



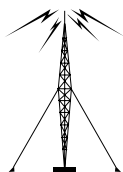
The Link

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

January 2002

January's Program: Annual Report of The Technical Committee

Each January the BARRA Technical Committee reports to the membership about its activities for the previous year. As you might imagine, it takes a lot of hard work and know-how to keep our vast repeater network up and running.



This month's meeting, on Monday, January 21st, will feature the 2001-02 issue of the Technical Committee report. As of this writing, it is anticipated that there will be a number

of photographs/slides presented for all of the various sites. If you've never seen a BARRA repeater site, or haven't been to one in some time, this will be an excellent opportunity to get an idea of what the equipment and physical facilities of each site looks like.

So, come on over to the meeting on January 21st, we're sure you'll learn something new about one or two of our repeaters. See you there.

BARRA Auction is Next Month

It's getting close to that time again, time for the annual BARRA Auction, that fun-filled evening of deals galore (*see ad on page three*). As always, the Auction serves not only as a means for everyone to dispose of unneeded electronics goodies, but it is also a fundraiser for the club. BARRA retains 10% of the selling price of each item, up to a maximum of \$5 per item. The proceeds from the Auction help us to pay the church for our fine meeting space.

So, you've got a month yet, so start going through your stuff now and decide what you want to bring to turn into cash at the Annual BARRA Auction on Monday, February 18th.

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

Refreshment Chair Still Sought

Come on, gang! We are still seeking a refreshment chair or crew to take over from Mark Leinert, KG2DE. Mark has been extremely patient in his wait for someone or someones to take the reins of the BARRA Goody Patrol, as it were.

The job is not difficult and is the least technical of any BARRA duty: provide refreshments at the seven general meetings at the church, as well as the July Mobile Clinic. With more than one person taking on the task, the job gets even easier, and Mark is more than willing to show all newcomers the ropes.

If you or you and a group of friends would like to take over the refreshment duties at the meetings, please contact Mark at 447-1738 or a board member.

A Fireside Chat

Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ

Over the past year I have had a great deal of time to look back and reflect on a great hobby and the many changes over the past years. I can remember a time when I attended a meeting and it was tough to find a chair. When we actually had more members of the club running for board positions than there were vacancies to fill. These were the "good old days," something that now is just a memory.

Today we have less than 30% of the membership struggling to find enough members to just fill the vacant positions, let alone have an actual election. We had no candidates this year for the board and the people that were asked graciously declined. We are not even in a strong enough position to get someone to run the refreshment committee and let Mark, KG2DE, move on. This committee only works *seven* Mondays a year!

So, let's consider some of the options. We can reduce the size of the board from seven to five. This would allow the club to conduct business and eliminate the manpower shortage. Or we could attempt to get people on the board and leave the problem for the club officers down the road.

I think we can all agree that the first solution would be best for the club. However, such an action would require an amendment to the bylaws to change the number of directors from seven to five and change the quorum of board members from four to three. This will be brought up at a future meeting for club member input. I welcome your input and any help you might be able to give the club. We need a chairman for the Refreshment Committee and it is not a tough job. We also need help for our Auction -- please come forward and be counted! I would love to see more members at a meeting! It is *your* club and really needs your support if it is to survive into the future!

73, Nelson.

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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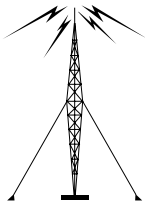
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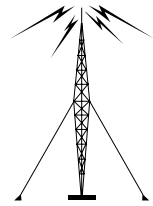
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It's time for the
Annual

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)

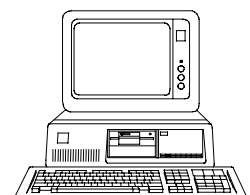
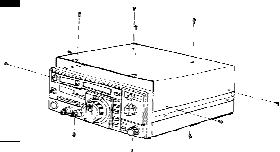
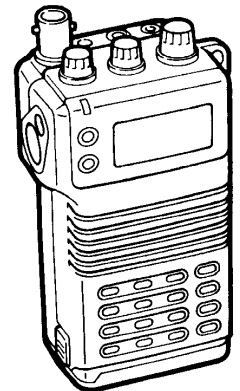
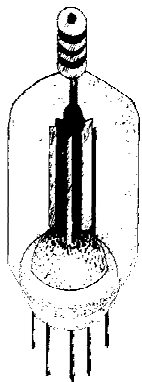
Doors open at 6:45 pm
Auction begins at 7:30 pm

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.).

Thanks, John!

Many thanks go to John Latta, W2PVL, for donating an almost complete set of BARRA *Link* newsletters from the early days of the club. These were delivered to your editor at the Christmas Party. Your editor has hopes of getting these "time capsules" of BARRA into a format that can be readily shared: i.e. scanned and PDF'd.

In the meantime, he'll be pulling some interesting morsels from the pages of these old *Links* and will share them in these pages.

Again, our thanks to John for sharing this wonderful resource!

From the Archives

With the continuing clean-out of the GLB shop and W2EUP's home, many interesting BARRA artifacts, for lack of a better term, have been turning up. One of the items to surface recently is a log book from the Cherry Creek repeater site, dating from April 27, 1974 to April 11, 1976. The log contains not only technical information about work performed at or equipment built for the site but also various anecdotes about dealing with the rugged conditions at the site. All of the entries appear to have been made by Gil, W2EUP. Here is an entry from 1975:

"2-15-75 EUP, K2OXH. Walked up -- walking was tough -- about a foot of new snow. Took along 2 gallons of kerosine. [sic] Minigen gone. [small wind generator] Jerry went up tower to check. Screws removed, wires pulled out, cover torn loose on one side. Evidence indicates fall-off rather than removal. Started digging in snow -- found it about 4 feet from tower buried as deeply as possible in snow. No surface evidence.

