

The Link

December 2011



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

Seasons Greetings

BARRA HOLIDAY PARTY



MONDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2011

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"

Don't Forget to Goodshop for BARRA!

GoodSearch
You Search or Shop...
We Give!

With the busy-ness of the holiday season upon us, don't forget that you can help BARRA to earn some money from your online purchases through the Goodshop portion of the Goodsearch web site. Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and enter your organization that you Goodsearch and Goodshop for as "Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association" (without the quotes). From there you can shop online at many popular retailers in a variety of product areas. Each completed sale will net BARRA between 2.5% and 5% depending on the retailer.

Folks have been using these services and we are truly thankful to them. We received a check from Goodsearch/Goodshop for almost \$90 a few weeks ago. While that money is great, it is down a bit from what we received last year. The Goodsearch/Goodshop service helps us to make up for increasing expenses. It is easy to use, just go to the Goodsearch site first, then select Goodshop and find your retailer. You will be taken to the merchant's web site and you continue with your business as usual with your existing account.

Every web search you make on Goodsearch and every purchase you make through Goodshop helps BARRA's bottom line. Give a try!

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	Bruce Johnson N2TFG '14
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

Harold Freund, KD2V, and I were at the USS *Little Rock* Friday, November 11th, 2011, Veterans Day. Among the QSOs, I often listen to him talk about his days in the Air Force, and his opinions about American life. We began talking about the way NASA had launched its last shuttle mission, *Atlantis*, and I asked him who was taking the astronauts into space? He answered, "Russia." I did a little research and found that its TMA 22 is taking off around 11/13-14/11 with a new crew from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, in Kazakhstan, and it includes Dan Burbank, KC5ZSX. Also, trading places with him is Michael Fossum, KF5AQQ. There are other astronauts making the journey, and coming home. Please see <http://www.nasa.gov>, and click on news for more information. I found at <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/news> that KF5AQQ made some contacts with amateur stations on earth in late October and November 1st, 2011. The one in November was with the Sundance Elementary School in California.



My next thought about this month's "Hobby Highlights" was to include something about the Spitzer Telescope. If you remember, I wrote about it about eight years ago in the October, 2003 "Hobby Highlights." When I looked at www.sirtf.com I was transferred to <http://www.spitzer.caltech.edu>. This site is wonderful! The tools of technology are at your finger tips, and it has so much to offer. The reader will learn it has been in orbital space for more than 3000 days, and its infrared pictures are spectacular. Lyman Spitzer was a famous American physicist, 1914-1997. He created the idea for telescopes in outer space.

Perhaps our world is "Trading Places," to use a 1983 John Landis movie title. Each season on the *Little Rock* I learn more from KD2V. The year on the ship has come to an end and we had a great Field Day, Museum Ships on the Air, and a great number of QSOs with the world. I hope our commitment to W2PE is strong next year, and we preserve the ideal of amateur radio at the Naval Park.

73 de KG2OR.



Remember that dues are now due!
See your mailing label or separate email for your renewal amount. Dues may be paid at meetings or by mail.

Yaesu Radio Issue

The following was submitted by Andy, WB2VEU, that he found on a newsgroup. It is about a design flaw affecting many Yaesu radios. Thanks, Andy, for bringing it to everyone's attention!

SOLVED: some feedback !

The problem was a MAJOR DESIGN FLAW that affects lots of other Yaesu radios also.

Rule number one: Never apply DC power to piezo sensitive elements as X-tals, X-tal filters, ceramic filters as this causes stress and non-linear behaviour. (Murata data sheets clearly forbid this)

The crackling sounds were generated by a passive element: the SSB 8 MHz X-tal filter, that has DC applied to it when in line. I remarked that when switching to AM (other X-tal filter) the noise disappeared. First I thought it was a defective diode but NO, it was the filter itself.

The bad news was that Yaesu did not wanted to give me a new filter (for free off course) although this clearly is a design failure. Worse, almost all Yaesu radios suffer from this imminent problem, and apparently it is getting quite actual nowadays with several FT897 FT857 FT817 radios getting into trouble, first silently developing noise, getting worse and worse. If you think you have a lot of static QRN lately, disconnect your antenna, if the noise stays you are part of the club...

The good news is it can be solved by adding DC blocking, so it is not a destructive failure, no need for a filter...

I replaced the DC path through the filter by a 100 uH choke, both ends feeding the filter input/output via 1 nF ceramic and all my problems (S9 crashes like a thunderstorm) were gone.

I will write an in-depth technical article on this phenomenon because apparently loads of radios (not just Yaesu) are suffering from this more or less, and it is one of the most unknown failures in radios these days.

We will keep you posted. Thanks for the good tips and hints anyhow,

Pedro M.J. WYNS B.E.(T)

ON7WP-AA9HX

pedro.wyns@gmail.com

Where Did Summer Go?



Ed, W2EAS, caught this shot of Bill, KB2TOY and Ted, WA2HKS at the Mobile Clinic and Picnic this summer.

From the Archives



A little birdie passed this on to your editor. OK, it was Ted. It is a photo that was with an article in the Tonawanda News in April of 1976. It was about some new television equipment at Tonawanda High School and featured in the photo are none other than long-time BARRA members Andy, WB2VEU at the camera and Joe, N2ZDU at the controls.

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 20, 2011

St. Bartholomew's Church
2368 Eggert Road

Tonawanda, NY

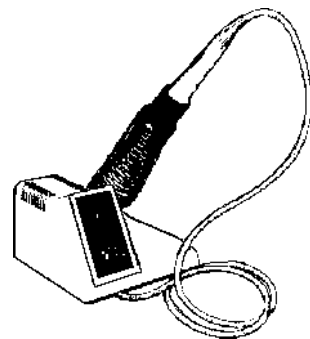
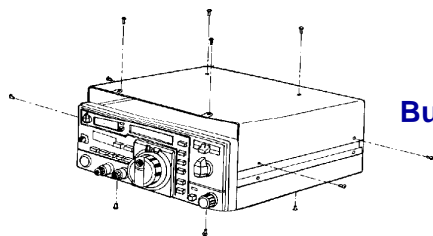
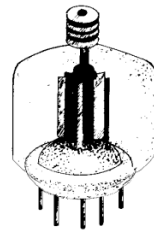
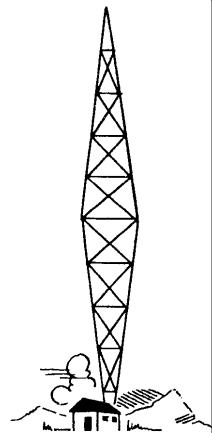
Doors open at 6:45 pm
Auction begins at 7:30 pm

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

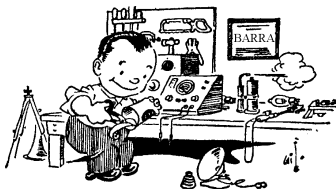
GENERAL MEETINGS

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 19, 2011 -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party. Get together with the BARRA crew for some holiday fellowship.

Monday, February 20, 2012 -- Annual BARRA Auction! Start thinking now what you'd like to bring and sell at our annual swapfest.

Monday, April 16, 2012 -- Meeting 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 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!