

The Link

December 2010



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

Seasons Greetings

BARRA HOLIDAY PARTY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 2010

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"

Update on 146.73

Bill Pike, K2ILH

The '73 repeater is in the memory of many who were involved in the beginnings of VHF repeater development by Amateur Radio operators. Wasn't that in nineteen-sixty something? Its antenna was on the TV tower on Grand Island and operated as K2GUG/R. It could be worked for distances that were seldom heard of at that time. Difficult access to the site and costs of maintaining it brought it down.

After some moving around, it found a home in LaSalle in what became known as the "Blue Tarp Hotel," so called because the name changed so often they put the name on a tarp instead of a permanent sign. It was referred to as the Niagara Falls repeater and operated as K2DSN/R. It became a regular rag chew repeater for many of the former employees of Sylvania. Many of the original BARRA members came from Sylvania and much of the original area FM activities were started there.

As users and maintainers aged and passed there was little maintenance or improvement done. K2DSN was unable to finish his work and

'73 was about to go dead. At that time it was resuscitated by W2EAS and K2ILH. A few hundred dollars and some work on a cold winter rooftop yielded a new repeater controller, UHF control link, and an Echolink connection. The call sign changed to K2ILH/R. There was a mild resurgence of activity on '73.

The "Blue Tarp Hotel" went through several owners and finally died from an electrical fire. Facing loss of access, the repeater was moved to a temporary location where some additional cleanup could be done. The Echolink was moved to 444.000 and changed to EchoIRLP. There was discussion about several possible sites for 146.73 that did not materialize. Then a wonderful site was offered by K2CRR and the repeater was moved there. Performance is good and it covers the north-towns where the 146.91 coverage is spotty. Several improvements in antennas are slowly underway to make it better.

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 '13	836-0417
Director	Damon Edwards, AB2UK '12	847-2140

Committees & Chairs

Technical	Ted Ertl WA2HKS
Link Editor	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT
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.).



Hobby Highlights

Richard Sellers, KG2OR

Second Class Navy journalist Jim Williams released an article in 2003 about "Museum Ships on the Air" and the USS *Missouri*, http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=8709. The "Mighty Mo" and KH6BB amateur radio club has set up a very smart website. It has news, and a great photo gallery showing the ship's radio room. Modern Kenwood and Collins gear, along with vintage Navy equipment, are in the club's house.



Navmacs, AN/UYK 20 computers, Harris R-2368 HF receivers, an AN/URT 23 HF exciter amplifier at 2.5 kilowatts, a R-1051G HF receiver, FACCON, and a Watkins Johnson URR-74 HF radio are shown in the photo tour. The club took pictures of the antennas too. Under the South Pacific sky we can see AN/WSC-3 VHF satellite transmitters, vertical whips in parallel, and fan arrays. The site can be located at <http://www.KH6BB.org>. Just click the photo button. The ship's history, like the USS *Little Rock* can be found on the web. The USS *Missouri* has been reconditioned. The radio room's appearance is very bright and sharp. It is worth looking at KH6BB, because the ship's historical equipment is being promoted by the amateur radio community.

For those of you who do not know, our friends at RAWNY operate an amateur radio station aboard the USS *Little Rock*. The major services are: weekly operations, generally on Saturday, Field Day, and Museum Ships on the Air. One day this fall when I was using the radio room I walked around the old "Atomic Strike Room," and saw the many transmitters, power supplies, patching devices, teletypes, antenna couplers, amplifiers, RF oscillators, a frequency shift converter, and other controllers used by the Navy. The way the room is today is not the way it was during its commission, however the Naval Park stocked it with the equipment we see today. A Westinghouse CU1772/SRA-56 A1090 Coupler, 2 CU1776/SRA-58 antenna couplers, a CU1774/SRA-57 antenna coupler, manufactured in Leesburg, VA, an AM 212/WR7-2 amplifier, an O-58/WRT-2 oscillator RF manufactured in Baltimore, MD, an AM215B/UF amplifier from Dynamic Electronics in New York, a Teletype Corporation 81992 SC6350A, a Control Electrical Frequency C-2764-WRT-2 from Baltimore, MD, 2 CV 89A/URA-8a Frequency Shift Converters, 2 Unit AN/UR A8B Hoffman Labs from Los Angeles, CA, a SB82/SRR Frequency Shift Key SWBDS-8, an AM-2122/WRT-2 amplifier power supply made in Baltimore, MD, a PP-2222/WRT power supply, an AN/WRT-2 Transmitter set supply, an OA 2175 WRT-2 TX group supply, one box drawer, a Teletype-AN/UGC-g PTP-1 TT 439/UG, a SB 1203A/UG panel patching communications device from Washington, DC Navy Department Industrial Manager-Potomac River Naval Command order, #31022, an AN SGC-1A Radio Teletype Terminal Set from San Francisco, CA, and a TT 40A/SGC-1 from Remler, CO. That inventory was taken 9/29/10 aboard the "Little Rock" while W2PE was warming up. I was impressed with the equipment on the USS *Missouri*, and while I looked around W2PE I was thinking it would be best to make a catalog of our room too. If other museum ships catch wind of this essay, then perhaps they could add to the naval list of items.

73 de Richard Sellers, KG2OR.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Calendar of Events

GENERAL MEETINGS

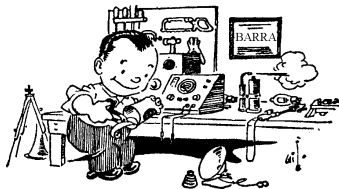
General meetings are held at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, 2368 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, near Sheridan Drive. Doors open at 7:00 pm for rag chew, business meeting at 7:30, with program following.

Monday, December 20, 2010 -- Holiday Party with the BARRA gang. Bring out your ham friends to our annual holiday gathering. Details on Page 1.

Monday, February 21, 2011 -- Annual BARRA Auction! Our popular electronics trash-to-treasure swap fest!

Monday, April 18, 2011 -- Meeting program TBA.

Monday, June 20, 2011 -- Mark Humphrey, K3WY, will speak on hamfesting in Europe and other technical matters relating to ham radio.



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!