

# The Link

January 2007



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

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

BARRA's January program each year is the report of the Technical Committee to the membership. This informative session is the year-in-review of all of the activities of the Tech Committee over the past year. You can count on various repeater trustees to give their reports with visual presentations, allowing everyone to see what comprises the particular repeater site. If you can't get to a repeater site in person, this is the program to attend -- you'll get to see all of the repeater sites in one sitting!

As always, it's been a busy year for the Tech Committee and the report will reflect that. In particular, significant progress has been made on the "Chet's Shack" rehabilitation project at the Cole Road site. There will also be a brief review of BARRA's Field Day event.

This is a don't-miss opportunity to find out what's been going on at all of BARRA's repeaters. See you there.

## Dues Are Due

Remember that dues for 2006-07 are currently due. BARRA dues run from October to September each year. More than three quarters of our members of record from 2005-06 have already renewed! Many thanks to all for their promptness. For those remaining to re-up, you can always do so in person at the general meeting. 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](mailto:ka2wft@arrl.net) of the email address at which you wish to receive *The Link*.

## Annual Auction is Next Month!

BARRA's popular equipment trading event is fast approaching: Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> is the date! Start digging around now to see what you can bring to sell at the Auction.

The Auction is always an entertaining evening and you never know what will turn up for equipment.

Everyone, members and non-members alike, are welcome to sell items at the Auction. BARRA retains 10% of the selling price and uses the proceeds as a fundraiser to pay for our excellent meeting space at the church. Some folks in the past have seen fit to donate the entire proceeds from their sales to the club, and we thank them, as always, for their generosity. Not everyone is in a position to do that, but it's an option that is open to consideration.

Mark the date now and we hope to see you there. Bring a ham radio friend or two along for a great evening of deals. In the meantime, help spread the word by mentioning it on any nets you check into, and among your electronically-minded friends and associates.

## Club Begins Sale of Heliax

BARRA is in possession of a fair quantity of new half-inch heliax coaxial cable. The cable is Andrew LDF4RN-50 Heliax. The board has authorized the sale of this cable by the foot to club members at a special price. The cable is offered at a price of 75 cents per foot to members. Non-members may purchase the same cable for \$1.25/ft. Please note that the club does not have the connectors available; you'll have to seek those out yourself.

Payment will be due at the time of pickup of the cable, but we will start taking requests for quantities now. The cable is currently in storage and needs to be retrieved. You can request your cable by email to [ka2wft@arrl.net](mailto:ka2wft@arrl.net) or by calling 834-2664 evenings. There is a finite quantity of the cable; all requests will be on a first-come basis. Cable must be paid for in full at the time of pickup.

Questions about the cable can be directed to any board member.



Be afraid, be very afraid... Christmas Party Photos on Page 4!

What did you miss at the Annual Holiday Party? See Page 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

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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*

On December 19, 2006 the FCC stated that Morse code is no longer a requirement for amateur radio licenses. I learned that this could happen in this country when I saw Bill Edgar N3LLR, Atlantic Division Director, speak at the STARS club in April 2006. Along with this change, no QSO logs, and license revisions, the quarter century gang has seen a new school develop for amateur radio operation. Our theory and future remain bright. Opinion varies about what has happened about Morse Code and license hierarchy.



My 2006 "Hobby Highlight" shows that these changes have had little impact for operators. I wrote about logging QSOs, fund raising, Software Defined Radio, ARRL publications, Division policies, club history, propagation, novel experiments, radio merit badges in the Boy Scouts, and "ARRL Club News." The year was full of fun and excitement. Our hobby would suffer if we lost operating frequencies for different modes! Our future for operating will not only be in the shack. A strong ARRL lobby must be in the House.

*QST* used to have quite a few advertisements about our military using radio equipment. The articles focused on tube technology and solid state. Today, space stations with licensed astronauts circles the globe. The new generation of hams need not know Morse Code or five license classes: novice, technician, general, advanced, and extra class. The amateur radio operator of today should do what he or she can to advance the old art of Morse code. Like volunteer examiners, I think code classes for operators will be a grass root movement, however skills will not be subject to a test or a license. The proficiency of an operator in CW mode on the air will either be machine code or individual expertise. 73 de KG2OR, Richard Sellers.

*Editor's Note: For another opinion on the demise of the Morse requirement, see the next page.*



See who else was at the  
Christmas Party...  
See Page 4

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Chuck Maricle W5CM

## The Dumbing Down of Ham Radio

Ralph Anderson, WA2QYA

My palms were sweating as I sat in the Federal Building in 1972 to take my novice exam. Part of the testing was the ability to send and receive International Morse Code at what seemed the lightening speed of 5 words per minute – but I passed and was given the call, WN2QYA. I still have my first QSL card from that original contact in Florida.

Shortly thereafter, I passed the General, and later, the Advanced class at the Rochester Hamfest. This meant not only more complex theory, but the skill to copy code at 13 wpm. In both cases, I passed, and the sense of accomplishment was second to none.

