

The Link

June 2008



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

June's Program: Movie Night!

This month's general meeting program is courtesy of Ben, N2YDM, who will bring us some videos of interest. Ben has had these movie nights for us in the past and they have always been entertaining (the requisite cartoon starting things out) and informative. This movie night should be no different.

This is our last general meeting before our summer break, so be sure to come on out and say hello to everyone. We look forward to seeing you there.

Field Day is June 28-29!



BARRA's 2007 Field Day setup

It is almost here, Field Day 2008! BARRA once again will be setting up a Field Day station at our Cole Road repeater site for the duration of the contest on Saturday, June 28th and Sunday, June 29th. Bill Brown, KB2TOY, is the event chair. He may be contacted at bill@stumpydogs.org.

Operators of all ability levels are needed throughout the weekend. If you have never operated HF before, this is your chance! The more experienced ops on site will be glad to show you the ropes and will be the control ops of record so it will all be legal. While the primary thrust will be SSB voice contacts, there will be some CW contacts made, too. Those count double! If you have CW skills, we could use them!

Set up of the site will begin around 9 AM Saturday morning. The contest begins at 2 PM and runs for the following 24 hours until 2 PM Sunday. Come and operate at any time, but especially needed are overnight operators. The conditions are "really neat" through the night and west coast contacts are readily made, and every contact is more points for us. Save the dates and come on out to Field Day at Cole Road!

Call CQ, and Tell a Friend

Dave Halik, W2ZZA

Whether you're a Technician, General, Amateur Extra or anything in between there is nothing better than that unexpected DX contact that takes you by surprise and makes your day. My most cherished amateur radio contacts are the ones that I never could plan or engineer and they always seem to happen because the other ham went out of his or her way to seek out a contact by calling CQ.

Yes, the simple act of calling CQ on a quiet frequency or band seems to pay off. As some of you know I've had the luck to make some great VHF DX contacts in this way. The most recent one being on 6 meters (52.525 MHz FM calling frequency) on the night of May 28, 2008, during the BARRA Tech Net. My always-dormant 6 meter FM rig opened squelch and out of the speaker came a 5-9 CQ from W0ROO, Mac in Tonganoxie, Kansas. I wasted no time getting back to Mac and making the contact. I later heard stations from Oklahoma City and other places in the midwest.

Of course the second part of the story is to tell a friend about the band openings. The DX cluster tool in HRD and the DX cluster packet node both are a good way to spread the news but if you're not already watching them you won't know. So I like contacting a local friend or two by radio (on a repeater) or by phone and let them in on the action. Nothing draws more attention to an opening than a group of hams in one area making contact after DX contact.

So, get on the quiet band and call CQ. And if you stir up some DX give me a call, I'll join you.

Save the Date!
Monday, July 21st

**THE ANNUAL BARRA
MOBILE CLINIC & PICNIC**

at the Cole Road repeater site

Bring a friend

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '09	634-6394
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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

APRS Digi-peater

K2ILH-2	144.39	Amherst
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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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Sales - Service - Installation

WA2OLW (Leprechaun Graphics, 675-3764) still has BARRA jackets and T-shirts available.

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

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. 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

US Mail newsletter delivery: add \$4.00

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

Rich Sellers, KG2OR

Between 9-07 and 5-08 I have steadily written "Hobby Highlights." The topics have included the writing of David Sumner, K1ZZ, Internet DX adventures, Echo Link nets, FCC rulings, homebrew, University of Texas, N5XU activities, Japanese having more ham licenses than any other country, their satellite orbiting the moon, and amateur radio status in the Homeland Security Act.



I haven't overlooked technological developments in hardware or software; easily this information can be found in amateur radio magazines. My other comment on this subject is that today's radios are more solid state, have greater automatic controls, scopes, filtering, tuning, DSP, digital synthesis, and more bands in modern housing. Compared to commercial expressions, amateur radios "show and tell" modern electronics and techniques.

