



The Link

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

February 2001

Time for The Annual BARRA Auction

Yes, boys and girls, the time has come: it's time for the Annual BARRA Auction, that fun-filled evening of deals, bargains and just a "wee bit" of humor! Once again we will be honored to have Bob "Dutch" Dutschman, K2JGI, as our expert auctioneer. Dutch really knows how to put together some of the best deals and seems to know something about almost every piece of equipment that comes across the auction block.



Bob "Dutch" Dutschman, K2JGI, points out a bidder at a previous BARRA Auction.

Dig out those ham radio and other electronic goodies that have been gathering dust in the garage, basement, attic and even under your bed and bring them to the Auction on Monday, February 19th and turn them into CASH! Remember that BARRA retains 10% of the selling price up to a maximum of \$5 per item. The Auction is BARRA's fundraiser to help pay for its excellent meeting facilities at the church.

So, start digging out those items to sell and put a smile on the spouse's face by getting rid of some of "that junk." (Just don't let her see what you buy that night!!)

See you there!

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

A View of WR2AHL/R



Here's a shot of the 442.00 WR2AHL repeater equipment at the 107.7 Wethersfield site, snapped recently by Joe Flynn, K2LMH. We're hoping to have a shot of the 145.17 repeater to share very soon.

Last Call for Dues!

Check the dues amount on your mailing label *right now!* If you have not yet renewed, this will be your last *Link* newsletter until you get that check in.

Dues may be paid in person at the Auction, or mailed to the PO box. Either way, we look forward to your continuing membership in BARRA!

And we can't forget our thanks to those 70-some members who have already renewed.



Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '03	634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '03	834-2664
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Activities List	Ed Swan W2EAS
ID Badges	W2EAS
Erie County Emer. Coord.	Karl Weir N2NJH

Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	29.68 -	Buffalo
K2ISO	145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2GUG PL 107.2	146.73 -	Niagara Falls
W2EUP	146.91 -	Boston
W2OXB	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

RACES Net

Stop by Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm and join the Erie County ARES/RACES net which meets on the 146.91 and 444.00 repeaters. N2NJH is net control.

BARRA Home Page

<http://barra.hamgate.net>

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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, nor 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 CompuServe address: 73323,672. If submitting through the Internet, the full address is 73323.672@compuserve.com. The editor may be reached by telephone in the evenings at (716) 834-2664.

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 \$2.00/mo; full page is \$16.00/mo. Contact the editor for rates for other sizes.

DUES

Basic membership rate	\$20.00
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.).

FOR SALE

A Complete

Collins S-Line Station:

- 516F Power Supply S/N 14965
- 75S-3 Receiver S/N 8949
- 32S-3 Transmitter S/N 10608
- 312B-4 Station Controller with Speaker and Phone Patch S/N 57903
- 30L-1 Linear Amplifier S/N 13275
- SM-1 Microphone

Entire Package:

\$2500

All items in Very Good Condition

These items are from the estate of BARRA member Don Ismert, K2IMF.

For More Information

Contact:

Ed Swan, W2EAS
 (716) 877-0417
 w2eas@arrl.net

Remember that The Link is available in electronic PDF form. Send your e-mail address to the editor to sign up to receive this version of the newsletter.

BARRA Web Page Updated

It was noticed recently that the BARRA web page has been a bit neglected lately so steps were taken to give it a new look and to update the information presented on it. The page also has a new URL: <http://barra.hamgate.net>

In addition to the current information, there will also be some picture pages added, much like the ones that have appeared in recent issues of *The Link*. As of press time some shots of the recent work party at 146.73 were added and look for pictures from the Christmas Party to follow soon.

Lost a back issue of *The Link*? Not to worry! Back issues of our newsletter are being added to the web site as they are converted to PDF format. There's even a button to the Adobe website on the newsletter page to download the free Acrobat reader.

And while we are on the subject of the web page, we need to thank Karl Weir, N2NJH, for hosting the site on his hamgate.net server.

Take a moment and check it out, and perhaps even bookmark it in your browser so you can check back from time to time to see what's new!



Have You Checked Out Our Repeaters -- Lately?

It sure looks like Buster, NR2HOP is! A number of the BARRA repeaters have been reworked or have new homes in the past few months and are worth checking out if you haven't done so already. WR2AHL (442.00, 110.9 PL) and K2ISO (145.17) are on new antenna systems, and K2GUG (146.73, 107.2 PL) is in a new location in Niagara Falls.



What's this? Are Board members taking steps against malicious interference? No! It's just BARRA secretary Brian Neri, WA2CWF, recently participating in a re-enactment of The Battle of the Bulge in Pennsylvania. Brian, you may recall, gave us a talk on collecting WWII military radios a while back. And yes, Brian knows that he looks like Hank Fonda in this shot!

Get Well, Bernie!

From ARRL Letter

ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, is said to be doing well following bypass surgery on February 2. All indications are that he should be able to return home this week. Well wishers may contact Bernie via his home address, 17668 Price Rd, Saegertown, PA 16433.

