety rules! It could save your life. Mark power supplies as high voltage where necessary, keep your equipment off when it is not in use, and make sure your antennas are grounded properly, and be very sure they are not near power lines.

73 de KG2OR.

## Remembering Bruce



June 2007 found Bruce, WA2HVE, applying paint to the newly installed siding on Chet's Shack at Cole Road.

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



**Wednesday Evenings at 8 PM**  
**29.68/146.91/224.82/444.00**

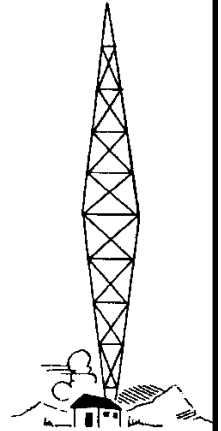
"Extra points for checking in on 220"



It's time for the  
**Annual**  
**BARRA**

Ham Radio & Electronics

**AUCTION**



And Everyone's Invited to Buy or Sell!

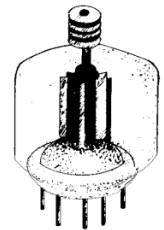
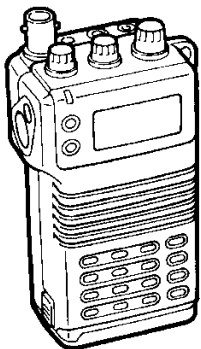
Ham Radio Gear . Scanners . Computer Equipment . Parts  
Books . CBs . Test Equipment . More!

**Monday, February 15, 2010**

**St. Bartholomew's Church**  
**2368 Eggert Road**

**Tonawanda, NY**

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

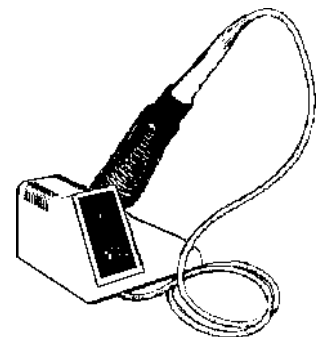
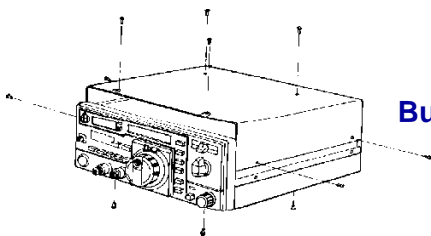


BARRA Retains 10% of each item's selling price.

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

**50/50 RAFFLE!**

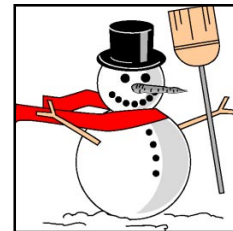
For more information contact:  
**Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association**  
PO Box 507  
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120  
<http://barra.hamgate.net>



# 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. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, 2368 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, near Sheridan Drive. Doors open at 7:00 pm for rag chew, business meeting at 7:30, with program following.

**Monday, December 21, 2009** -- Annual BARRA holiday party. Come enjoy the fellowship of the season with the BARRA gang.

**Monday, February 15, 2010** -- Annual BARRA Auction. Turn your electronic "stuff" into cash for yourself and treasure for the buyer at our popular sell-fest.



**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 first Tuesday 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!