



The Link

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

January 2001

This Month's Program: Report of the BARRA Technical Committee

The program for each January's general membership meeting is the report of the Technical Committee. On Monday, January 15, the Tech Committee will summarize the events and activities that took place at all of the BARRA repeater sites this year, and perhaps outline some projects still on the bench.

Gil Boelke, W2EUP, heads up the Tech Committee and oversees all of the projects that BARRA undertakes. He will chair the program and reports will be given by various members of the committee.

So, come and hear the "war stories" of keeping BARRA's machines alive and well, or at least the attempts to get them that way! See you Monday the 15th.

Annual Auction is Next Month

Next month sees the return of BARRA's most popular annual event, the Auction! Start digging around now to see what goodies you can bring to this great gathering of bargains galore and turn them into cash. Make the spouse happy and clean out the garage, closet, attic, etc. Just be sure you don't bring home more than you took!!

Thanks, Nelson!

Our thanks go to BARRA President Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ, for donating and bringing door prizes to the annual holiday party last month.

A VHS VCR and a pair of transistor checkers rounded out the group of prizes that were awarded to some lucky winners.

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

New Board Officers Elected



New board officers from left: President Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ; Treasurer Ed Swan, W2EAS; Vice-President Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT; Secretary Brian Neri, WA2CWF. Photo by W2EUP.

At the November BARRA board meeting, a new slate of officers was elected from the current group of board members voted in this fall.

A name and call not unfamiliar to the office of the president was chosen for that slot. Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ, returns to the helm of BARRA, along with Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT, as vice-president. Brian Neri, WA2CWF, and Ed Swan, W2EAS, were re-elected to secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The new board is looking forward to the year ahead.

Dues are Due!

It is time for BARRA dues to be renewed. Our year runs from October to September and dues become due beginning October 1 each year. Check your mailing label for the amount you owe (E-Link recipients have received a separate e-mail with their dues amount). All applicable discounts have (with luck) been applied. If you believe the amount of your dues is in error, please contact your editor or BARRA treasurer Ed Swan, W2EAS.

Over 50 members have renewed so far and we thank everyone for their promptness. We hope to see everyone else's dues very soon!



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 '01	877-0417
Directors	Voit Drankhan KA2WIO '02	941-5569
	Keith Hendershot KB2VKK '02	668-0391
	Gene Kremzier N2OBW '01	632-4369

Committees & Chairs

Technical	Gil Boelke W2EUP
Link Editor	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT
Associate Link Editor	Dave Sewhuk N2GH
WNYSORC Representative Chair	Ben Bass N2YDM
Membership,	
Roster & Passwords	KA2WFT, W2EUP, W2EAS
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	146.73 -	Niagara Falls
W2EUP	146.91 -	Boston
W2OXB	147.00 +	Kenmore
W2EUP	224.82 -	Boston
WR2AHL	442.00 +	Wethersfield
WA2HKS	444.00 +	Buffalo
WB2DSS	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://hamgate1.sunyerie.edu/barra.htm>

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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.).

Interference on UHF Band Being Chased by WA2HKS

Over the past few months, there has been some rather substantial interference noticed "wandering" around the UHF band, wreaking havoc with our UHF repeaters and associated UHF links between our machines.

Ted Ertl, WA2HKS, our ever-present "watchdog" of the UHF band quickly located the fundamental frequency of the offending transmitter(s) and forwarded the information to the FCC. The offending frequency is registered to a paging concern and the FCC is working with that outfit in the repair of their transmitter sites. We are told that interference to one of BARRA member WB2DSS's repeaters went away after one of the paging sites was re-worked. However, other problems from this same frequency still exist, most notably to the point of getting into UHF repeaters in the Toronto area!

Ted is in frequent -- almost daily -- contact with the FCC while this problem is being chased down. Perhaps Ted will have an update (maybe a successful conclusion?) to the story at the January meeting.

New Packet BBS

Dave Vari, N2RHL

There's a new packet BBS up and running on 145.710 with a 1200 baud port! The connect text is: c n2rhl

So far this station is getting packet feed from KB2TXP in the Finger Lakes region via the Internet, as well as actively seeking forwarding partners from other regions.

