

The Link

July 2005



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

Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic is July 18th!

It's summertime which means it is time for the annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic at our Cole Road repeater site in Boston, NY. The picnic portion of the evening is a bring-your-own event. BARRA will provide grills and word has it there will be some locally famous tube steak condiments available; members need to bring their own meats, buns, and other picnic fare. Since some members may be coming directly from work, it might be neighborly to include a little extra in your own picnic basket to accommodate others who may be less well supplied.

Born in an era of home-built and converted commercial two meter gear, the Mobile Clinic was and is an opportunity to check out one's gear with lab-grade equipment. While today's rigs aren't as drifty as the old boat anchors, sometimes they come out of the box with less-than-optimally-set parameters like deviation too low or too high, DTMF or CTCSS tone levels out of whack and so on. If you anticipate having to "dink" with your rig, make sure you have all the documentation for your rig with you as well as any tools and diddle sticks you might need.

The Mobile Clinic and Picnic is a great opportunity for members and their friends to see BARRA's "flagship" repeater site at Cole Road, which houses the 146.91 and 224.82 repeaters, as well as the microcomputer linking system which ties many of BARRA's repeaters, whether at Cole Road or not, together.

Monday, July 18th is the date, we will start gathering after 5 PM. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. Rain date will be the following Monday, July 25th.



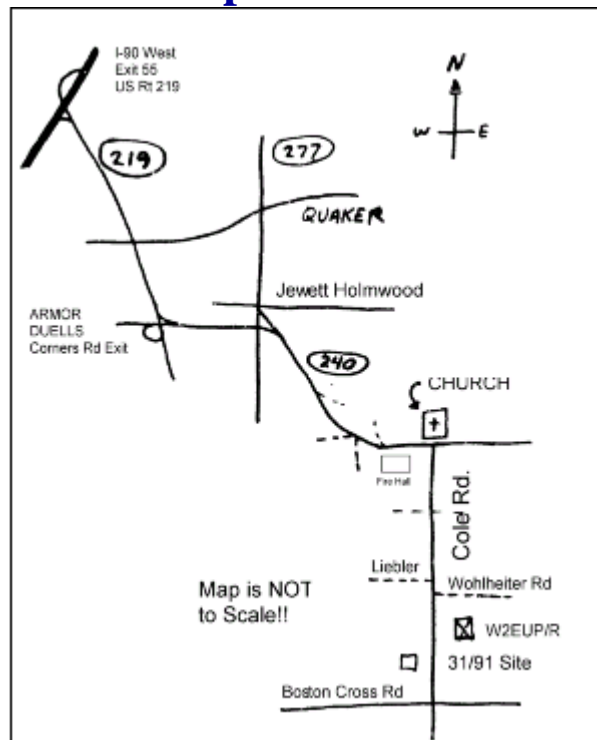
Look!

Up in the air! It's a bird, it's a plane... Oh, it's just Joe, N2ZZDU.

On a recent trip atop the east tower at Cole Road, Joe snapped a rather different self-portrait with the A-frame shack very visible in the background.

Not many members get to see what the shack looks like from 100 ft. up! (nor do some of us WANT to!!)

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
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
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.

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

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

FFL#
16-12569

N.Y. STATE LIC. #
DEALER - D555
GUNSMITH - G428

K2PWL
IRWIN LASHER
DEALER IN FIREARMS & ACCESS.

CERTIFIED NRA INSTRUCTOR
PISTOL - RIFLE - SHOTGUN

445-3808 CELL
838-1468 EVE.

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.).



Hobby Highlights

Richard Sellers, KG2OR

ARNewsline has news. The ARRL executive committee wants to alter the present method of allocating band and frequency by mode of communication. Instead of CW, phone, TV or satellite they want to use bandwidth. For further discussions please see: www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/bandwidth/bw-faq.html. Be ready for the future today! I used to say "our present day market models may become future products tomorrow." Currently, as you well know, mode and license class show you what to work with, while frequency ranges define where to work. Given this; it is fairly simple to operate in amateur radio bands.



The ARRL executive committee wants the FCC to cease separating analog and digital modes in the bands, and give us segments of frequencies for operation. Three KHz is used as a source for space. In single and double sideband six KHz and nine KHz are used. If further subclasses are necessary then band planning will work. ARNewsline cites Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, as the author of this news. The executive committee drafted this idea April 9, 2005 in Denver, Colorado. Before any real change the ARRL must petition the FCC to redefine rules.

If bandwidth becomes the new common denominator for frequency allocation, and mode becomes the instrument, then we will have to be patient and see if operators can accommodate each other on the bands. Many modes are available to us. Perhaps we will see a trial period when amateurs can experiment with this concept.