If you know of a BARRA member with a particular joy or concern, be sure to let a board member or your editor know

Come One, Come All to the Annual

BARRA AUCTION

Monday, February 19, 2001

St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church
Brighton & Fries Roads, Tonawanda

Doors open 6:30 PM, Auction Begins at 7:30 PM

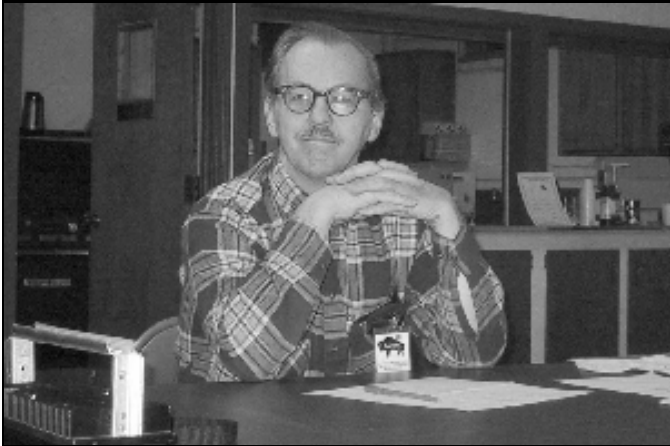
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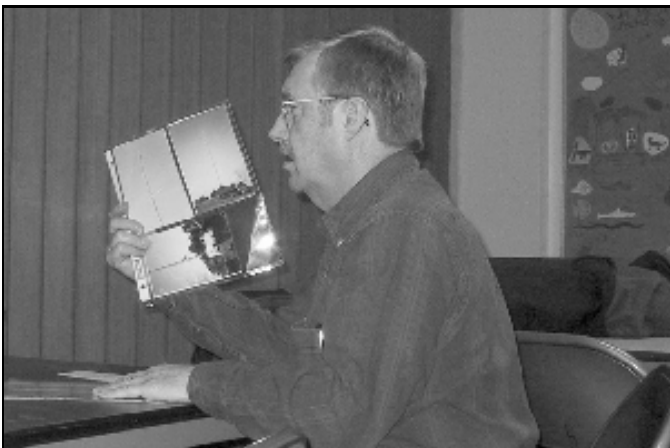
Our Auctioneer will be Bob "Dutch" Dutschman, K2JGI
BARRA Retains 10% of the Purchase Price to a total of \$5 per item

Picture Page!

Here are some views from the January Technical Committee report. Our thanks, as ever, to Ben Bass, N2YDM for the pix.



Gil Boelke, W2EUP, chaired the program.



Ted Ertl, WA2HKS, gave a complete report about the 444.00 system, and even had some photos to share of the former Niagara County receive site.



The gathered crowd at the January meeting was one of the best-attended meetings in some time.



The crowd enjoys a chuckle. Maintaining repeaters can often be a thankless task, but there are often "goofy" things that happen along the way.

AO-40 Update

ARRL Letter

The key to a successful AO-40 recovery continues to be a matter of reducing spin and regaining the ability to adjust AO-40's attitude from the ground. AMSAT says the current problem is a lack of accurate AO-40 attitude data.

Only when ground controllers can accurately determine the satellite's attitude will it be possible to change it and correctly aim AO-40's high-gain antennas for optimal reception on Earth. Ground controllers have had no luck hearing AO-40's transmitters on the omnidirectional antennas on 2 meters, 70 cm or 1.2 GHz. Since the satellite's computer was reset and telemetry resumed December 25, the AO-40 ground team has been analyzing telemetry sent via the 2.4 GHz beacon--the only transmitter now operating.

In its latest dispatch on AO-40, AMSAT-Germany waxed nearly poetic in describing the satellite's present situation. "AO-40 is currently like a ship that's lying on a sandbar in the fog at low tide," an update on the AMSAT-DL Web site declared. AMSAT-DL said AO-40 was "in the fog" because its high angle with respect to the sun temporarily prevents the sun sensors from providing attitude data. It's "at low tide" because the steep solar angle means less illumination of the solar panels and less energy produced. And it's "on a sandbar" because the satellite can't be set free from its present situation without some effort.

Ground controllers have been hoping that a previously announced "de-spinner" programming routine could permit AO-40 spin control without having to rely on the sun sensors. But even if the programming fix fails, by April, controllers reason, the satellites sensors will again see the sun and "thanks to magnetorquing, spin and attitude can be actively improved upon the rising tide." Once the spin is reduced, sun angle improved, and antennas pointed, testing can resume. Still outstanding are tests of the VHF and UHF transmitters, the arc-jet motor, and the reaction wheels, among others.

Both AMSAT-DL President and AO-40 Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, and AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, have continued to be optimistic that AO-40 will have a useful life of Amateur Radio service. AMSAT-DL says the recovery effort has been slowed somewhat because of limited access time on the part of the command team, due to AO-40's current orbital parameters.

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Calendar of Events

GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Brighton & 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, February 19, 2001 - Annual BARRA Auction!
Start putting aside goodies now for this popular junk-to-cash event.

Monday, April 16, 2001 - Meeting Program TBA.

Monday, June 18, 2001 - Meeting Program TBA.

**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 former GLB Electronics building, 151 North America Drive, West Seneca. 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 work parties every Wednesday evening, 8:00 pm, at the former GLB shop. Stop by and give a hand to a repeater or other BARRA project.

The Technical Committee has formal meetings the first Friday of each month around 7:30 pm at GLB. 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.

