

The Link

February 2007



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

Annual Auction is This Month!



The most popular event of the BARRA year takes place this month -- the Annual Auction! Monday, February 19th is the date, doors open at 6:45 PM and the Auction begins at 7:30 PM sharp. Our auctioneer will once again be the inimitable Bob "Dutch" Dutchman, K2JGI. Dutch's auction style and side comments are alone well worth the price of admission.

Refreshments will be available throughout the evening. Anyone (member or non-member) is welcome to buy or sell at the BARRA Auction. BARRA retains 10% of the selling price of each item as a fund raiser to help pay for its excellent meeting space at the church. In recent years some folks have seen fit to donate their entire proceeds to the club and we are always thankful for their generosity. We recognize that not everyone can do that, and are appreciative of everyone who participates in our event as a buyer or seller.

So, don't miss out on the BARRA event of the year -- we'll see you at the Auction!

Dues Are Due

Remember that dues for 2006-07 are currently due. BARRA dues run from October to September each year. We are nearing the cutoff point for those whose dues remain unrenewed. Any members remaining unpaid after February 25th will be sadly dropped from the rolls. For those remaining to re-up, you can always do so in person at the Auction. Of course, dues can always be mailed to the club's PO box (address on the back page).

Remember that the dues amount shown on your mailing label is for dues only. If you wish to continue receiving *The Link* in paper form, please add \$4.00 to your dues amount. If you are currently receiving *The Link* by paper but wish to avoid the \$4.00 paper surcharge, please make sure you advise the editor at ka2wft@arrl.net of the email address at which you wish to receive *The Link*.

Storage Space for Club Equipment Sought

BARRA is seeking space in which to store equipment and parts held in reserve for the club. The items are currently stored at another facility that we have to vacate in the near future. The equipment will be evaluated by the Technical Committee and "triaged" for retention, sale to members and/or eBay, or discarded outright, so the anticipated space requirement is expected to be smaller than the space we are currently occupying.

If you have a space, or know of one that can be had for the club's use, please contact a board member.

From the Archives

*Excerpted from Board of Directors meeting report in
The Link of February 1973*

Gil [W2EUP] reported on the WNY and Ontario [repeater] Council Meeting: area representatives attending were Gil Boelke, John Latta and Hugh Aikenhead for BARRA, Dennis Griffin and Barry Garratt for W2OY, Dick Ziehl for W2RUI and Bob WA2YQO for WA2UWK. Bart Bridge is chairman of the council's frequency allocation committee. Lloyd Kubis VE3ERQ was elected president and VE3ATI Secretary/Treasurer for 1973.

A list of area repeaters was distributed, an SASE to W2PVL will get you a copy. Our application for frequencies of 146.40/147.00 will be filled when Oshawa moves in April. At present WB2ZWP will use these frequencies but future plans are: allocation of 6.40/7.00 to WB2UYO and ZWP will shift to 146.43/147.03 if arrangements can be made. Gil proposed that the council consider the NERA plan for frequency division due to unavailability of more frequencies. This plan uses standard 600 kHz spacing for repeater input/output with half the assignment inputting 146.01 to 146.40 and output on 146.61 to 147.00, the other half input 147.97 to 147.63 and output on 147.37 to 147.03 (26 ch.) Another plan being where the in-out spacing is only one MHz and station separation 20 kHz (50 ch.) A study is to be made of unification of touch-tone number systems in use on Rptr. control in this area.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5th, Virgil Smith, WA2TTQ, has volunteered services to represent us at the Hamburg Hamfest Committee meetings, at least one other member is needed.

RAWNY is promoting a visit in this area by Ed Tilton, the editor of the VHF column in *QST* sometime before the Rochester Hamfest May 12th. It is anticipated he will speak in Buffalo on May 10. We have been asked to send two Directors to attend a meeting with Ted Podd on February 8th.

