

The Link

January 2005



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

January's Program: Annual Report of the BARRA Technical Committee



January's meeting program on Monday, January 17th will be the annual BARRA Technical Committee Report to the Membership on its activities for the previous calendar year. The program, as in previous years, will contain a summary of each of the club's repeater sites, outlining

the equipment at each site, along with any improvements, repairs, or other tasks performed over the past year. There will be many photos of the activities that took place at each repeater location.

Failing a personal visit to each site, the January report to the membership is an excellent way for members to learn more about the repeaters that they use and support with their membership dues. Many of the repeater trustees will be in attendance that evening and it will be a great forum for meeting the folks who keep the machines up and running.

Assisting the repeater trustees is the BARRA Technical Committee, a semi-formal body of members who help to maintain the repeaters and the sites at which the machines reside. While the name of the committee suggests that they deal with the nitty-gritty of the electronic innards of the repeaters, and indeed they do, the Tech Committee also takes care of less "solderable" issues like physical plant maintenance at our flagship Cole Road repeater site. Indeed there will be a lengthy report about the significant upgrades to the original Cole Road building, known to all as "Chet's Shack" (pictured above), that were begun this past summer.

Dues Are Due!

Time is running out on dues renewals! Check your mailing label now for the status of your dues. Very soon we will have to regretfully stop sending newsletters to those who have not yet paid their renewals. Don't miss out on all the events going on in BARRA ... renew today!

Be sure to check out the photos from the December holiday party on page 5.

New BARRA Net Announced

A new weekly on-air net has been started by the BARRA Technical Committee and has already been meeting for a few weeks. Dubbed the "Tech Net" the group meets on the 146.91/444.00/224.82 repeaters every Wednesday evening starting at 8:00 PM. Net control is Greg Miller, K2GTM, pictured at right on a recent net night.

The premise of the net is to promote technical discussion regarding amateur radio and electronics in general. Most of the net is occupied by a question and answer format where net members can ask technical questions and hopefully get answers from other stations on the net. If the Q&A portion of the net is short, stations are encouraged to talk about new equipment or projects that they are working on. Greg's also working on creating a website with resources mentioned on the net so people can access the information discussed on previous sessions at a later time along with check-in lists for each week.



BARRA Auction is Next Month!

The time is fast approaching -- time for the annual BARRA Auction! Start thinking now about those electronic items gathering dust in closets, attics, basements, etc. and think about bringing them to the Auction

The BARRA Auction is easily the most popular event of BARRA's yearly events and draws a number of hams from all over WNY. The Auction serves as our main fundraiser to pay for our excellent meeting space at St. Bartholomew's Church.

Over the last few years we have seen an increasing number of members donate the proceeds from their entire lot to the club and we thank them wholeheartedly for their generosity. While we realize that not every member can do that, we'd like to remind folks that this is indeed possible and encouraged. With declining membership replacement sources of revenue need to be sought.

Spread the word to all your friends about the BARRA Auction and reserve the date now on your calendar -- Monday, February 21st, at 7:30 PM.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '06 634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '06 834-2664
Secretary	Brian Neri WA2CWF '05 941-5999
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '07 836-0417
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.	Gary Wysocki N2WLS

Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	PL 107.2	29.68 -	Boston
K2ISO		145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2DSN	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
WB2DSS	PL 151.4	443.925 +	Niagara Falls
WA2HKS		444.00 +	Buffalo
WB2DSS	PL 151.4	444.75 +	Kenmore

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 Tech Net

Join the BARRA Technical crew on the 146.91/444.00 system Wednesdays at 8 PM for answers to your technical questions.

BARRA on the Internet

<http://barra.hamgate.net>

Club Calls

BARRA holds club calls W2EUP and K2ISO in honor and memory of some of its founders, Gil Boelke, W2EUP, and Hugh Wilson, K2ISO.

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

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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: 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.).

Soccer Tournament Public Service Event May 28-29

As mentioned in last month's *Link*, BARRA has been contacted to provide communications for the Amherst International Memorial Soccer Tournament that will take place Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 28th and Sunday May 29th. The board of directors have approved BARRA's participation. The event will take place at five locations throughout the Town of Amherst, and will see soccer matches taking place from 8 AM to 8 PM each day at each site.