There's no callbook online as of yet, but we are working on it. One of the features now running is the ability to call up and read the weekly bulletins below by typing the appropriate command:

opdx	Ohio/Penn DX Bulletins
arld	The ARRL weekly dx bulletin
arlp	Weekly ARRL propagation bulletin
425	Weekly 425 report out of Italy -- in English of course!
arri	Weekly ARRL news letter
test	Listing of the upcoming contests
arlk	Bi-weekly keps

Little by little I'll get this setup into a user-friendly manner, though I don't think I'll ever get this going in the manner of the KE2VW-BBS, *but those are hard shoes to fill!* So connect, use and enjoy!

de Dave, N2RHL, sysop in N. Tonawanda, NY (FN03nb)

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.

New Power Amp Installed at 442.00

Just before this issue of *The Link* went to press, the Wethersfield gang swapped out the 50-watt power amplifier in the 442.00 WR2AHL repeater with a 120-watt model. As a result, the 442 machine now boasts an even better signal than it did previously.

With the antenna improvements at the site, courtesy of the site's new owners, and now combined with the added "oomph" on the output signal, the 442 MHz repeater is a real powerhouse on the UHF band. If you haven't already done so, check it out! Remember that this repeater has a 110.9 Hz CTCSS tone.

Antenna Work Still Holding Up Return of 145.17 to the Air

As reported in the last *Link* the new owners of the Wethersfield FM transmitter site, which houses BARRA's 145.17 and 442.00 repeaters, have thoroughly reworked the site from power to security to hardware on the tower. One of those pieces of hardware is the VHF antenna system, a community antenna set-up where all tenants utilizing this band get a "spigot" to the antenna, and is the same arrangement for tenants at this site on the UHF band. There are various difficulties being experienced with the installation of the VHF antenna such that it is still not ready for use.

The 145.17 K2ISO repeater is all set and ready to be hooked up to the antenna and powered up as soon as we get the high sign from the owners. Stay tuned for updates on the BARRA List Serve for any late-breaking developments.

A Call for Programs

The BARRA board of directors is in the process of assembling the new year's program calendar for the general meetings and are in need of some hints and suggestions for program topics.

Are you into a particular aspect of ham radio that you would be willing to talk about for us? Do you know someone who is? Perhaps you work in a technical field and the work done by your company would be of interest to the membership? Whatever the case, even if you have only an idea, get in touch with a board member and pass along your ideas.

VE Testing Sessions Announced

Pat Murray, NW2I

All examinations are given on the third Wednesday of the month, unless a school or national holiday falls on a date. We will start promptly at 7 PM.

Our upcoming session will be January 17th, 2001. The testing sessions will take place at the Aurora Middle School, Room 100, Lancaster, NY. Call 652-8178 if you need any other info. The fee for all exams is now \$10.00. Please bring cash, no checks, please.

All 605s and associated papers, i.e. certificates and/or copies of current licenses will be received by me. I will accept walk-ins, but I am asking walk-ins to please come to the session by 6:30PM. It will be to your advantage, and we will be able to run the session in an organized way. If you are a walk-in, and you would like to call me, please do. If any candidate doesn't have an application, I will have one for you.

My Address is:

M. Patricia Murray, NW2I
585 North Star Rd
East Aurora, NY, 14052

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

Everyone is invited to buy or sell!

Ham Radio Gear • Electronics • Computers

BARRA Retains 10% of the Purchase Price to a total of \$5 per item

Picture Page!

Here are some snapped moments from BARRA's annual holiday party held December 18. Our thanks to Ben, N2YDM, for these great photos.

The Holiday Party was a also a time for some old friends to come out and say hello:



Gil, W2EUP, talks with Rich, KG2OR.



Fran Stengel, K2GUG



Dr. Ron Chmiel, WB2VFE



Peter, K2RSK, (right), brought a slide show of past BARRA public service events and audio tapes of radio QSOs with "voices from the past."



Fran, K2GUG, Nelson, WA2ZSJ, and Gil, W2EUP enjoy an eyeball QSO.



Kevin Lienert (with "blindfold" assist from Dad KG2DE) picks a ticket for the door prize drawing, with the pot held by Ed, W2EAS.



Gil, W2EUP and Leigh, KC2VS.

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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, January 15, 2001 - Annual Report of the BARRA Technical Committee to the membership.

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.

**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.