See another "From the Archives" blast from the past on pg. 4

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '09	634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '09	834-2664
Secretary	Greg Miller K2GTM '08	565-1807
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '07	836-0417
Director	Dave Halik W2ZZA '08	825-4417

Committees & Chairs

Technical	Ted Ertl WA2HKS
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.	Vince Harzewski N2JRS
Erie County RACES Officer	Gene Kremzier N2OBW

Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	PL 107.2	29.68-	Boston
K2ISO		145.17-	Wethersfield
K2ILH	PL 107.2	146.73-	Niagara Falls
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

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.

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N.Y. STATE LIC. #
DEALER - D555
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DEALER IN FIREARMS & ACCESS.

CERTIFIED NRA INSTRUCTOR
PISTOL - RIFLE - SHOTGUN

445-3808 CELL
838-1468 EVE.

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 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: 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

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

Rich Sellers, KG2OR

In January 2007 Paul Bruski, KF2AA, spoke about his participation in ARES and RACES. I have decided to write a Hobby Highlight about him.

As a youngster he was fascinated with electronics. His mother directed his talents, and put him into a 4H Club radio class. He was about fifteen, and a sophomore in high school and was first licensed as WN2ISG in 1973. In a year he became an advanced licensee.



Remember the Galaxy 500? Paul operated one and did CW. Alaska was a first contact. He had his shack in his bedroom, and operated a transceiver on his dresser. He also had a five element antenna for 10 through 40 meters. He made a wire beam, 40 feet by 70 feet. His tower, made up by two by fours, was in the trees, and the antenna was held up by ropes. He could not believe his parents permitted this construction, but they did! His Elmer was Lew Visco, a family member at school. Other radio operators he knew were in an Explorer Post. He settled on SSB for most of his radio time.

RACES and ARES became his focus in amateur radio. If you recall from his presentation at RAWNY then you heard him speak about his excursion to Canton, Ohio where he assists in the grand parade at the Football Hall of Fame. He also enjoys camping with his family. He operates his radio, and assembles an antenna using the rock and string method or bow and arrow. Paul Bruski plays an important part in amateur radio. He is a member, and works in ARES and RACES. He is doing a fine business job. Paul, thank you for helping me on this "Hobby Highlights."

73 de KG2OR, Richard Sellers.

WA2OLW (Leprechaun Graphics, 675-3764) still has BARRA jackets and T-shirts available. Space didn't allow us to run the larger ad this time.

AixiZ Service and International LLC

OEM Laser Components

WWW.MFGCN.COM

Chuck Maricle W5CM

Mike Merrick, KA2HBO, SK

Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ

I have been informed that Michael Merrick KA2HBO passed away Monday, February 5th. I understand that his health was not good and that he was supposed to start a new job February 6th as a security guard working nights. He went to sleep and never woke up.



I knew Mike from his days with us at Ham-o-Rama. Mike was 56 years young. He was an officer in the Hamfest group in 1981. He was a great asset for the group. For a time he worked as an outside salesman, but took the security job because of memory loss and health issues. He left two kids who I think are in their early 20s.

He was also a member of the church where we hold our meetings.

From the Archives

In the October 1983 BARRA *Link* was the ad below for the GLB PK1 Packet Radio Controller, for the then-new packet mode, and of course designed and offered by BARRA's own Gil, W2EUP, aka GLB Electronics. It is probably safe to assume that a number of BARRA members still today have a PK1 among their equipment. Note that the PK1 advertised below didn't support the AX.25 protocol yet! A novel function of the PK1 and later PK1L packet TNCs was support for Baudot TTY machines, allowing hams operating RTTY the ability to get in on packet without having to buy a computer or electronic "dumb" terminal.

New from GLB...PACKET RADIO CONTROLLER

Now you can get in on the fun on packet radio! Digital communication is the wave of the future for amateur radio. All kinds of data can be handled digitally, including text, computer programs, data bases, telemetry, graphics and even voice.

"Packet" radio is a means of sending digital data via radio, and a packet network is operated by means of computers. Until now the only way to get on the air was to build from scratch or to purchase one of the controllers offered by amateur clubs. Our controller offers a new alternative.

