



The Link

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

February 2002

Annual BARRA Auction is This Month!

It is time once again for the most popular event in "the BARRA year," the Annual BARRA Auction. Monday, February 18th is the date. Doors will open at 6:45 pm and the Auction will begin at 7:30 sharp. Our auctioneer as in past years will be Bob "Dutch" Dutschman, K2JGI. We can always count on Dutch to provide an entertaining evening.

As always, the Auction helps BARRA raise the funds it uses to pay for its wonderful meeting space at St. Bartholomews Church. For each item sold, BARRA retains 10% of the selling price, up to \$5, and everyone is welcome to buy or sell.

Dig out those unused electronic goodies that are taking up space in the garage and cellar and turn them into cash at the Auction. See you there!

The End of Coffee?



Despite numerous pleas for a new Refreshment Chair for the general membership meetings, no one as of press time has stepped forward to relieve Mark, KG2DE, of this task. Could it be that we will terminate the refreshments at the general meetings? It is unfortunately looking like this will be the case. It appears that there is not enough interest in having this continue at the meetings.

The Refreshment Chair or Committee is the most non-technical job in the club, and requires only a few Monday nights through the year. Mark is willing to train anyone willing to take on the job, and the job becomes even easier when more than one steps forward!

Contact a board member or Mark Lienert, KG2DE, at 447-1738.

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

BARRA Mugs Now Available



Photo by N2YDM

A new fundraiser has come to BARRA, official coffee mugs! These quality ceramic mugs, like the one pictured here, feature the BARRA buffalo logo (in BARRA blue, of course) on *both* sides of the mug and are dishwasher safe. Selling price is \$5.00 each and the mugs are available to anyone who wishes to purchase one.

We would prefer that members pick up their mugs at the meetings due to the costs involved (to the purchaser) in shipping, however, if you cannot get out, contact your editor at ka2wft@arrrl.net to make shipping arrangements.

Dues Are Due!



February is that time when it's the "bitter end" for dues renewals. Check your mailing label *now* to make sure your dues are up-to-date. Any dues remaining unpaid at the end of February will find us with the sad task of dropping those unpaid members from the active roster.

Don't miss out on future *Link* newsletters or your repeater privileges, renew today!

Blown Power Amp at 145.17

The brand-new power amp that was recently installed at the 145.17 K2ISO repeater site in Wethersfield failed not long after it was placed into service. Fortunately, since the amp was new a warranty repair was effected. The purchase of the power amp was underwritten by Dave Sewhuk, N2GH.

While working on the power amp failure it was also discovered that the exciter in the 145.17 transmitter was not functioning properly and it too has been pulled for service which has resulted in the absence of 145.17 from the airwaves.

Saia Communications is handling the repairs of the exciter at no cost to the club, and for that we are truly thankful. However, it also means that we may not necessarily be on the top of the list for their workbench. The power amp has been returned from the manufacturer and is ready to be installed whenever the exciter is ready.

Keep watching the 145.17 frequency for the return of the repeater to the airwaves.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '03 634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '03 834-2664
Secretary	Brian Neri WA2CWF '02 838-1673
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '04 877-0417
Directors	Voit Drankhan KA2WIO '02 941-5569 Keith Hendershot KB2VKK '02 668-0391 <vacant>

Committees & Chairs

Technical	<vacant>
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.	Karl Weir N2NJH

Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	29.68 -	Boston
K2ISO	145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2GUG PL 107.2	146.73 -	Niagara Falls
W2EUP	146.91 -	Boston
N2YDM	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 on the Internet

<http://barra.hamgate.net>

Back issues of *The Link* and a membership application are available on the web site.

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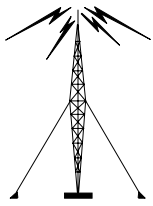
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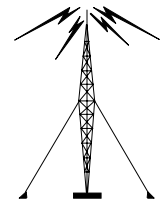
It's time for the

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!

