



The Link

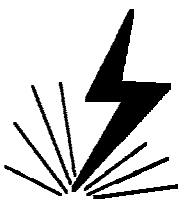
Official Journal of the Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

June 1999

Tour of Weather Service Office Instead of Church Meeting

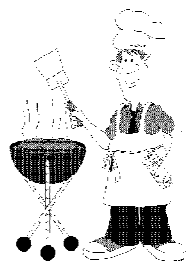
If you missed May's tour of the telephone museum and switching office, here's your chance to participate in another great field trip for BARRA. We will tour the National Weather Service office located near the airport on Sugg Road. The NWS has some great technology to see, and those who arrive before 6:45 pm will get a chance to witness the nightly radiosonde launch.

Come on out to what should prove to be a fascinating and fun tour -- and see where your tax dollars go! Tour starts at 7 PM. See you there.



BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic Coming Next Month

Next month the annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic will return to the Cole Road repeater site. This is your annual opportunity to visit the main BARRA repeater site, check out your rigs, and enjoy a picnic supper with the BARRA gang. As in the past, BARRA provides the grills and drinks, you bring the "grillables." Please remember that our insurance policy forbids the consumption of alcohol on BARRA property or at BARRA events. Also, remember that there are no "comfort facilities" on site, so plan ahead...



There will be a map to the site published in next month's *Link*. Mark the date now -- Monday, July 19th -- and plan on attending!

The BARRA E-Mail Listserver

To join, send an empty e-mail message to:

barra-subscribe@perdix.acsu.buffalo.edu

To send a message to the list subscribers, address your e-mail to:

barra@perdix.acsu.buffalo.edu

Annual WNY Club Picnic Coming in July!

This year will see the second all-WNY ham club picnic. It will be held Sunday, July 25th, at Akron Falls Park, Akron NY, shelter #16. We are told that this is by far a better location than last year, with plenty of room, shade trees, and easy accessibility to the rest rooms.

Like last year, there will be a special event station and will have a distinct Military theme using emission mode A3E, or good old Amplitude Modulation.

The transmitter will be a T-368, which is a 750 lb AM/CW unit used by the US military from the 1950s to the 1970s. The T368 uses a single 4-400 in the final, and a pair of 4-125 for AM plate modulation.

The receiver will be a R-390A, again of the same origin and vintage, and there will be an RCA broadcast console from the 60s, along with audio processing in use.

All are invited to stop over and operate, we need operators and helpers to get the station up and going.

More information about the station can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.buffnet.net/~bhowes/t-368.htm>

Please contact me directly if you would like to help those setting up the station. Email at kg2ic@arrl.net or home (716) 689-6727.

This promises to be a great time and I hope to see you all there!

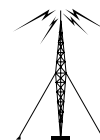
73, Bruce KG2IC

147.00 Off Air Temporarily

For a few days early in the month, the W2OXB 147.00 repeater was off the air due to excessive noise on the input frequency. The Elmwood Avenue site, while a great location for transmitting, has a fair bit of RF noise that gets into the receiver from time to time.

The machine was returned to the air on June 7th after getting its squelch tightened a bit.

There are plans to visit the site in the near future with spectrum monitoring equipment in an attempt to identify the noise source and thus develop a plan to work around it.



Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

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President	Mark Lienert KG2DE '00 447-1738
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Activities List	Ed Swan KD2JW
ID Badges	KD2JW
Erie County Emer. Coord.	Karl Weir N2NJH

Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	29.68 -	Buffalo
K2ISO	145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2GUG	146.73 -	Grand Island
W2EUP	146.91 -	Boston
W2OXB	147.00 +	Kenmore
W2EUP	224.82 -	Boston
WR2AHL	442.00 +	Wethersfield
WA2HKS	444.00 +	Buffalo
WB2DSS	444.75 +	Kenmore

Digital Repeaters

W2EUP-1	145.59	Niagara Falls
N2GH-1	145.59	Wethersfield, NY
K2IMF-1	145.01	Marilla, NY

RACES Net

Stop by Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm and join the Erie County ARES/RACES net which meets on the 146.91 and 444.00 repeaters. N2NJH is net control.

