

The Link

January 2009



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

Reminder:

NO Meeting in January!

Goodsearch Yields Good Rewards for BARRA

BARRA treasurer Ed Swan, W2EAS, reports that we have received a check from the Goodsearch Internet search engine for \$110.45!! This is for searches and online purchases conducted through Goodsearch with BARRA designated as the non-profit organization to benefit.



BARRA signed up with Goodsearch in the fall of 2007. Every online search made through this engine yields us about a penny. In addition to the searches, online purchases made starting with Goodsearch's Goodshop result in a percentage of the purchase making its way back to BARRA.

To help BARRA with your searches and purchases, go to <http://www.goodsearch.com>. In the box labeled "Who do you Goodsearch for?" you need to enter our full name, "Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association" and click the "verify" button. You should have to do this only the very first time you use the Goodsearch site from a particular computer. It's that easy! Now every search you make will make BARRA some money.

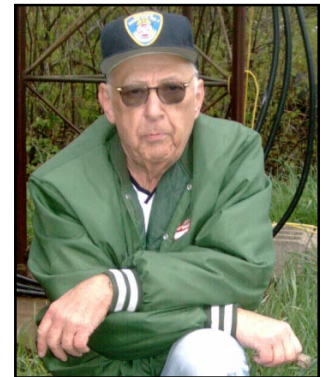
To make purchases, go to the Goodsearch page and click on the Goodshop banner below the search box. The most popular online retailers will appear on the next screen, but you can search for a particular vendor in the search box to the left of the screen. Almost every known online and brick-and-mortar retailer with an online presence has an arrangement with Goodsearch. There is no need to create a new account with your favorite retailer in order for BARRA to benefit from the shopping bonus, the only thing you need to do is to access the retailer from the Goodshop screen.

We thank everyone who has taken advantage of this service in the past year. The windfall from this arrangement has helped to keep BARRA in the black. W2EAS reported at the January board meeting that we finished a little over \$70 ahead for the calendar year from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. Keep those searches and purchases coming!

Jerry Musialowski, WB2VLV, SK

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of a long-time member, and newly-elected board member to BARRA, Jerry, WB2VLV, pictured at right in a 2006 photo taken by WA2HKS.

While he did have some recent health issues, Jerry's passing was unexpected. Indeed, he had attended the December board meeting and holiday party just a few weeks before he died on December 28th.



Jerry was a long-time member of BARRA, helping out with numerous club projects over the years, most recently helping with Technical Committee activities at Cole Road, and was a frequent attendee at the Tech Committee meetings and checked in often to the weekly BARRA Tech Net. He was also active in RACES.

BARRA extends its sincere condolences to Jerry's family.

With Jerry's passing comes the sad task of replacing him on the board of directors. According to BARRA's by-laws, in the case of a vacancy in the board before the end of a term the board can appoint a member to fill in the vacancy until the next regularly scheduled election. The board has come up with a short list of members who will be approached about filling in the vacant board position until the elections next fall.

The Annual BARRA Auction is Next Month!

The BARRA Auction is coming up very soon: next month! Monday, February 16th is the date. Be sure to dig through your electronic goodies that you no longer have use for and bring them on over!

We also will need helpers that evening. We'll need folks to help set up chairs and tables, staff the kitchen/refreshments, and to help move the auction lots to the auction block.

In related news, it is a 99% certainty at press time that we will be meeting in a new location beginning with the BARRA Auction. The St. Bartholomew's congregation has invited us to join them at their new facility at 2368 Eggert Road, near the intersection of Eggert Road and Sheridan Drive in the former Temple Beth El building, near the Advance Auto Parts and Rosa's appliance stores. We are told that the meeting room there is very big, so bring lots of stuff to sell!

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	Charles Grammer KA2CQQ '11	886-4513
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '10	836-0417
Directors	<vacant>	

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

W2EUP	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

APRS Digi-peater

K2ILH-2	144.39	Amherst
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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.

(716) 632-1189

Sales - Service - Installation

WA2OLW (Leprechaun Graphics, 675-3764) still has BARRA jackets and T-shirts available.

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

US Mail newsletter delivery: add \$4.00

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

Richard Sellers, KG2OR

By the time you read this "Hobby Highlight" CHU Canada will have changed its operating frequency on forty meters. On January 1st, 2009 CHU will broadcast its time tones on 7850 KHz. The ITU gave the other frequency to another broadcast service. Eighty meters, 3330 KHz and twenty meters, 14.670 MHz will remain unchanged. I read about this on ARNewline, and also the ARRL's Features page has published an article concerning the whole event. If you use scientific measurement standards for your time keeping than be aware of this change. WWV from Boulder, CO is still working on 10MHz.



73 de KG2OR

Board Officers Elected

According to BARRA's by-laws, the membership elects the board of directors and the board elects the officers. At the January meeting the board elected its officers for 2009:

President	Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ
Vice-President	Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT
Secretary	Charles Grammer, KA2CQQ
Treasurer	Ed Swan, W2EAS
Director	To be appointed by the board

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"

146.73 Leaves its Hotel Home

As reported in the previous issue of *The Link*, the hotel home of the K2ILH 146.73 repeater has been without electricity since the summer and thus the repeater has been off the air since that time. The trustees have been in contact with the hotel personnel the entire time and it has been clear for a while that the situation at the hotel is not going to change any time soon.



On Saturday, December 13th a hearty crew including W2EAS, K2ILH, WA2ZSJ, KA2CQQ and AB2UK, braving cold temperatures and ice, went to the site and removed the repeater equipment... no small task considering the repeater was located in the 10th floor elevator penthouse, and there's no electricity to operate the elevator! So, it had to be hauled down the stairs.