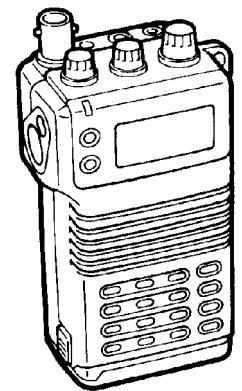
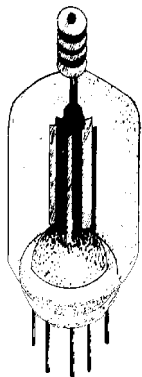
Monday, February 18, 2002
St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church
Brighton & Fries Roads
Tonawanda, NY

(Across from Kenmore East HS)

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

Auctioneer:

Bob "Dutch" Dutschman K2JGI



\$1.00 per person donation

Refreshments Available

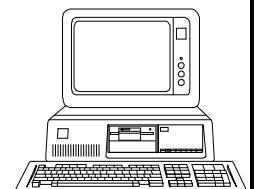
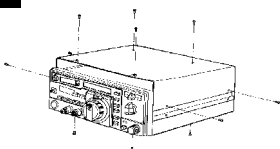
RAFFLE! CASH AND VCR PRIZES

For more information contact:

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association

PO Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120



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.

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.).

Straight Key Night

Rich Sellers, KG2OR

Straight Key Night is an amateur radio event in which any novice, technician plus, general, advanced, or extra class licensee can participate. It is a rag chewing event which lasts 24 hours, from December 31 0000 UTC, until 2400 UTC January 1st. Forget about RST, multipliers, points, number of contacts or braving the weather, this night is for celebrating the use of the old straight key!



After the work is done you can vote for the most interesting QSO, and best fist, then send your log to the ARRL headquarters and you're in. NO paddles, or computer CW programs; it's the time for only hand-to-key the good old-fashioned way. You will find operators in all given categories of equipment, QRP, high power, beams, dipoles, verticals, quads, and more -- whatever tunes your circuit. Every year I have read about this event in *QST* magazine prior to Straight Key Night.

My own experience this past December was not as good as 2000, but I still enjoyed trying to participate. I only logged one call. In 2000 I had more than ten calls. This time the weather was 16 degrees, blizzard (remember five to seven feet of snow fell), and the major highways and bridges were closed, so it made SKN appealing. I used my Ten-Tec Argosy, five watts, with a vertical whip antenna up about twelve feet. After a few hours I noticed a broken radial wire on the antenna, the snow buried it and snapped it off the base of the antenna. A few moments later, and a couple of twists about the base with the copper wire, and I was back in business.

After about eleven hours, I had to go to work and I decided it was time to QRT, the one call I made was good enough. I suppose what you do on SKN is your own choice, I ate a bag of chips and had a few pops, HI HI! Happy New Year and maybe next year you can come over and celebrate SKN with me.

73 de Richard Sellers, KG2OR.

Local HF Net

Hi all. The PROS club is starting up a Saturday HF net on 3.853 MHz plus or minus QRM. This will start at 1 PM EST. All amateurs are invited, for this an open net.

Thanks de Gary KB2YAA

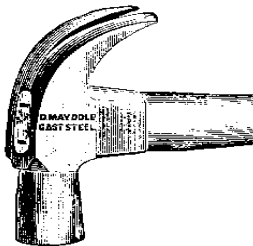
Space Link Info Online

As many members know, the downlink of the UO-14 amateur radio satellite is available on the output of various BARRA repeaters every day during its numerous passes over the area. The BARRA web site now has information available about how to utilize this fun and exciting resource. Find it at: <http://barra.hamgate.net/spacelink.htm>

Cole Road Work Crew Needed

The Cole Road repeater site is in need of some “physical plant” work this year starting when the weather breaks and could use the assistance of any member interested in helping out the club.

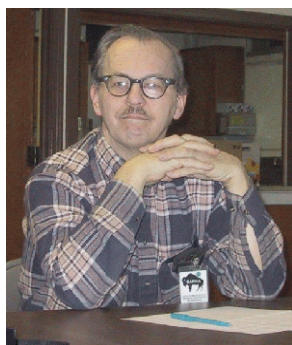
Specifically what’s needed are repairs and improvements to the second building on the property, Chet Riker’s old shack. Some emergency repairs were made last year and has enabled the building to make it through this winter, but in order for the building to be useful to the club, it needs your help. With the ongoing cleanout of the former GLB shop, the day is coming soon when various club property needs a new home and the former Riker shack is an excellent place for many of the items the club needs to store. But, it cannot be used in its present condition.



