

# The Link

July 2007



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

## It's Summer: Time for the BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic

BARRA's summertime get-together is almost here, the annual Mobile Clinic and Picnic at the Cole Road repeater site (directions at right) will take place Monday, July 16 starting around 5:30 PM. In the case of inclement weather, the rain date will be the following Monday, July 23. Dave, WA2TVT, has volunteered to be the local weather watcher for the day. Check out 146.91/444.00 for Dave's updates if the weather should prove to be "iffy" that day.

Born in an era of homebrewed and modified commercial two-way radios, the Mobile Clinic was a time to true-up drifty rigs and fine tune mobile antenna installations. While today's rigs aren't the drifty monstrosities of old, many "rice boxes" have poorly adjusted audio and/or deviation out of the box, and mobile antennas still need checking. Here's an opportunity to find out where your rig(s) stands. There will be commercial test equipment available to evaluate your equipment, however if you anticipate having to make adjustments, please bring your manuals, diddle sticks, etc. that you will need to work on your rig. Every rig has a different way of making adjustments, whether through an "old fashioned" pot on a circuit board or a service menu through the radio's controller -- or even an external computer -- and though our Tech Committee folks are good and can maybe lend hand, they can't possibly know every radio out there.

The picnic portion of the evening is bring your own. BARRA will provide grills and charcoal and a hot fire. Since some members may be coming directly from work, you may wish to bring a bit of extra food to share. Folks wishing to bring a dish to pass are most welcome to do so. Members are also reminded that the Cole Road site has no comfort facilities and are advised to plan ahead. Please also remember that the club's insurance liability policy forbids the consumption of alcohol on club property and at club-sponsored functions.

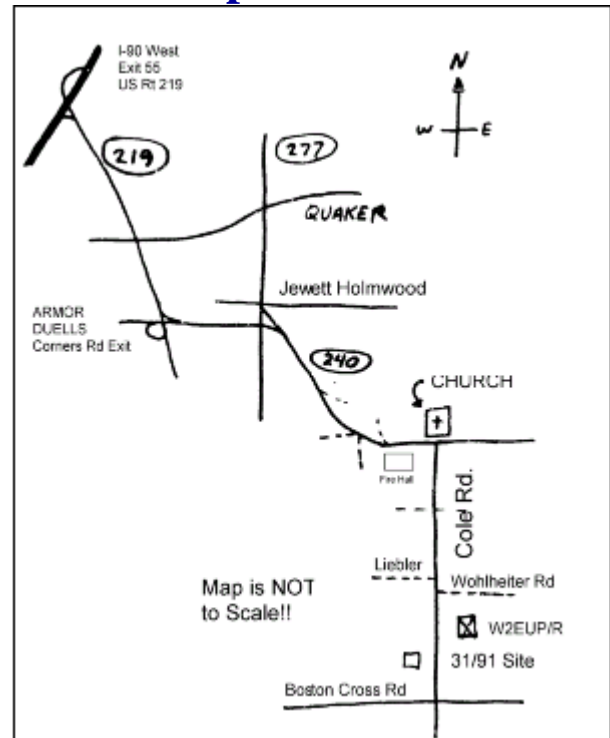
The Mobile Clinic and picnic will run from around 5:30 PM until sun down. The sunsets from the site can be spectacular (see page 4), you might want to bring a camera. Do plan on attending, though! See you there.

## Congrats, Rich!

Our "Hobby Highlights" columnist, Rich Sellers, KG2OR, has self-published on the web a collection of poetry he's written. Check out <http://www.bigbusiness.9f.com/>

It just goes to further show that our membership is a collection of many talents... what are yours that you care to share with us, maybe in a membership meeting program, or *Link* article, or ... ?

## 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 5:30 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 '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

K2GTM	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.).



## Applying for WAS or VUCC?



Are you applying for these ARRL awards and need your QSL cards verified? You can contact BARRA member Bill Pike, K2ILH. Bill is an ARRL-sanctioned QSL checker for WAS and VUCC and he can check your cards locally so you don't have to pack up those hard-won cards and risk them in the mail for the trip to Newington and back.

The ARRL web site lists all the rules and requirements for award applicants starting at <http://www.arrl.org/awards> and should be researched before contacting Bill. He notes, "I only do the WAS and VUCC but you can find others [in the WNY area] on this site too. [There is a search function to locate local checkers for the different awards] It is important for applicants to get it right. It would be helpful if they read about it on the web site. Don't forget, once I sign the form you can't get it back. You must have the stamped, addressed envelope and payment to the ARRL so I can mail it."