73 de KG2OR, Richard Sellers.

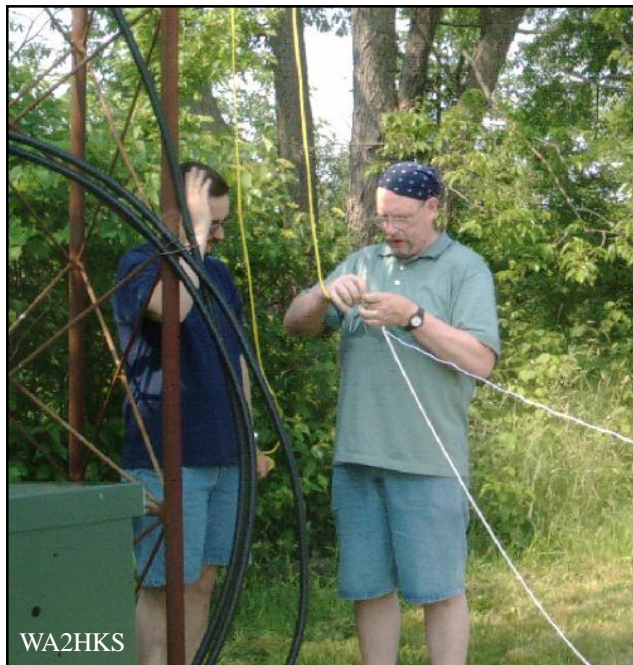
FREE --Limited time offer! Parts of two Erie Products "Mini Quad" antennas for 6 through 20 meters. One complete hybrid quad antenna can be made from the parts. But, you must act fast before they hit the dumpster. Offered by Ed Swan, W2EAS. Call him at 836-0417 or contact him on email at w2eas@arrl.net, either way contact him ASAP if interested.

WA2OLW (Leprechaun Graphics, 675-3764) still has BARRA jackets and T-shirts available. Space didn't allow us to run the larger ad this time.

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

FIELD DAY 2005

With pix from N2ZDU, WA2HKS
and KA2WFT



WA2HKS

"Geez, Dave, I don't think that's a sheep shank knot..."



WA2HKS

"OK, who's got the directions for putting this thing together??"



WA2HKS

"I don't have to help, I just stand here to bring up the cool factor for all these radio nerds in my new shades."



WA2HKS

The crew mugging it up for the camera.



WA2HKS

Duct tape, the most versatile adhesive in the known universe.

More pix on the next page!

More Field Day Pix



KA2WFT

Always a cable to build at the last minute...



N2ZDU

"This laptop worked at home this morning -- honest!"



KA2WFT

KB2TOY has a go on HF



N2ZDU

KC2LGK works the portable talk-in station



N2ZDU

The Saturday afternoon crew (L-R): Bill, KB2TOY; Dave, W2ZZA; Sandy, KC2LGK; Doug, KA2WFT; Greg, K2GTM.



N2ZDU

K2GTM works HF and KA2WFT works 2M SSB.



N2ZDU

The extreme heat in the shack caused a little too much affection for the electric fans...

The antenna farm constructed for the event consisted of two G5RV HF antennas and a 9-element Yagi for 2M SSB. Over 300 QSOs were made over the course of the glorious weather weekend. It sure made up for the cold & wind of last year!

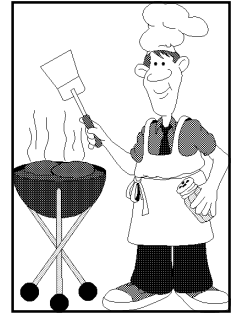


N2ZDU

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



*"Serving Western New
York and the Niagara
Peninsula"*

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Calendar of Events

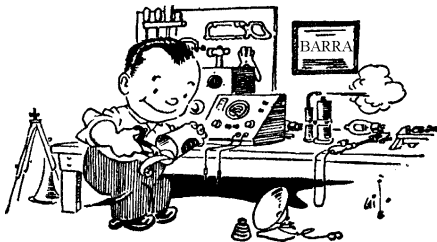
GENERAL MEETINGS

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 18, 2005 -- Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic & Picnic at our Cole Road repeater site. Details and map to the site on page 1 of this issue!

Monday, September 19, 2005 -- Meeting program TBA.

Monday, October 17, 2005 -- BARRA Annual Meeting with election of board members. 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.

SPECIAL TECH COMMITTEE NOTICE:

The Technical Committee will **NOT** meet at the BOCES school in August due to summer scheduling differences at the school. Instead, the Tech Committee will meet on the usual night (Aug. 5th) at the Cole Road site.