

The Link

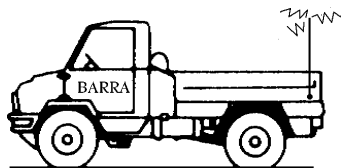
July 2006



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

It's Time for the Annual Mobile Clinic!

Good grief, is it summer already? It is, and it is time for BARRA's annual summer event, the Mobile Clinic and Picnic. The date is Monday, July 17, 2006 and the location is the Cole Road repeater site (directions at right). Plan on gathering starting around 5 PM and the fun continues until dark. Rain date will be the following Monday, July 24.



The BARRA Mobile Clinic dates back to the days when VHF and UHF rigs were homemade or modified commercial "monsters" that were drifty (at best) and required a bit of attention to be kept

up to snuff. While the rigs of today don't need the constant care and feeding of the rigs of old, there are still aspects of one's mobile setup subject to change like the SWR of your antenna system and new rigs sometimes come out of the box with deviation or audio level issues. The BARRA Technical Committee will have various test equipment available for you to evaluate your rigs, HTs or mobile setups. Plan on bringing any manuals, "diddle sticks" and other tools if you anticipate having to make adjustments to your rigs or antennas. The folks in the Tech Committee are good, but they aren't mind readers!

The picnic part of the gathering dates to the days when the club picnic was held in August at W2OXB's mountain "estate" in Cherry Creek, NY. Some years back the picnic was rolled into the Mobile Clinic to make a combined event.

For the picnic, the club provides the grills and soft drinks -- and maybe some special condiments -- but members need to provide their own foodstuffs. If you are so inclined, bring a dish of something to share, and maybe an extra hot dog or two for members who have to come straight from work.

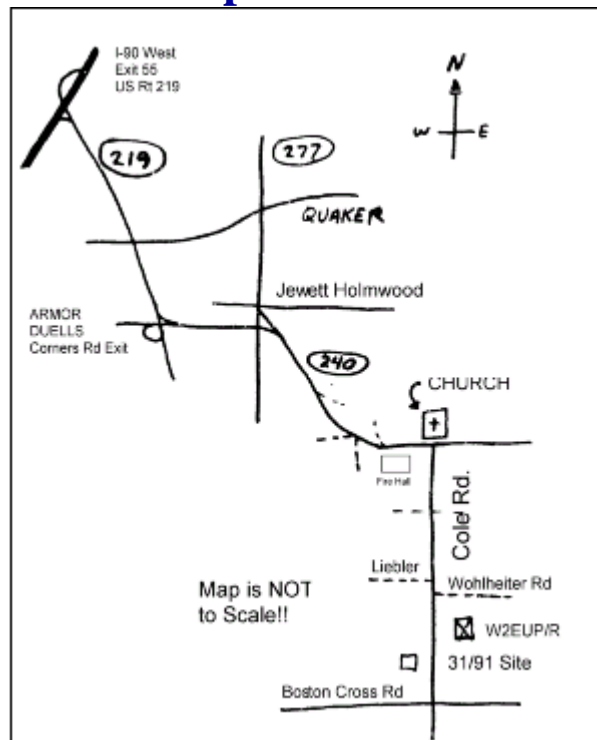
The Mobile Clinic is a traditional summer fellowship event for BARRA and non members are welcome to attend as well. Bring a ham radio friend along to meet the BARRA crew! See you there!

Greater Buffalo Hamfest WNY ARRL Convention

Saturday August 12, 2006
Main Transit Firemans Grounds
6777 Main St. Williamsville, New York

Hamfest Info - <http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net>

Map to Cole Road Repeater Site



TOW2EUP/R FROM BUFFALO:

Take the Thruway, I-90, westbound, to Exit 55, US Rt 219. Continue down US 219 to the Armor Duells Corners exit (after Mile Strip Rd).

At the top of the exit, turn right.

Proceed to intersection with Rt 277, and continue straight through.

Proceed along Rt. 240 about 2.1 mi. as it bends and twists its way along. You will come to a stop light, bear to the left at the light. Watch for a fire hall on your right not far past the stop light -- Cole Rd is soon after!