Contact Bill by email at [k2ilh@arrl.net](mailto:k2ilh@arrl.net) or catch him on the air to make arrangements to meet up and get checked. His phone number is on the ARRL web site... how's that for making you read the web site first!?

## Meeting Program for September: Other Hobbies Night

Here's an opportunity for all BARRA members to participate in a general meeting program: Other Hobbies Night! This is being planned for the general meeting night on September 17.

While we sometimes forget that there are hobbies other than amateur radio, there really are other neat hobbies out there and we know that some of our members are really "into" them. How about sharing your other hobby with the BARRA crew?

What we are envisioning for the September meeting is to have a trade fair sort of set up with members at different tables with the information, materials, show & tell items, etc. of their other hobby and we can roam among the tables and see who has what to show. It doesn't need to be a technically-minded hobby, we just need you to participate!

It would be really great if you can bring items that you work and deal with in the other hobby, but we realize that it isn't possible to bring that restored 1932 Packard into the basement of the church! Bring it to the parking lot, or bring photos of the restoration process, or a fender that's in the middle of sandblasting, or, well, you get the idea. As we know, hams are a curious lot and will be interested in seeing the nuts and bolts of other hobbies. We know we have folks into RC airplanes, wood carving, antique military equipment, stained glass, and on it goes.

So we can publicize what's going to be at the meeting, we are asking that you contact your editor and let him know what you'll be bringing. He'd like to put a list in the September *Link* of the members and hobbies that will be represented to entice the membership to come out and have a look. Though, if you're like the editor, picking only ONE other hobby to bring in will be tough... Contact Doug at [ka2wft@arrl.net](mailto:ka2wft@arrl.net) or 834-2664 and let him know what you'll be showing.



## Field Day Operations

BARRA once again mounted an entry for the annual Field Day contest. Participants and visitors to the site numbered around twenty over the two-day event and the operators racked up nearly 500 QSOs. Here are some views captured by KA2WFT.



The Field Day site. Two G5RV antennas were raised, one between the towers and one between the west tower and the flag-adorned mast pictured, along with the rigid 15M dipole on the shack.



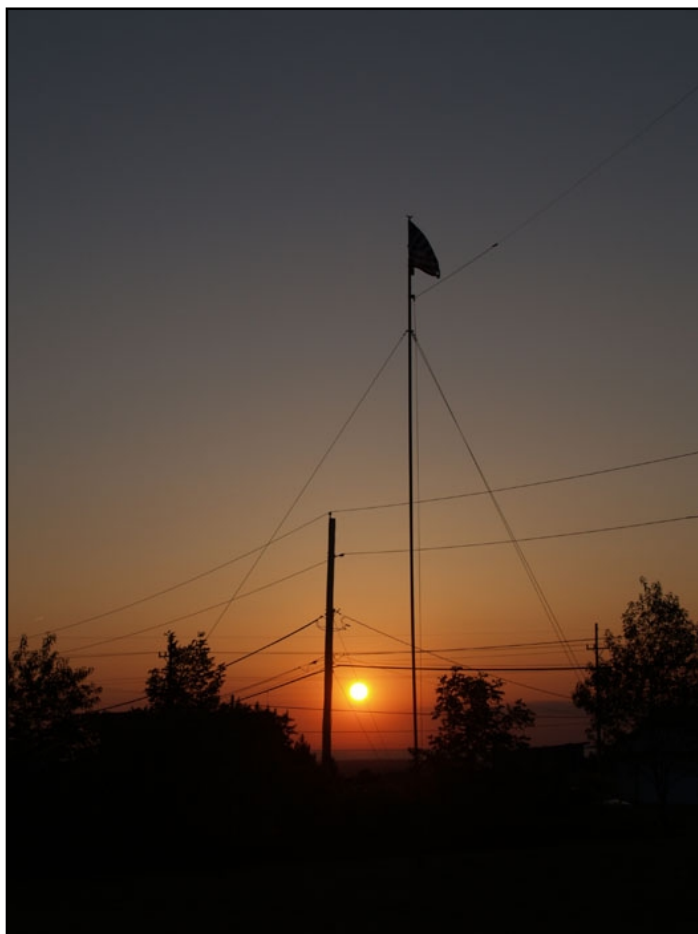
"The Brians," WA2CWF (l) and KC2PIT (r) work the radios. WA2CWF and KA2WFT netted 37 CW QSOs for the group.



Dave, WA2TVT; Brian, KC2PIT; and Dave, W2ZZA, attempt a satellite QSO Saturday evening.



Swapping ham stories around the campfire after the picnic are Charles, KA2CQQ; Dave, WA2TVT; Tom, W2EYF and Damon, AB2UK.



