

The Link

June 2004



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

BARRA Bids Farewell to an Old Friend Keith Laudenslager, K2DSN, SK

On Tuesday, June 1st, BARRA learned the sad news that one of its long-time members, Keith Laudenslager, K2DSN, had passed away the day before. Keith was diagnosed with a brain tumor early last fall.

Keith was an invaluable asset to the club. His technical knowledge, and more specifically his work with microprocessors, found him doing a lot of the intricate code maintenance on the club's repeater controllers. After the death of Gil, W2EUP, Keith took over the role of lead programmer for the Cole Road controller system and worked diligently to document the machine's program and to implement various functions that simplifies the work of the repeater system's control ops. The small repeater controller that operates the 146.73 repeater, the "Mini-Micro" was designed, built and programmed by Keith. He also created a low-power version of the Mini-Micro for the 147.00 repeater when it was being rebuilt for its Cherry Creek home. That repeater never returned to Cherry Creek but the modified controller operated the 147.00 repeater in its new Kenmore, NY home for many years.

Not limited to technical work Keith's activities with BARRA and his friendship with W2EUP found him organizing the cleanout of the former GLB Electronics shop after Gil died in 2001. For many months Keith was at the shop every Wednesday night to guide the club volunteers in the monumental task that faced them. Keith was also a member of the BARRA board of directors from 1986-1988 and was club president in 1988.

In the "real world" Keith was a retired systems engineer with Carlton Controls. He designed various microprocessor-based controls for valve systems that went into the Space Station, the Stealth bomber and fighter, and other "interesting" government contracts. Keith's association with Carlton led to a BARRA tour of his workplace in the late 80s.

A pleasant and knowledgeable gentleman, Keith will be sorely missed not only by BARRA but his many friends and family as well.



Keith and his trusty, albeit well-worn Icom HT



Keith (right) checks out a Zorba computer with Dutch, K2JGI at the 2002 BARRA Auction.



K2DSN (2nd from right) with a Cole Road work crew in April 2003

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

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Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	PL 107.2	29.68 -	Boston
K2ISO		145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2DSN	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

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>

Back issues of *The Link* and a membership application are available on our web site.

Club Call

BARRA holds the club call W2EUP in honor and memory of one of its founders, Gil Boelke, W2EUP.

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!

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The BARRA E-Mail List Serve

To join, send an e-mail message to:

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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.).

This Month's Program: Progress at Cole Road

There's been a fair bit of activity at the Cole Road site the last month or so and some of the members involved in those events will give a summary of what's been done so far, along with the plans for this summer's work out there. There are some photos on Page 4 of this issue of the latest work, but there is, as always, more to the story. Come on out and hear what's been done and what's to come.

On a related note, the Cole Road work on "Chet's Shack" is nearing the point of replacing the siding. Volunteers are needed to help make this big project go smoothly. This will be a perfect time for those unsure of their technical abilities but can swing a hammer or move lumber to help out the club. We promise no soldering!

If you want to help out with the siding project, let us know at the meeting on Monday, June 21st, or drop an email to Ted, WA2HKS, at tertl@e1b.org

BARRA Apparel is Still Available!

T-Shirts \$7.00

Sweatshirts \$11.00

Quilt Lined Jackets \$35.00

Flannel Lined Jackets \$25.00

Sizes:

Youth - Small, Medium, Large
Adult - S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL
(slight add'l charge for XXL and XXXL)

Contact:

Leprechaun Graphics

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“Chet’s Shack” Given an Uplifting Experience

Saturday, June 12th saw a work crew tackle the job of lifting the white outbuilding at the Cole Road site, aka “Chet’s Shack” onto railroad ties to get it off the ground and away from damaging moisture. This is in preparation of resheeting the outside of the shack in the coming weeks.

The job crew consisted of WA2HKS, N2YDM, WA2HVE, KA2WIO, KA2WFT, KC2JUF and N2ILH, with special thanks given to KA2WIO and his spiffy new pickup truck which made a tough job a LOT easier.