Thawed it out and brought down frame. Prop & gen OK, check out electrically! Reassembled using jam nuts at rear of studs, split lockwashers at front. [...] Big wind gen broke a weld. Gen hanging loose, cover back, electronics package destroyed.

Left about 4:30."

Thanks for the Prizes!

Thanks to some generous members, we were able to award some door prizes at the annual Christmas/Holiday party in December. Nelson, WA2ZSJ, and Crest AV Electronics donated an AKG T-Shirt, USB Off-Table Track Mouse, Wavetek Temperature Meter, ACC-M1034 Sunpak NIMH Charger w/4 AA Batteries, GPX AM/FM/Cassette Personal Stereo, and a Carnival 27 Shot Single Use Camera.

Peter, K2RSK, donated "a whole bunch" of coupons for some free Ted's Hot Dogs.

Our thanks to Nelson and Peter for helping to make the Christmas party more fun and rewarding for those who ventured out.

We also extend our thanks to Linda Neri, XYL of Brian, WA2CWF, who "braved it" as the only XYL in attendance and pulled the tickets for the door prizes.



Photo 1, see text.

ATV.

During a recent visit to my brother in Scottsdale, I decided to make a “cold call” on a local ham down the street. The antenna farm on his home and vehicle appeared to cover DC to light (photo 1). This sort of ham is usually quite friendly. I was not disappointed. He turned out to be W7IXA, Doug May, a retired Motorola engineer who works from home as an RF consultant. He operates all bands and modes, but is particularly interested in remote bands and linking.

The system with Doug’s arm draped around the cabinet (photo 2) is a remote base linked to two different mountain top sites using the 70-cm band. The 70-cm radio can be remotely controlled from the repeater input as well as from either link. It also features a programmable 2-meter Motorola radio. The antenna for the remote is at the top of a 65-foot tower and the link antennas are vertical yagis on a roof pole.

The photo of the three cabinets on the patio shows a similar system (photo 3), which will be installed on 7800-foot Mingus Mountain in Central Arizona when the weather permits. The right cabinet contains a 6-meter remote base with four selectable channels and the center cabinet is a programmable 2-meter remote base. Both of these radios are Saguaro Amateur Remote Base Association, which is an affiliate of the Cactus Intertie System.

The Cactus Intertie System is an Amateur Radio closed private system consisting of a large number of remote base stations and 70 cm repeaters interconnected with full-duplex links. It covers seven southwestern states from California to Texas. For more information, go to <http://www.sarba.org> or <http://www.cactus-intertie.org>.

FM in Arizona

Denis J. Uminski, N2HP

Photos by the author

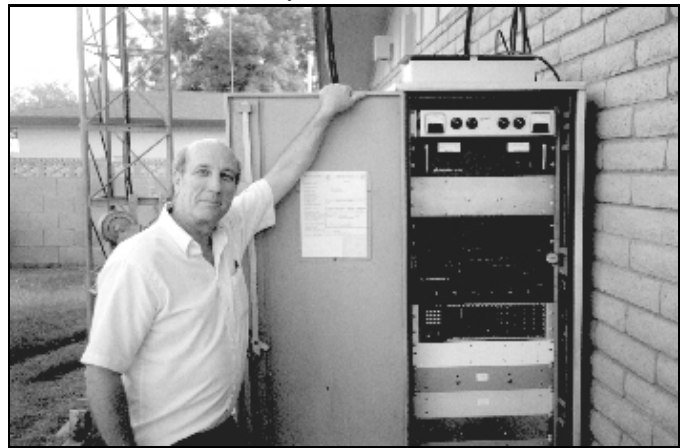


Photo 2, see text.

The Phoenix area, with its desert climate, is a popular destination for hams from Western New York. The high level of Amateur Radio activity there makes it worthwhile to stow a rig in your bag for the trip.

Metro Phoenix sits in the “Valley of the Sun” and the terrain is fairly flat and ringed by mountains and hills. One can easily spot a ham antenna or tower every mile or so. Buttes also stick up from the valley floor, some with antennas on them. Barry Goldwater’s legendary MARS station was on the south side of the “Camelback” with a commanding view of the valley.

Firms such as Motorola and the DeVry Institute have their own radio clubs, which sponsor repeaters and hamfests. Downtown, there is a beautiful science museum with a fully equipped amateur station, which visiting hams are welcome to operate.

The FM Repeater Atlas lists approximately five repeaters on 6 meters, 34 on 2 meters, 3 and 1¼ meters, 77 on 70 cm, and two for



Photo 3, see text.

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, January 21, 2002 - Annual report by the Technical Committee. Hear the "year in review" of maintaining BARRA's extensive repeater network.

Monday, February 18, 2002 - Annual BARRA Auction! Dig out that unneeded electronic stuff and turn it into cash!

Monday, April 15, 2002 - Forget about your taxes and stop by the BARRA meeting. Program TBA.

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

**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.

LOCKPORT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
HAMFEST/AUCTION
JANUARY 26th, 2002

Eagles Hall, 6614 Lincoln Ave, Lockport, NY

Setup time for vendors 7:00 AM

Public admitted 8:00 AM

Auction starts at 12:00 noon

Talk-in 146.820 (-) PL 107.2

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