The antenna could not be removed that day -- see the above photo that KA2CQQ caught of W2EAS assessing the penthouse roof situation while WA2ZSJ steadied the ladder. The roof of the hotel and penthouse were glare ice which did not make for the safest of situations, and the removal of the antenna was postponed for an ice-less day on the roof.

The trustees are in negotiations for a new site for the 146.73 machine in the Niagara Falls area. More information as it is known.

Refreshment Chair Needed

BARRA is in need of a person or persons to take on the duty of refreshment chair for our general meetings. Dave and Sandy Halik, W2ZZA and KC2LGK were our most recent coffee & doughnut folks and we thank them for their service with this task over the last few years. They have stepped aside and it is time for someone else to take up the, um, glaze?

The job is not difficult. It requires bring a box or two of supplies to the meetings containing our coffee, creamer, plates, napkins, etc. and making the coffee at the meetings, as well as picking up a dozen or two of doughnuts on the way to the meeting.

We have six general meetings a year, February, April, June, September, October and December, so it's not an every month commitment.

If you, or you and some other members, want to take up the cause of refreshments for the meetings, please contact your editor at ka2wft@arrl.net or 834-2664 evenings.

Remember that articles on any ham radio or technology-related topic are always welcome in *The Link*!

Storage Space Needed

The club is in need of storage space for club equipment that is presently stored at WNED-AM. We can no longer keep the items at that location and will need to move it from that space soon. If you have covered, dry storage space and would be willing to let the club use it, please contact a board member.

More Hobby Highlights

Rich Sellers, KG2OR

This "Hobby Highlight" is about keeping good hearing in a noisy world. Excluding occupational risks, because you should take care of yourself on the job, I would like to raise your consciousness regarding wearing head phones. As amateurs we wear head phones while copying Morse code or other modes. It could also be possible that in your spare time you listen to the MP3 player. I found in the Amateur Radio News Line a reference to a Belgium web site that focused upon researchers who want "100 dB," one hundred decibels, to be the limit for people who are subject to intense sound for long periods of time. They conclude, that if a person remains in this environment for longer than five years permanent hearing damage can occur.

I see people of all ages using the MP3 players, and sometimes, if I am sitting close to someone listening to an MP3, I can hear the music coming from the tiny head phones. It should be our public service to warn people about the potential dangers occurring while listening to loud music. You can learn more about the Belgium report, and the demands France put on Apple Inc. to limit decibel ranges to one hundred. "Eighty nine" decibels is a dangerous level! Please see http://www.Expatica.com/be/articles/news/EU_-turn-down-MP3-players-or-risk-hearing-loss.html

73de KG2OR.

Dues are Due!

We are nearing the end our dues renewal season, but fortunately many of our members have already re-upped for the coming year. BARRA's financial year runs from October to September so all dues are renewable beginning each October. At the moment we have the highest renewal percentage for this time of year that we have had in a very long time... great work everyone! For those few who have yet to renew, please do so as soon as possible. As always, the status of your dues is on the mailing label for paper *Link* recipients, and there will be a special email sent in the coming days to the electronic newsletter folks.

Field Day

We're quickly running out of room in this issue, but a quick reminder is in order for Field Day 2009! Save the weekend of June 26-27 to participate in BARRA's entry into Field Day. Bill Brown, KB2TOY, is once again chairing the event. More information as we get closer to June, but for now get the date on your calendars and plan on stopping by for whatever time you can spare that weekend. Overnight operators especially are needed this year.

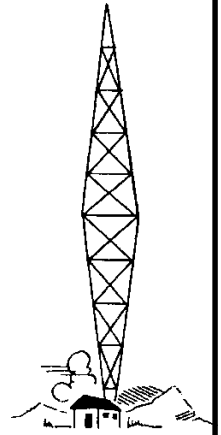


It's time for the

Annual BARRA

Ham Radio & Electronics

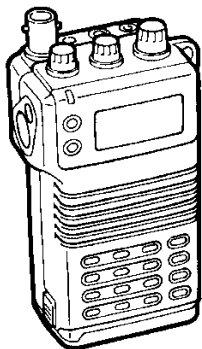
AUCTION



And Everyone's Invited to Buy or Sell!

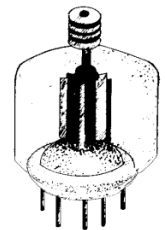
Ham Radio Gear . Scanners . Computer Equipment . Parts
Books . CBs . Test Equipment . More!

Monday, February 16, 2008
St. Bartholomew's Church



Tonawanda, NY

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

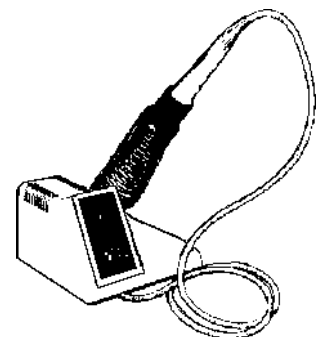
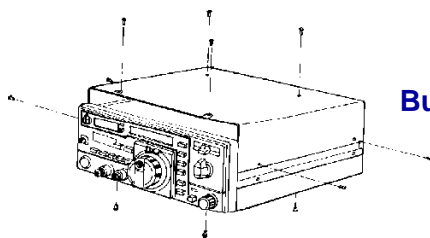


BARRA Retains 10% of each item's selling price.

\$2.00 per person donation
Refreshments Available

50/50 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.

Per membership vote earlier this year, there will no longer be a January meeting.

Monday, February 16, 2009 -- Annual BARRA Auction! Turn your unused electronic goodies into cash!

Monday, April 20, 2009 -- Program TBA.



NO GENERAL MEETINGS IN JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, AUGUST OR NOVEMBER

The *Link* is not published in March, May, August and November.

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.

Reminder:
There will be **no** meeting
this month!