



The Link

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

February 2003

Annual Auction is This Month!

It's February, which means it is time for the Annual BARRA Auction, that fun-filled evening of deals galore. As always, our auctioneer will be Bob "Dutch" Dutschman, K2JGI. Dutch has that special knack of putting together some of the best electronics deals one can ever hope to find in this area!

The night of the Auction will also see the drawing of the Annual BARRA Raffle, tickets for which have been included in previous *Link* issues and will be sold the night of the event. First prize is a DVD player, second prize is a VCR and third prize is \$25 cash. Our thanks to Crest A/V Electronics for the prizes.

Doors will be open at 6:45 pm to allow for items to be brought in and to give everyone a chance to look over what's available. The Auction itself will start at 7:30 PM sharp. We could also use some help the night of the event moving items from the tables to the auction block and staffing the kitchen. We would like to sell refreshments (doughnuts and pizza -- all provided!) but need someone to "babysit" the kitchen and collect money for the food items.

So, pull out those electronic items gathering dust in your closets and on your shelves and turn them in to cash at the Auction. Monday, February 17th is the date -- we'll see you there!



Dues are Really Due!

OK gang, it's crunch time. If you haven't yet renewed your dues, this will be your last *Link* newsletter and we'll move you to the inactive list -- something we'd rather not do! How do you avoid that from happening? Why, by paying your dues, of course!

The mailing label of this newsletter indicates your dues status. Dues will be accepted at the Auction, as well as by mail to the club PO box. By whatever method you choose, please renew!

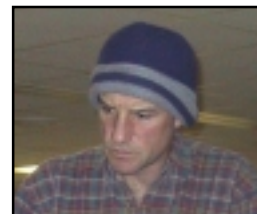
Good Luck, Brian!

BARRA secretary Brian Neri, WA2CWF, is headed for some surgery before the end of the month and we wanted to wish him well. Anyone wishing to send a greeting to Brian may do so to his email, britmotors@juno.com, or to his mailing address: 8951 Zimmerman Road, Boston 14025-9791.

Hobby Highlights

Richard Sellers, KG2OR

This Hobby Highlights will give you a "run for your money." The topic is automatic control, and you have to "know the ropes" in ham radio to have an aptitude for controlling a radio device in a remote point, but you may have to get up at the "crack of dawn" to keep up with telecommand control, or to state things easily, "actions speak louder than words."



A bit of history; part 97.c. special operations, and part 97.3.a.6. automatic control define explicit FCC rules for operating amateur radio equipment. The goal in these parts is to achieve transceiving without an operator being present. For more information please see www2.arrl.org/fandes/field/regulations/news/part97/part97.pdf

Imagine leaving the Dayton Hamfest with your buddy, and on the way home the conversation leads into a novel idea, and after research it develops into a "means to an end." This is exactly what happened to Larry Amodeo, W2AX, and Jack Schultz, W2GGE, and they published "Computer Remote Control of an Amateur Radio Station," *QST*, November 1991, pgs. 25-30. You can view the article at www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/9111025.pdf You must be an ARRL member to retrieve this pdf. It was the first remote control station using telephone lines, computer, phone, automatic answering unit, Kenwood TS-940s, and an antenna rotation and relay control panel. Maybe you remember reading the article, it is very interesting. W2AX controls the Kenwood TS-940s in Vermont from his home in Long Island, New York. The trial and error approach is first rate, and it is worth reading for the problem solving techniques and diagrams.

The area of development in amateur radio reaches a high point at conventions and club meetings. Exchanging ideas with your friends can prove to be very valuable and rewarding. Just think of it; you may become an operator who develops new and creative objects in the hobby. The creative process begins with much more than "being in the right place at the right time." I think you will see results from your efforts when you manipulate your resources and necessity becomes the "mother of invention."

73, KG2OR, Richard Sellers.

Look for the BARRA table at the Lancaster club's winter hamfest, Sunday, February 23rd. Details about the hamfest are on the back page.

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 '05 941-5999
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '04 877-0417
Director	Voit Drankhan KA2WIO '05 941-5569

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
K2DSN 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
WB2DSS PL 151.4	443.925 +	Niagara Falls
WA2HKS	444.00 +	Buffalo
WB2DSS PL 151.4	444.75 +	Kenmore

UO-14 Retransmissions

The downlink of amateur satellite UO-14 is retransmitted on every pass over the Buffalo area on our 444.00 and 146.91 repeaters. For information on uplinking to the satellite, see the BARRA web page.