Saturday's sunset viewed through the antenna mast. Thanks to one and all who participated in some manner over the Field Day weekend. Put next year's Field Day dates of June 28-29, 2008 on your calendar now!

## Chet's Shack Update!



April, 2004: What a mess!

Paint has been applied. The disintegrating wood door has been replaced with a steel entry door. A new roof is forthcoming. It's a dramatic change.

Future plans for the shack include refurbishing the interior as an operations center where members can bring their rigs and operate from a splendid location. The BARRA Field Day operations have done just that the last couple of years and can attest to the excellent antenna location the Cole Road site is for any amateur band.

Here are two photographs taken by Ted, WA2HKS. The first is of the shack taken in April 2004 just before it was placed on the railroad tie foundation. The second was taken June 16, 2007 as the work crew tended to some of the last details. Note that that photo was taken almost exactly three years to the day after the foundation work.

While many members have lent their help and skills to the project, very special thanks go out to Bruce Barrows, WA2HVE, who has spearheaded the exterior renovation project, along with his dedicated assistant, Damon Edwards, AB2UK. Bruce and Damon have been present at every work party that's involved the exterior of Chet's Shack, and it was Bruce's tools that we used. Be sure to come out to the Mobile Clinic this month if for no other reason than to view "the new" Chet's Shack first-hand; it's a sight to behold.

As reported in the last issue of *The Link*, work on the Chet Riker, W2QMK, Memorial Operations Shack is nearing completion of the exterior renovations. This has been a project that has been underway since June of 2004 when work began in earnest.

The shack was originally constructed by the late Chet Riker, W2QMK, as his personal ham shack away from home. The frame of the shack is extremely sturdy, being discovered the hard way by the later work crews -- the studs are some hardwood, maple perhaps, that make nail driving a frustrating experience. After Chet's death the shack and the property on which it sits were acquired by BARRA from his family.

On June 12, 2004, the serious work on the shack began when a crew raised the building off the ground and installed railroad ties on which the building now sits. This got the building off the ground and away from damaging moisture. After that work began on the exterior. The original large double-hung windows, now rotting and falling apart, were replaced with smaller casement windows as a security measure. The exterior composite and now deteriorating siding was replaced with sheets of T-111 siding. The original open eaves were boxed in.



June 16, 2007: Damon, AB2UK, operates the chop saw while Doug, KA2WFT, steadies the board, and Dave, WA2TVT, awaits the trimmed board for installation on the north gable of the shack, now looking very sharp.

## Do You "GIVE A SHEET"?

*Dave Halik, W2ZZA*

As you read above, this spring and early summer has brought us close to the completion of the Chet Riker Shack exterior restoration project. The shack is looking great! Many thanks to Bruce, WA2HVE and Damon, AB2UK as well as all the others for their hard work and planning on this project.

Next on the list is restoration to the interior. In preparation for this project BARRA is conducting a "GIVE A SHEET" program. Yes, here is a chance for you to "give a sheet" of plywood to be used as interior wall board. With your donation of \$20 per "Sheet" we will be able to install a 4-foot section of plywood as wallboard and insulation along with the wire and conduit for power, and a counter top surface for setting up rigs to operate.

A total of ten (10) sheets are needed to complete the walls. In addition four sheets will be needed as underlayment for the floor. Donations for the ceiling and floor tile have already been made.

So as we move to the completion of the "Chet Riker, W2QMK, Memorial Operations Center" please consider "Giving a Sheet" and donate \$20 to the cause.



## Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



### FIRST CLASS MAIL

## Calendar of Events

### GENERAL MEETINGS

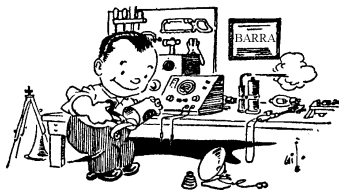
General meetings are held at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Brighton and Fries Roads, Tonawanda, across from Kenmore East HS. Doors open at 7:00 pm for rag chew, business meeting at 7:30, with program following.

**Monday, July 16, 2007** -- Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic at the Cole Road repeater site; directions on Page 1.

**Moinday, September 17, 2007** -- "Other Hobbies Night!" See Page 3 to see how YOU can participate!

**Monday, October 15, 2007** -- Annual meeting of BARRA, Inc. and election of board members. Program TBA.

**Monday, December 17, 2007** -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party. Come out and enjoy holiday fellowship with the BARRA crew.



**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** Mobile Clinic and Picnic  
is this month!

Come out and enjoy summer fellowship  
with the BARRA crew.

**Monday, July 16, 2007!!**