BARRA Packet BBS

BARRA has a bulletin board area on the IPBUFF (N2NJH) Packet/Internet gateway system. Connect through any local node that shows IPBUFF in its node list. IPBUFF is available to 1200 baud users directly on 145.63 MHz.

BARRA Home Page

<http://hamgate1.sunyerie.edu/barra.htm>

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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, nor 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 CompuServe address: 73323,672. If submitting through the Internet, the full address is 73323.672@compuserve.com. The editor may be reached by telephone in the evenings at (716) 833-8375.

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

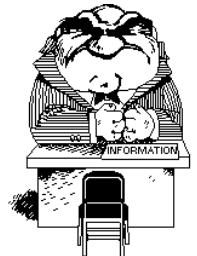
Note: A voting member is a member who has performed a service for BARRA (e.g. helped out at an activity, written a *Link* article, etc.).

BARRA Table at the Rochester Hamfest

The local hamfest season is once again upon us and BARRA held its now-annual information table at the Rochester Hamfest on Saturday, June 5th. As always, many information pamphlets, BARRA repeater maps, and membership applications were distributed. Two new members signed up on the spot and are noted in the new member column below.

Several BARRA members stopped by during the day to help staff the table and we thank: KG2DE, KA2WFT, N2GH, N2YDM, W2EUP, N2RKQ and KB1XW for stopping by or offering assistance.

There are plans to have the table at other hamfests this season, watch for announcements on the list server for specific events.



New Members

BARRA welcomes the following new members to its ranks who signed up at the Rochester Hamfest table:

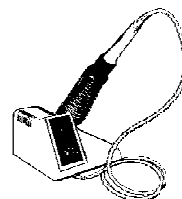
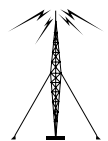
W2PB*	Paul Beeman	E. Islip
KA2WYE	Robert Koster	Orchard Park

* Paul is a returning member to BARRA, having belonged back in the 80s.

Repeater Update

There are a few items to report from the Technical Committee:

W2EUP-1 Packet Digipeater - This digi disappeared from the airwaves some time ago. It had been running flawlessly for many years -- so many in fact that the owners of its home, the hotel next to the north Grand Island bridge, has changed hands more than once since the last time a BARRA member had visited the site! The digi was retrieved and repaired (there was a short in it) and will return to the air soon.



WR2AHL 442.00 - The UHF repeater at Wethersfield was wiped out by a power surge and has been off the air while Mike, W2HYP, repairs the damage to the repeater and power supply. It is suspected that the surge occurred when the FM station's backup generator started up during a power failure.

Software Review

DeLorme Eartha Global Explorer*Ben Bass, N2YDM*

DeLorme has broken some new ground with their latest product, Eartha Global Explorer. There are two versions available. There is the "conventional" CD-Rom version and the DVD version. Since I have DVD hardware, I opted for the DVD, which offers 3-D features not available on the CD version. To their credit, DeLorme listened to me (and I'm sure others) and packaged this in a real CD jewel case.

System requirements are Pentium 150 MHZ or faster processor, 233 MHZ recommended for 3-D flight, 16 MB RAM (32 MB recommended), 40 MB available hard drive space, Microsoft Windows 95 or 98, SVGA card, DVD rom drive. DeLorme recommends a 3-D graphics accelerator, joystick, sound card, speakers and microphone. DeLorme GPS receivers (Tripmate and Earthmate) are supported. Most NMEA compatible GPS receivers are also supported.

I've come to expect easy installation and straightforward operating menus from DeLorme products. Eartha Global Explorer is no exception. The program practically installs itself if you follow the on-screen prompts and instructions. With the software installed and my DVD hardware configured, I was ready to begin.