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>

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

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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

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: ka2wff@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 ka2wff@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.).

Walt Bieda, W2ELF, SK

We have received the sad news that long-time BARRA member Walt Bieda, W2ELF, has passed away. Walt was a ham operator "from way back" and until very recently was still active on the airwaves on fast-scan ATV, and was well known in the local ATV community.

BARRA extends its condolences to Walt's family and friends.

Spring Tour at Buffalo Naval and Serviceman Park Planned

At this writing, we are planning with the RAWNY group to have a spring get-together at the Buffalo Naval and Serviceman Park in downtown Buffalo. As many may know, RAWNY operates a ham station aboard the USS *Little Rock*, which is docked at the park.

Whether the tour will take place in May or June is unknown at this time because the park is planning to move the ships in the coming months and our tour will be contingent on the ships being in their new berths and utilities reconnected, etc.

Stay tuned to *The Link* and the club list serve for further details as we know them. It has been some time since we've had a "field trip" and this looks to be a fun event, as well as a great opportunity to share an event with our friends at RAWNY.

Available at the Auction!

**Don't Forget to Get Your
BARRA Mug!**



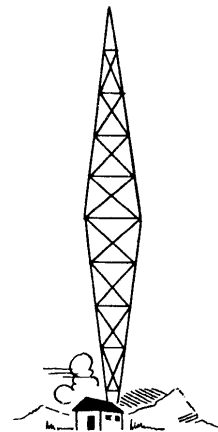
These great looking, sturdy, quality ceramic mugs sport the BARRA buffalo logo, are dishwasher safe, and let you show your club colors in style!

Only \$5.00 Each!

Available at all club meetings



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 17, 2003
St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church
Brighton & Fries Roads
Tonawanda, NY

(Across from Kenmore East HS)



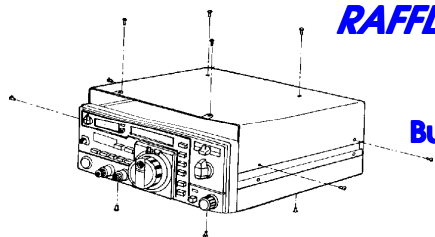
Doors open at 6:45 pm
Auction begins at 7:30 pm



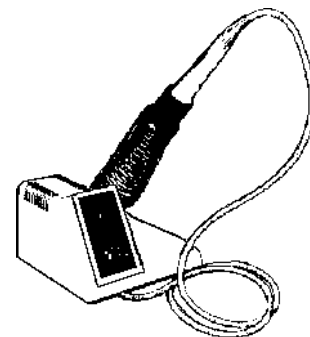
Auctioneer:
Bob "Dutch" Dutschman, K2JGI

\$1.00 per person donation
Refreshments Available

RAFFLE! VCR, DVD Player and Cash Prizes



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



At the October general membership meeting, Rich, WB2DSS, modeled some new BARRA apparel now available through BARRA member Carl Brittain at Leprechaun Graphics. These are high-quality items that let you show your club colors in style. The available items and their prices are shown below. Return this page with your payment to Carl at the address at the bottom of the page to order.

BARRACustom Imprinted Order

Name _____ Phone _____



T-Shirt - \$7.00



Sweatshirt - \$11.00



Jacket
Quilt Lined
\$35.00
Flannel Lined
\$25.00



Sizes Available: Youth - Small, Medium, Large
Adult - Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2X-Large*, 3X-Large**
* Add \$2.00 ** Add \$3.00

Item	Quantity	Size (Youth or Adult)	Cost each	Total
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Totals	_____	_____	_____	_____

If interested in ordering, please return with payment.

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Calendar of Events

GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Brighton and 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 17, 2003 -- Annual BARRA Auction! Turn trash into treasures at BARRA's popular yearly event.

Monday, April 21, 2003 -- SKYWARN presentation by members of the NWS Buffalo office.

Monday, June 16, 2003 -- Possible joint meeting with RAWNY at the Buffalo Naval and Serviceman Park. Availability of the ships will determine whether this will happen -- see the article on page 3 and watch these pages and the web site for updates.

Monday, July 21, 2003 -- Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic at the Cole Road repeater site.

**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, between Michigan and Ferry Streets. 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.

Greater Buffalo Winter Hamfest

Sunday, February 23, 2003

Main-Transit Fire Hall

6777 Main St, Williamsville

Talk-in 147.255 (PL 107.2)

Open at 7:30 AM, Admission \$6, Tables \$10