I have written in earlier essays commercial ventures are more pragmatic; especially in the application of radio wave technology and imaging. Remember the Spitzer Telescope? Even more recently we can look to NASA and the Mars program. At Arnewslines, 4-08 I read about "Mars Advanced Radio for Sub-surface and Ionospheric Imaging, or 'MARSIS'," It is using "radar sounders" to research subterranean Martian rock and soil "for frozen water." You may find more information at <http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov> and search for MARSIS or review the other topics, as in Phoenix.

The privileges we have are "really" amateur, and as it pertains to cost, contacts and modes, the hobby is defined by its equipment and rules. Have a good and safe summer,

73 de KG2OR.

Can We Interest You in BARRA?



Your editor and Brian, WA2CWF, were found sitting at the BARRA table at the Rochester Hamfest and caught by the camera of Damon, AB2UK. More hamfest pix on Pg. 5.

Hamfest Review

Rochester to Butler: The Whirlwind tour.

Dave Halik, WZZA

I'm writing Monday morning from a Pittsburgh hotel room. After a full weekend of hamfesting I thought some of you might want to hear about our experiences at the Rochester and Butler Hamfest.

Departing Buffalo Friday morning May 30th, Sandy and I arrived at the Rochester fairgrounds before noon. Entering from Calkins Road we made our contribution to the cause and secured our flea market pass and general admission tickets. Without any direction from the hamfest staff we found ourselves unable to park in the flea market due the overcrowding of the limited flea market area. After some waiting and hand waving a nice parking attendant helped us find a spot in the flea and cleared a way through the growing crowd to a flea market spot. (Thanks)

The outdoor flea market this year escaped the tortuous loose larger binder stone of last year, replaced this year by compressed (in places) road millings. This proved to be a much better surface to walk on and for wheel chair and carts too. The former Monroe County fairgrounds are still being transformed with new grass sporting and an all new entry and foyer to the Dome, this time on the south side replacing the former east main entry.

The inside display seemed small and lightly attended on Friday, a shadow of past years. There was once again a noticeable absence of the "Big Three" (Kenwood, Icom, and Yeasu) factory booths. To be fair, a limited number of dealers had some of the Big Three's stock on hand.

On Saturday many clubs and groups were represented in the Dome, notably AMSAT and RAWNY along with most of the Rochester Clubs and, of course, BARRA. Our table was showing a slide show of the club's activities for the past few years. The outdoor flea looked like it might get rained out but there was never really more than a few minutes of sprinkles [*until packup time around 4:30 when your editor was trying to get all the table stuff out to his car!*]. There were good buys to be had but as with most ham events to the average age of the attendees was 50+.

Around 3:30 PM Saturday we headed home for a quick stop and we were off to Butler, PA for the night. After a more than three hour ride we arrived at the Super 8 Motel on Route 8 in Butler. We stowed our gear then headed to the fairgrounds to get the lay of the land before dark. The hamfest crew was on site directing dealers and RVs to their spots. We picked up our tickets and turned backed to the motel and on the way we stopped at Kings Restaurant for dinner. (Nice burgers) We just started dosing off in our motel room when the fire alarm started to ring... and it didn't stop. I grabbed my camera and HT slipped on my shoes and Sandy and I where out the door. Most of the motel patrons were in the parking lot by this time. About 12 Minutes later the first of four fire trucks arrived. To make a long story short, about 90 minutes later we all were back on our rooms... False alarm. However it wasn't all bad... we had the chance to meet a nice group of hams that shared our fate. There were lots of call sign plates in the lot, too, including one from Vermont the read "CQ-AM" too cool.

Well, the 6:30 AM alarms rang too early for both of us but

not wanting to arrive late for the official 8:00 am start, Sandy and I grabbed a quick breakfast in the lobby, loaded up and headed to the hamfest grounds.