Painting, floor repair, door replacement and clean out are among the top tasks that need to be performed. Ideally the Technical Committee is looking for a member to be a “foreman” or project chair who will help direct and assist the other member helpers.

If you would be willing to be project chair, or just want to be part of the crew, please contact either Keith Laudenslager, K2DSN, at 652-0036 or klaudens@pce.net or Ted Ertl, WA2HKS, at 674-3325 or tertl@erie1.wnyric.org. The club is hoping to get things rolling out there once the good weather finally finds us again.

Call for W2EUP Memorial Ideas



W2EUP Photo by N2YDM

The club is in possession of a growing fund that contains monies donated in memory of BARRA founder Gil Boelke, W2EUP, who passed away in April 2001. The board of directors is looking for a suitable memorial for Gil to utilize this fund.

Various ideas have been “kicked around” but nothing so far presented has either been possible with the available fund, or practical.

The board is once again seeking ideas from the membership, and in particular those members who knew and worked with Gil over the years. Gil was too special to BARRA to do “just anything” for a memorial, we need something worthy of his efforts and devotion to the club.

By-Laws Change Proposed

At the January general membership meeting, BARRA president Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ, made a verbal proposal to reduce the number of members of the board of directors from seven to five, and the quorum of board members required to hold board meetings from four to three. He stated as reasons for this change the difficulty in finding enough candidates this past fall to replace outgoing board members, as well as several board meetings that could not be held because not enough board members were available to attend a particular meeting. The feeling among the members present at the January meeting was that this was a reasonable change and the board can proceed with making a formal proposal.

Proceeding according to the BARRA By-Laws, nothing can be voted on until the proposed changes are made in writing to the membership at a general meeting. The next available general membership meeting will be the April meeting. The written proposal will appear in the April issue of *The Link* as well as be available the night of the April general membership meeting.

The BARRA bylaws also state that a proposal thus submitted *cannot* be voted on before the next general meeting. That general meeting will be the June gathering, and allows time for the membership to fully consider the proposal put forth.

Nelson and the board are thinking that as long as a change to the bylaws is in the works, perhaps there are other changes or amendments that we need to consider and could be made at the same time. The BARRA bylaws have been posted to the BARRA web site as a PDF document and can be downloaded by going to: <http://barra.hamgate.net/bylaws.pdf>. Please note that the bylaws document is NOT available as a link from the public pages. You need to enter the entire URL above to get the document.

All members are encouraged to look at the bylaws and think about any item or items that may need to be revisited. The bylaws, like the Constitution, are not cast in stone and are expected to be changed over time and a process for doing just that is outlined in it.

If you are not able to get the online copy of the bylaws, contact the editor or WA2ZSJ and a copy can be mailed to you.

From the Archives

Highlights of the BARRA Board Meeting 22 September 1969:

- Add a 31 input to WB2TLJ [club repeater] with override capability of the 34 input. ... This is being done to alleviate unwarranted use of TLJ by stations using other area repeaters with 34/94.
- Approved participation at Rochester 1970 Hamfest with airborne repeater only. KTI to be chairman.
- Possible use of UHI as FM speaker at the convention. GUG to make airborne equipment available for this and the RSO convention at Toronto November 16, 1969. ISO to be chairman of this effort.
- Approved suggested design of “A” frame building for WB2TLJ at Riker’s hill.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

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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 18, 2002 - Annual BARRA Auction! Dig out that unneeded electronic stuff and turn it into cash! Doors open at 6:45 pm, Auction begins at 7:30 PM sharp. One dollar donation at the door.

Monday, April 15, 2002 - Drop your tax return into the mail on your way to the BARRA meeting. Program TBA.

Monday, June 17, 2002 - Last general meeting before the summer!

Monday, July 15, 2002 - Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic at the Cole Road repeater site. Bring your hot dogs and celebrate summer with the BARRA gang.

**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 Crest A/V Electronics, 1570 Main Street, Buffalo. 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 each month around 7:00 pm at the former GLB shop in West Seneca. 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.

The Greater Buffalo "Winter" ARRL Hamfest
Sponsored by the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
February 24, 2002

Hamfest information:

<http://larc.hamgate.net> or 716-681-4419 ask for Bob

Location: **Main Transit FD Hall**

6777 Main St., Williamsville, NY

Only 1 mile from NY State Thruway I 90 exit 49

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Admission: only \$6, Tables: \$10