

The Link

June 2012



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

This Month's Meeting Program: Antique Telephones and Switching

This month's meeting program will feature your editor, KA2WFT, with a presentation on old telephone "stuff." Doug has a working, portable, step-by-step telephone switch that he will display and talk about collecting old telephones. His switch will be fresh from being exhibited at the annual Telephone Collectors International (<http://telephonecollectors.org>) show in Lancaster, PA, where it won a ribbon for "Most Educational Display" in 2010.

Doug will also have some interesting antique telephone sets on display, and connected to the switch.

We hope to see you there!

Field Day is June 23-24!

With the lengthening of the days and the beginning of summer it means that it is time for Field Day! The weekend of June 23-24 will see BARRA's 2012 entry into the annual ARRL Field Day contest and emergency communication preparedness event at our Cole Road repeater site. Bill Brown, KB2TOY, is again coordinating the event. Bill is holding an organizational meeting Saturday, June 16th at the Gardeneview Restaurant in West Seneca at 9 AM for anyone interested. Bill may be contacted at kb2toy@arrl.net

The fun-filled weekend begins the morning of the 23rd around 9 AM when we will begin setting up our station. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come out at any time throughout the weekend. Help is needed from setup to operating (especially overnight) to take-down Sunday afternoon after the conclusion of the contest. If you have never operated on the HF bands this is a perfect opportunity to get a chance to try it out with experienced operators nearby to get you started. Have your own HF rig that you prefer to use? Bring it along! As long as it can be powered from 12 VDC (because our entry class is battery power), any and all rigs are welcome. Also, if you have any special operating skills, like CW, you are especially encouraged to join us. CW contacts count for two points each, thus helping our score's "bottom line," as it were.

Each year overnight operators are especially needed, and indeed provide the most fun on the bands. The west coast and farther DX open up and some great QSOs are possible. Bring a tent and plan on spending the night, or do as some members have done other years and set up sleeping quarters in your vehicle.

Come whenever you can and stay however long you are able! Field Day is a great activity that helps everyone's operating skills while demonstrating emergency preparedness. See you there!

New Board Member

At the April general membership meeting board member Damon Edwards, AB2UK, announced his resignation from the BARRA board of directors. Proceeding according to our by-laws in such a circumstance, the president made an appointment to fill the remainder of Damon's term. Our new board member is Bob Becker, K2VGGZ.

Bob has been a member of BARRA for some time now and is active in the local electronics guild. We welcome Bob to the board and look forward to his contributions to it!

Lots of Work Underway at Cole Road

The past month or two have seen a tremendous amount of work being done at the Cole Road repeater site. The bulk of the work has been on the interior of "Chet's Shack" which is being converted into an operations center for events like Field Day. The interior of the building was previously covered with a homosote-like material that was over 50 years old. That has all been stripped out and drywall and insulation has been installed. Dave, W2ZZA, has been spearheading that project and has been posting numerous photos of the progress on the BARRA-Tech Yahoo group list home page. If you are not on the BARRA-Tech email list, look for the group "BARRA-Tech" on Yahoo Groups, or contact Dave (w2zza@arrl.net) or your editor (ka2wft@arrl.net) to be placed on the list.

Other tasks at the site have included repairs to the window frames on the A-frame repeater building, as well as a couple of mammoth mowing jobs. Special thanks go to KC2UJH and KA8BYU for that task.

Others that need to be acknowledged for their efforts are (in no particular order) KC2LGK, AB2UK, KA2CQQ, K2ILH, WA2HKS, KC2PIT, N3AU, N2TFG, W2AFJ, KG9NZ, KB2TOY, W2IMY, N2ZDU.

The work at the site is reason enough alone to stop out to Field Day to have a first-hand look at everyone's handiwork. Our thanks go to everyone involved! It's not too late to help, either, there is still much to be done at the site. Contact Dave, W2ZZA, to find out what you can do at the next work party.