After the fire hall, very shortly on your left is a white church. Almost immediately is a right turn, watch for yellow "T" sign -- this is Cole Rd! Turn rt. onto Cole Rd.

Proceed along Cole Rd approx. 6.1 miles. The site is less than 1/2 mile from the intersection of Liebler and Wohlheiter Roads. Look for two 100 ft. towers on your left.

Turn left onto driveway just past a pond and small house. Go up small hill and watch for directions for where to park. Please DO NOT park on the paved driveway -- it is the driveway of our neighbors in the back.

The Mobile Clinic will begin around 5:00 pm and continue until dark, or thereabouts. In case of "iffy" weather, listen to 146.91/444.00 for updates about local conditions in Boston.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '06 634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '06 834-2664
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Erie County Emer. Coord.	Gary Wysocki N2WLS

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
WB2DSS	PL 151.4	443.925 +	Niagara Falls
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

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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 \$2.50/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.).



Echolink on 146.73

Bill Pike, K2ILH

You may be aware that during the past several months an Echolink connection has been available on the 146.73 repeater. The purpose of this trial has been to evaluate operation and interest by local amateurs in this feature. Echolink has been in use for several years and its operation and features have been covered extensively in various publications. This connection enables local repeater users to contact other amateurs worldwide, individually or through remote repeaters, by entering DTMF codes for specific nodes or for nodes selected at random. Licensed operators may also access the 146.73 repeater through other repeaters or through the Internet.

Locally initiated connections have been mainly to chat with former area hams that have relocated to warmer climes. A popular connection is to the Bartow repeater which is workable from central Florida. The DTMF code "99" has been assigned to speed dial this repeater. Random selection of a connection most often finds no activity at the remote connection just like calling on the local frequency and hearing no response. But occasionally a response is received, and it's usually an English speaking ham.

On the other side of the coin, remote stations connect from all over the world. Likewise, they often don't get a response from a station within range of our repeater. Some that did connect recently are from UK, Algeria, Austrailia, Greece, Germany, Panama. I talked to a guy who was driving his SUV through the backcountry of western Panama and using his mobile to access a remote base at his home.

Repeater listeners may have heard the "disconnected" announcement. This is the response to pressing the octothorpe (#) key to determine if the Echolink connection is available for use. It is also the disconnect command. The connection has generally been available during the day between 8 AM and 8 PM but may be unavailable without supervision.

While this trial has been interesting, and it has produced an increased activity on the 146.73 repeater, no decision has yet been reached on continuing. Enhancements could make the connection available on an around-the-clock basis but would require additional hardware and the associated coordination with our host at the repeater site. For the time being you are invited to enjoy the connection as available.

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Field Day 2006!

Some of the BARRA action caught by KA2WFT



(L-R) Brian, WA2CWF, Dave, W2ZZA, and Bill, KB2TOY, work on assembling the 10-20 meter rigid dipole antenna.



"For crying out loud, put the camera down and give us a hand!"



"No, Bill, it's overhand first, then pull it through to tie!"



Up, up and away!



Raising the antenna mast.



Bill, KB2TOY, checks out the 15M action.

More Field Day Photos



Working out a last-minute bug in the logging computers.



Charles, KA2CQQ, gets some pointers on HF operating from Greg, K2GTM.

BARRA Tour of WKBW-TV's Transmitter Site

Some scenes grabbed by KA2WFT at BARRA's June 19th tour



Checking out the base of the 1000-ft tower.



At these power levels, combiners and feedlines look more like plumbing and boilers than radio stuff!



K2GTM shows the group the exciter of the VHF analog transmitter



K2GTM points out the control screen of the UHF DTV transmitter.

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, July 17, 2006 -- Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic at the Cole Road repeater site.

Friday, August 4, 2006 -- Technical Committee meeting at the Cole Road site.

Friday, September 8, 2006 -- Technical Committee meeting at the school, note the September date is the *second* Friday, not the first!

Monday, September 18, 2006 -- General membership meeting at the church. 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.

NOTE WELL:

Summer Technical Committee Meetings are being held at the Cole Repeater Site instead of the school due to summer scheduling differences at the school.