- Low cost!
- Adaptable to any transceiver
- Built-in packet Modem!
- Built-in CW identifier
- Use with teletype machines, computers, terminals
- RS232 serial interface - 45 to 9600 baud!
- Uses both ASCII and Baudot
- Adaptable to different protocols
- Built-in protocol
- Optionally write your own protocol on host computer
- Nearly 50 commands
- Stores received messages until requested at a later time
- Operates in "connected" and "general" modes

GLB ELECTRONICS

1952 Clinton St. Buffalo, NY 14206
716/824-7936 9 to 4

Don't Forget to Check In
With the BARRA



Wednesday Evenings at 8 PM
146.91/224.82/444.00

"Extra points for checking in on 220"

Installation is simple. You need 12-volts DC and connections to four points in your transceiver (receiver audio, transmitter audio, push-to-talk and squelch). If you have a computer with an RS232 jack, just hook up an adaptor cable. If you plan to use an RTTY machine you'll have to add a few parts to convert logic levels and to filter out some of the mechanical contact "bounce". (We supply a schematic, or an adaptor board).

Used with a computer you can operate with a simple "dumb" terminal program, or write a more elaborate one to send and receive data from/to disk, printer, etc. The Model PK1 is ROM programmable and can be set up for any of the existing protocols using the SDLC standard for data transmission and BELL 202 tones.

Initial deliveries of the PK1 are programmed for the "Vancouver" protocol at 1200 baud (AX.25 to be offered soon and others to be supported as they become popular.)

Dimensions: 4.5 x 10 inches; 1" vertical clearance
Power requirement: + 12 VDC, approx. 200 ma.

Standard equipment includes 2K of RAM.
Model PK1, wired & tested - \$149.95

SPECIAL OFFER- Members Only

\$ 99.95

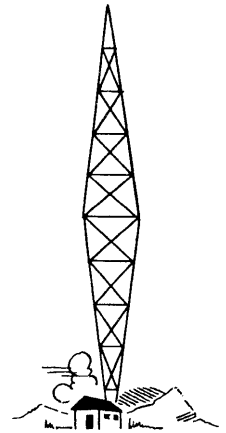
LIMITED QUANTITY



It's time for the
Annual
BARRA

Ham Radio & Electronics

AUCTION

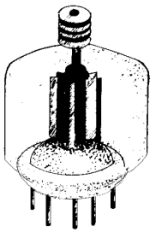


And Everyone's Invited to Buy or Sell!

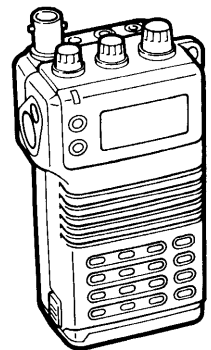
Ham Radio Gear . Scanners . Computer Equipment . Parts
Books . CBs . Test Equipment . More!

Monday, February 19, 2007
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

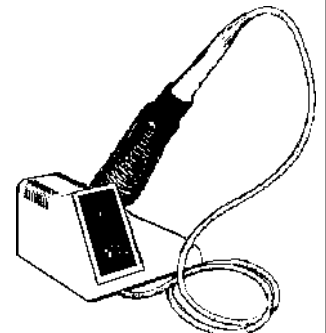
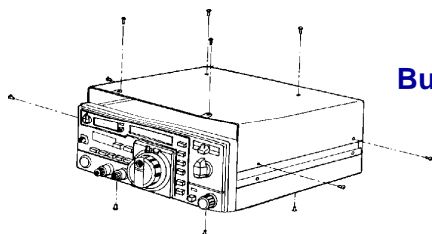


BARRA Retains 10% of each item's selling price.

\$2.00 per person donation
Refreshments Available

DOOR PRIZE 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. 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 19, 2007 -- Annual BARRA Auction! Turn trash to treasure at our popular electronics exchange.

Monday, April 16, 2007 -- Presentation and solicitation for ham radio help with the Upstate NY MS Society's WNY bike-a-thon to be held in September. Presenter will be Keith Freeberg, N2BEL.

Monday, June 18, 2007 -- Meeting program TBA.

Monday, July 16, 2007 -- 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 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.

The **BARRA** Auction is this month!
Dig out those unused electronic items
that can be turned into **cash** at the Auction.
Save the date:
Monday, February 19, 2007!!