Coming soon:

Monday, July 16th

**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 '12	634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '12	834-2664
Secretary	Bruce Johnson N2TFG '14	585-451-1736
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '13	836-0417
Director	Bob Becker K2VGZ '12	681-4419

Committees & Chairs

Technical	Ted Ertl WA2HKS
Link Editor	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT
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

AB2UK	PL 107.2	29.68-	Boston
K2ISO		145.17-	Wethersfield
K2ILH	PL 107.2	146.73-	N. Tonawanda
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
---------	--------	---------

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

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

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 Serves

To join, send look up the group "barrabflo" on

<http://groups.yahoo.com>

The Tech Committee also has an email group, BARRA-Tech, on Yahoo Groups. Or, email the editor to receive an invite to join either or both groups.

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

Richard Sellers, KG2OR

I feel like I am entering the final frame of my "Hobby Highlights" game, being that this is the June issue, and it has been a glorious year for writing. That being said, I would like to write about common tools that are kept around the shack in case of trouble. You would think that your station should be free from trouble calls, but it can happen. I have experienced problems, broken coax, antenna wires, junction boxes, transformers, or other solid state parts. When this happens, tools come in handy, and it might save you the cost of a professional repairman. I have replaced some NiCd batteries in my dual band radio, and I could not have done it at home unless I had a decent array of tools. There are a couple of web sites which describe tools and test equipment in the ham shack. They are written by Don Butler, N4UJW. At <http://www.hamuniverse.com/toolsandtest.html>, and <http://www.hamuniverse.com/setuphamstation.html> N4UJW has two articles summarizing the best kind of tool technology a ham operator should have while owning and operating a ham system at home.



We can all compare and contrast experiences, and some of us will have simple kits, while others will have oscilloscopes, signal generators, and wave analyzers. That is why I propose you have a tool kit relevant to your needs. Know where your qualified service person is located in case you cannot fix it then you will know who to call and where to go. Keep your radio manuals and schematics; they could prove to be your best road map when solving electrical problems. Have your station abide by the safety regulations for radiation and emissions. Antenna tuner, SWR meter, soldering iron and solder, pliers, screw drivers, cutters, tape and a ladder, to name a few, are just the beginning of a good plan for being prepared.

This is my June "Hobby Highlights." Soon it will be summer, and I hope all the bands are good to you. Please check out Don Butler's essays on the tools for a ham shack. I was pleased to find someone else who was thinking about it, because it tends to support my opinion that it is a good idea to have a basic tool plan in case of a trouble call.

73 de KG2OR, Richard Sellers.

Mowing Help Needed at Cole Road

With summer upon us we find ourselves with a need for help with mowing our property at the Cole Road repeater site. KC2UJH and KA8BYU have done it a few times this season but each time it was with borrowed equipment. Would anyone happen to have some excess mowing equipment suitable for property the size of the repeater site? Part of the mowing conundrum is the transportation of the equipment to the site. If we could obtain something that could live at the site, it would be easier to find folks to go to the site and make use of it there without the hassle of hauling it.

If you have something that might be of use to the club, please contact a board member ... we hope we don't have to get a herd of goats or sheep or something ...

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Calendar of Events

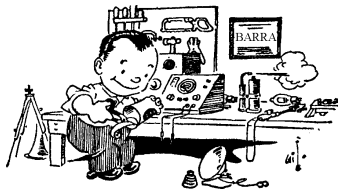
GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, 2368 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, near Sheridan Drive. Doors open at 7:00 pm for rag chew, business meeting at 7:30, with program following.

June 18, 2012 -- Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT, will give a presentation on old telephones and old telephone switching complete with a working step-by-step switch.

June 23-24, 2012 -- Annual BARRA entry in the ARRL Field Day contest. See Page 1 for more details.

Monday, July 16, 2012 -- Annual BARRA Mobile Clinic and Picnic at the Cole Road repeater site. Bring your picnic grub and your radios and head out for a relaxing summer evening with the BARRA crew.



NO GENERAL MEETINGS IN JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, AUGUST OR NOVEMBER

The *Link* is not published in March, May, August and November.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at the **Athens Family Restaurant**, 2801 Harlem Rd, Cheektowaga, between Genesee Street and George Urban Blvd. The meetings begin at 7:00 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 the weekend of
June 23-24, 2012

Be there!