I read today through the cyber ARRL newsletter that the code requirement will soon be ended for all classes of licenses. What a sad commentary, in my opinion.

(see [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-269012A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-269012A1.pdf)).

Be that as it may, yes, we are living in the age of solid computer QSOs to anyone with an Internet connection and the equipment; and yes, I know Yaesu, Kenwood, Icom, ‘et al’ want to sell their wares, but what about the “art” of our scientific hobby? What about the deaf person who uses a flashing light to capture his CW QSOs? What about the satisfaction of accomplishment in building a simple transmitter that actually works and the semblance of understanding why it does?

Maybe I’m just an old fuddy-duddy, but I believe we have lost something most precious. I would invite and deeply encourage all new hams to learn the international Morse code. Why would you want to deny yourself the most effective way to communicate though most any interference, and, if and when, the system collapses?

73 de Ralph, WA2QYA



The gathered throng. The party had the best turn-out seen in recent years.

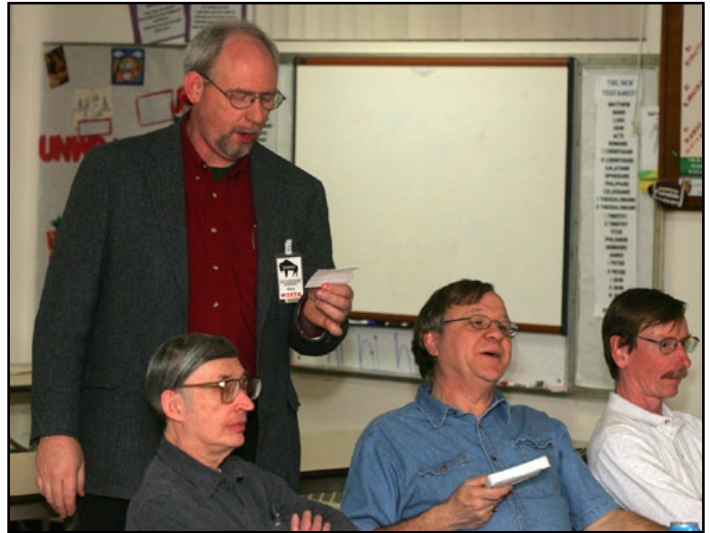


Our illustrious (?) photographer.



## Photos from the Annual BARRA Holiday Party, 2006

With thanks to Joe, N2ZDU, for these great shots



Singing Christmas Carols?



Mmmm, yup.



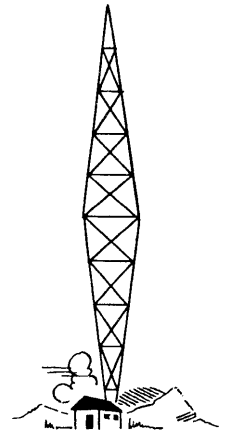
OK, Bill, I think you’ve had too much egg nog. How many fingers am I holding up?



It's time for the  
**Annual**  
**BARRA**

Ham Radio & Electronics

**AUCTION**

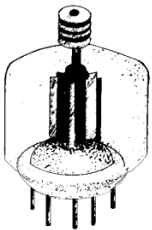


And Everyone's Invited to Buy or Sell!

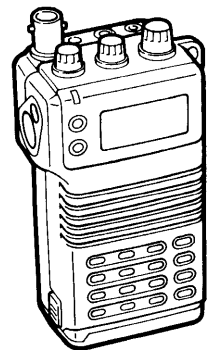
Ham Radio Gear . Scanners . Computer Equipment . Parts  
Books . CBs . Test Equipment . More!

**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

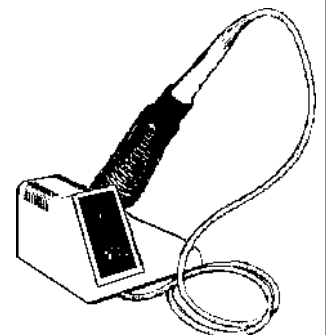
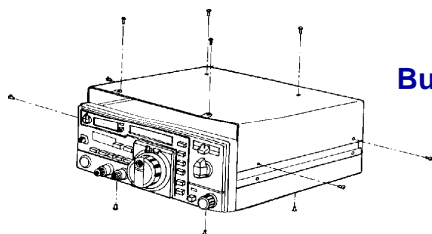


BARRA Retains 10% of each item's selling price.

**\$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, January 15, 2007** -- Annual report of the Technical Committee to the membership.

**Monday, February 19, 2007** -- Annual BARRA Auction! Turn trash to treasure at our popular electronics exchange.

**Monday, April 16, 2007** -- Meeting program TBA.

**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 coming soon!  
Start your cleaning now and dig out those  
electronic items that can be turned into **cash**  
at the Auction. Save the date:  
**Monday, February 19, 2007!!**