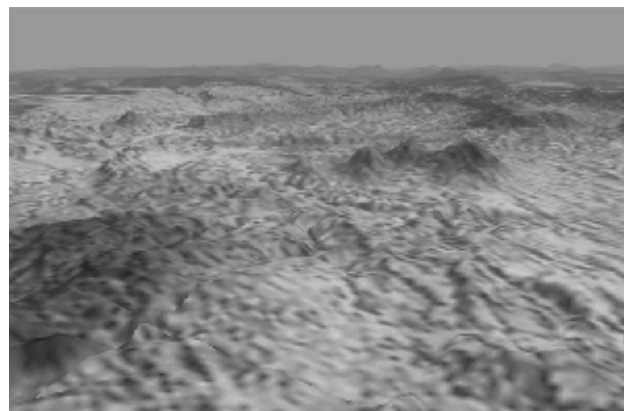
The cutting edge DVD format, and its ability to store up to 4.6 GB on a single layer or 8.5 GB on a double layer, lends itself particularly well to this product. The enhanced satellite imagery that comprises Eartha, lends itself well to the DVD format. You can view the entire planet in 3-D and take advantage of detailed global travel information.

Much like other DeLorme products, you can plan a trip by entering starting and ending points, points along the way, and route preferences. Eartha Global Explorer allows you to do this anywhere in the world. You can also select your mode of travel, using actual air, rail, ferry or road routes.

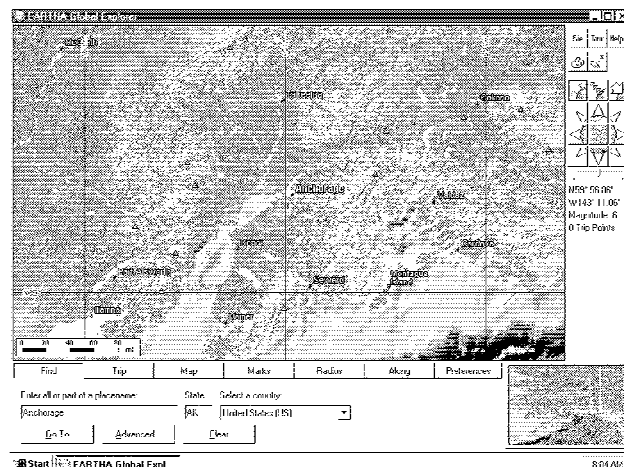
Here is where it gets interesting. Eartha includes Floyd, that talking, animated tour guide, who points out points of interest along your chosen route. Floyd showcases the latest in Agent technology. You can also display Floyd's narration visually, as he speaks. Floyd is a neat gimmick. I like Floyd, and found the feature useful. Personally, his "voice" is a bit too computer for my taste. I would hope future releases would improve this.

For DeLorme's first effort at DVD (and my first experience with DVD) I was very impressed with this product. For the outdoor types, the topographical data is most useful. This is an excellent product and a lot of fun.

Check DeLorme's web site at www.delorme.com for more information.



Sample topo view from Eartha



Another view from the Eartha program

A New Member Writes to BARRA

Thanks for being at the Rochester Hamfest! I was a member in the early 80s when I lived in Buffalo. I get back to WNY from time to time and have a sister in N. Buffalo. I rejoined BARRA in Rochester. Its nice being home again. Since I travel a lot one never knows when I will be in the area. As VP Satellite Engineering for the FOX Television Network, and since WUTV and WUHF are in my service area, I hope to visit the machines more often.

Lastly, who do I submit news letter articles? I am president of the Isip Repeater Group and write monthly for their newsletter. I am also assistant newsletter editor for the Baldwin Hills ARC in Los Angeles, CA.

73 de W2PB Paul Beeman

email: w2pb@beemaninfo.com

*Editor's note: Paul was contacted about where to send articles for **The Link**. We look forward to articles from Paul!*

Articles on any topic are always welcome in The Link!!

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Calendar of Events

GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Brighton & 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, June 21, 1999 - *No meeting at the Church!!* Special tour of the National Weather Service office at the airport. Get there by 6:45 pm and see the radiosonde balloon launch.

Monday, July 19, 1999 - Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic.

Sunday, July 25, 1999 - Annual All WNY Ham Club Picnic at Akron Park. Games and activities for the whole family, and a special event station for the hams.

**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 GLB Electronics, 151 North America Drive (formerly Commerce Pkwy), West Seneca. 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 work parties every Wednesday evening, 8:00 pm, at GLB Electronics. Stop by and give a hand to a repeater or other BARRA project.

The Technical Committee has formal meetings the first Friday of each month around 7:30 pm at GLB. 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.