The Butler Fairgrounds have the standard pole barns and bleachers of a small county fairgrounds along with beautiful grass fields where the flea market takes place. Hamfesting on the grass seems to me to be a better deal than pavement and proved to be much easier on the feet, too. By 8:00 AM we had parked and set up our table and had started our first walk around the tailgates when over the PA system came the announcement, "It's 8:00 AM and time for the office start of the Butler Hamfest. Please remove your hats for our National Anthem." Looking around I could see Old Glory flying on an antenna mast at the top of the hill. Everyone stopped in their tracks and looked to the flag then removed their hats. Hundreds of hams where frozen in the moment. When the anthem ended I felt like yelling "Gentlemen, start your transmitters" or "Play radio!" but being a newbie to Butler I held back

The flea market at Butler was fantastic. Remember this is a one day Hamfest that ends around 3:00 PM. Everyone went about their business on the buying and selling side. Good people each with a story and each willing to barter the kind of thing that seems to be lost in the Internet retail world of today. He offers \$10 and you ask for \$20. But you meet in the middle.

There were some young people in the crowd, one with a LARGE Meter (see pix) and of course the guy with the billboard signs around his neck selling a rig.

Butler is what hamfests all should be like -- a true piece of Americana, the kind of event that you're proud to be part of.

73 de Dave.



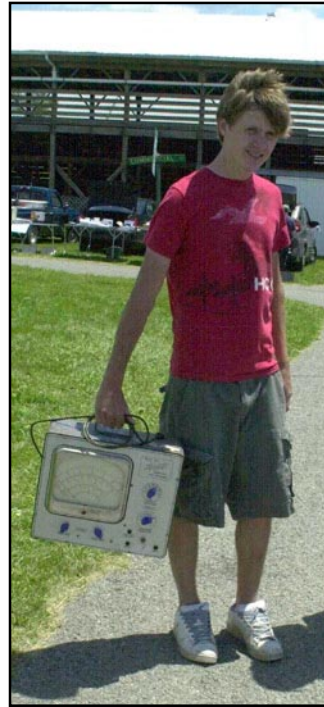
A member of the Butler Fire Department readies the truck at the late-night motel fire call. (See text)

Hamfest Review Pix

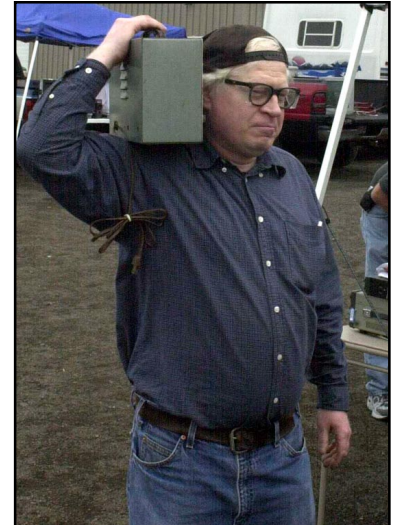
A sampling of the hamfests attended by W2ZZA & KC2LGK over the weekend of May 31/June 1st. Pix by W2ZZA.



BARRA Tech Net Control Greg, K2GTM, at his flea market space at Rochester.



At Butler, a lad makes off with a "bargoon."



At Rochester, Damon, AB2UK, appears to have found a treasure.



The BARRA table at Rochester, staffed by KC2LGK, W2EAS and WA2CWF.



Sandy, KC2LGK, staffs the Halik table at Rochester.

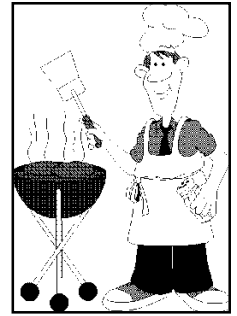
Below, the Butler Hamfest crowd.



Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

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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 16, 2008 -- Video Night! N2YDM will bring some videos of interest to the ham community, and probably a cartoon to start with!

Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29, 2008 -- ARRL Field Day. BARRA will operate a station from the Cole Road site, see page 1.

Monday, July 21, 2008 -- Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic at the Cole Road repeater site.



**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.

**Field Day is Saturday, June 28th -
Sunday, June 29th**

**Cole Road Repeater Site
Boston, NY**