Because of the widespread venues and multiple matches taking place at each site, the reporting of the results of each match is important to the event organizers in order to determine the pairing of teams in further games over the weekend. That is where we as hams come into play.

One ham would be posted at each of the five fields and would report the results of the games taking place at that field as each match is completed. The scores will be given to the hams by officials at the fields. A tent and picnic table is provided at each field for the ham and the field marshal who gathers the scores from that field. Any emergencies would be handled by cellular telephone calls to 911.

In previous years the event people have used cell phones but they ran into difficulties when the folks responsible for the phones would forget to charge them, or forget to turn them over to the folks on the next shift, leaving the organizers with no way of contacting a field.



Since there are so many locations to cover over 12 hours on each of two days, many volunteers will be needed. The communications that we need to provide are important, but not difficult, and will be a great opportunity for hams who have never participated in a public service event to get their feet wet in such an activity. More information will be presented to the volunteers as the event time approaches and we will likely have meetings with some of the event personnel to go over what we will be doing and answer any questions.

If you would like to volunteer for a shift or two -- and the length of time is determined by your schedule -- please drop a note to the editor at ka2wft@arrl.net or sign up at a meeting. This is not limited to BARRA members only, so bring along any non-member ham friends, too.

Remember that the Link is available as an emailed full color PDF document attachment by email. The club saves postage costs and you receive a sharp-looking unmangled newsletter copy. To get your next Link by email, contact the editor at ka2wft@arrl.net



Picture Time

Some selected views of the December Holiday Party, which saw an attendance approaching 30 -- a recent all-time high!

Pix by KA2WFT



"You mean you DIDN'T bring me a present?"



"OK, you said there was going to be pizza, now where is it?"

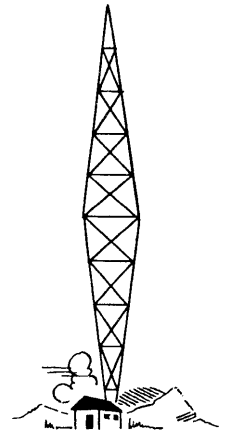


"Senator, unless you can show me proof that you've ever driven a Corvette, my attorneys advise me to NOT answer your questions!"



It's time for the
Annual
BARRA

Ham Radio & Electronics
AUCTION



And Everyone's Invited to Buy or Sell!

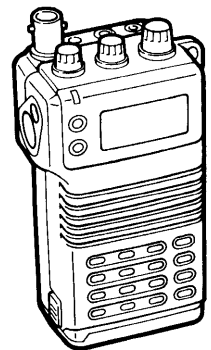
Ham Radio Gear · Scanners · Computer Equipment · Parts
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Monday, February 21, 2005
St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church
Brighton & Fries Roads
Tonawanda, NY

(Across from Kenmore East HS)



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

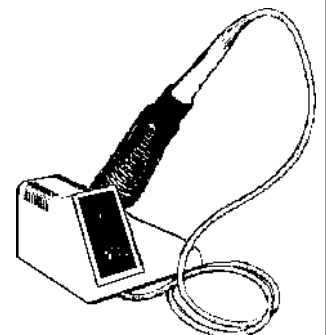
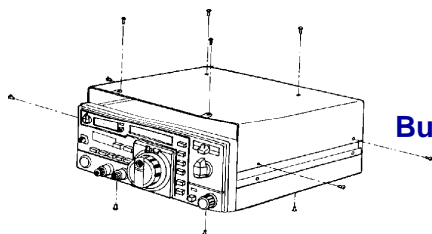


BARRA Retains 10% of each item's selling price.

\$1.00 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

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Calendar of Events

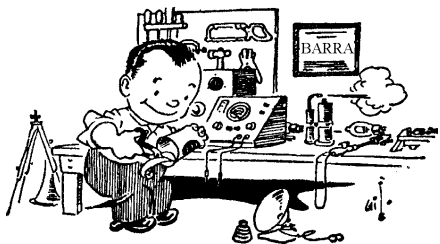
GENERAL MEETINGS

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, January 17, 2005 -- Annual report of the Technical Committee to the membership.

Monday, February 21, 2005 -- Annual BARRA Auction!! Let's turn trash into cash!

Monday, April 18, 2005 -- 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 **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.

Save the Date!
Monday, February 21st, 2005
7:30 PM
THE ANNUAL BARRA AUCTION
at the church