“Chet’s Shack,” built by Chet Riker around 50 years ago, has withstood the ravages of time reasonably well, except for the siding. It was determined that if the building is to last another 50 years it needed to be raised a bit from the ground to prevent moisture from doing its nefarious deeds. Now that the building has moved up a bit in the world, the new siding project can begin soon. Next step, however, is to box in the eaves. Watch this space for more progress reports!



A “discussion” ensues over how to proceed next.

Thanks to WA2HKS for the pix!



Getting ready to set the east side of the shack down on the tie.



“Just lift it a bit more, guys!”



Starting to clean up the work site.



All done.

BARRA to Participate in Field Day

Dave Halik, KC2JUF

On Saturday, June 26 and continuing thru Sunday, June 27, 2004 The Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association will hold Field Day at its Cole Road Repeater Site in Boston NY.

This is a first-ever event (or at least in a long while) and offers a unique opportunity to operate for a 24-hour period from a hilltop location.

The Cole Road Site sites is at an elevation of over 1600 feet above sea level and offers a tremendous advantage for UHF and VHF operation as well as a reduced noise background for HF operation.

Set up will begin at 9:00 AM local time on Saturday and ON AIR operations will start at 1:00 PM Local time.

All antennas will be erected that morning and will not use any of the existing towers or structures for support. Batteries and generators will be used to power the radio equipment in accordance with the ARRL rules for Field Day.

Two HF stations, one UHF/VHF all mode station, and one packet / APRS station will be set up for field day operation. All operations will use the legendary BARRA club call W2EUP.

BARRA is seeking operators for all stations to be manned for 24 hours.

To sign up to participate, contact Dave Halik, KC2JUF at kc2juf@arrl.net or 825-4417.



Field Day Weekend Schedule

Don't miss the all-night CANDLE LIGHT QSO section

Saturday June 26th, 2004

9:00am - 11:30am Setup of Tents, Tables, Antennae, Generators, etc.

11:30am - 12:00pm Setup complete - Lunch BYO

12:00pm - 12:50pm Test equipment, SWR, test contacts

1:00pm OFFICIAL START - CQ Field Day DE W2EUP

6:00pm - 7:30pm Pot Luck FAMILY Dinner - bring something yummy to share!

7:30pm - 7:30am Operate all night (CANDLE LIGHT QSOs)



Sunday June 27th, 2004

7:30am - 8:30am Breakfast BYO

8:30am - 1:00pm Field Day continues

1:00pm - 2:00pm Teardown and site cleanup

Remember there is no parking on the driveway at the BARRA site.

NO ALCOHOL is allowed on BARRA property (no exceptions)

Repeater Work at 146.73

During the spring several trips were made to the 146.73 repeater site in Niagara Falls by Ed, W2EAS, and Bill, K2ILH. A couple of gremlins had decided to move into the system (probably trying to get away from the winter weather!) and needed to be chased out. With technical assistance from Ted, WA2HKS, the bugs were squashed and the repeater is back to functioning properly. If you haven't done so recently, check out the 146.73 machine, remembering it needs a 107.2 CTCSS tone. Our thanks to Bill and Ed for the work and the trips, and to Bill for the photos.



"Now connect wire A to socket B..."



"Put down the camera, Bill, and give me a hand!"

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

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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, June 21, 2004 -- Report of work party progress at Cole Road and improvements to "Chet's Shack" at the site.

Saturday-Sunday, June 26-27, 2004 -- BARRA Field Day station at the Cole Road repeater site. Come one, come all for a short or long a stay as you want. Pull up a chair and make some QSOs on your mode of choice.

Monday, July 19, 2004 -- Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic at the Cole Road repeater site. You provide the eats, BARRA provides the grills. Tour the Cole Road facility and enjoy some summer evening fellowship with the BARRA gang.

**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.

Save the date!
BARRA Mobile Clinic & Picnic
Monday, July 19, 2004