

The Link

October 2005



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

This Month's Program: Board Elections and SPLAT!

For the first time since 1989 there is a need for a real election for the BARRA Board of Directors! There are two expiring terms this year and we have three candidates. Ballots will be cast and counted at the Annual BARRA meeting on Monday, October 17th.

The membership in attendance at the September general meeting duly nominated Greg Miller, K2GTM, and Dave Halik, W2ZZA, along with any incumbents who choose to run again. Brian Neri, WA2CWF, current board secretary, has expressed an interest in running for reelection to the board. Current board director Voit Drankhan, KA2WIO, has chosen to not run again due to some health issues, and we thank him for his time and service on the board.

On Page 4 are biographies of our three candidates that you can read over to help in your selection. The biographies were submitted by the candidates.

All voting members (see the updated list on Page 3) will receive a ballot with their newsletter; *eLink* recipients will get a special email ballot to be printed and submitted. *ALL* ballots *MUST* be either mailed to the club PO box *with a return address on the envelope* or brought in person to the Annual Meeting on October 17th. Mailed ballots arriving at the PO box after the afternoon of October 17th will be ineligible for inclusion in the election.

After the election and annual meeting we will hear from Bill Brown, KB2TOY, who will give a presentation on the Linux-based program SPLAT! which can be used to predict RF propagation. Bill was originally scheduled to give the talk back in April but due to a goof by your editor in getting the electronic newsletter out in a timely fashion, Bill didn't get the reminder in time that he was giving the talk. The SPLAT! program uses the Longley-Rice model for computing RF propagation, which takes into account actual ground terrain and other factors. Bill gave a demo to the Technical Committee last winter and it is an impressive program -- and it's free! You need only a computer running the Linux operating system, which is also a free download.

So, there's lots to see and do at the next general membership meeting -- we will see you there!

*Dues are due starting this month!
Check your mailing label for your
renewal amount.*

Hard at Work



Ted Ertl, WA2HKS, "gets a grip" on a tag line on a Cole Road East Tower work party. Our thanks to Bruce, WA2HVE, for the photo.

Refreshments Return to General Meetings!

Sandy Halik, KC2LGK, has stepped forward to volunteer to provide refreshments at our general meetings at the church. This is a long-standing tradition that had fallen to the wayside in recent times due to the lack of a volunteer. Not any more!



Beginning with this month's Annual Meeting Sandy will be in the kitchen brewing up the coffee and there might even be a doughnut or two on hand, too!

We send our advanced thanks to Sandy for restoring a BARRA tradition!

JoeFlynn, K2LMH, SK

BARRA was saddened to learn of the September 16th death of Joe Flynn, K2LMH. Joe was a long time BARRA member and for many years has been one of the trustees of the BARRA Wethersfield repeater site, home to our 145.17 and 442.00 repeaters. In addition to his work with BARRA, Joe was active in the PROS radio group.

There is apparently a memorial fund in Joe's memory to which friends can contribute. All gifts and donations can be made to the Joe Flynn Memorial Emergency Radio Fund, in care of L Flynn, 3021 Wing St., Bliss, NY 14024.

Joe was also trustee of the BARRA K2ISO club call. In light of his work on the Wethersfield repeaters, the Technical Committee has contacted Dave Sewhuk, N2GH, to take over the trusteeship of that club call. Dave has accepted the task and the paperwork for changing the necessary information is in process.

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!

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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.).

Updated Voting Member Upgrade List

The list of members proposed for voting membership status for 2005-06 was presented at the September general membership meeting. A preliminary list was published in the September *Link* newsletter, and a list of ARES/RACES participants was received from RACES officials before the meeting. The updated voting membership list was approved at the meeting by the members in attendance. One additional name was received just as this issue of the newsletter was started.

Below are the BARRA voting members for 2005-06 and are as such eligible to vote in the board of directors election.

WA2CWF B,F,T
N2DAY X
WB2DSS R,T
K2EAG F,O,X
W2EAS B,T,S
AJ2G P
N2GH T
K2GTM F,N,T,S
WA2HKS F,R,T
WA2HVE T,S
W2HYP R,T
N2IE A
K2ILH R,T,S,X
KA2IWK S
K2JGI T
WB2JQK R,T
WB3JVK T
KC2LGK A,F,S
N2OBW X
WA2OLW T
KG2OR L
N2QJG T
K2RSK O
W2SMW X
KB2TOY F,T,S
WA2TVT T
AB2UK T
WB2VEU T
WB2VLV T,X
KC2VS X
KA2WEY X
KA2WFT A,B,F,T,S,L
KA2WIO B
KB1XW T,S
N2YDM A,R,T,L
N2ZDU T
WA2ZSJ A,B,S
W2ZZA A,F,N,R,T



Key:

A: Auction help
B: Board of directors
F: Field Day
L: Link/Link articles
N: Tech Net control
O: Other activities
P: PO Box pickup
R: Repeater trustee
S: Soccer Tournament Communications
T: Technical Committee/Site work
X: ARES/RACES participation



Board Candidate Biographies

All texts below were submitted in their entirety by the candidates themselves, presented in alphabetical order by the candidates' last names:



DAVE HALIK, W2ZZA

Dave Halik (W2ZZA) is an autodidactic electrical engineer. He has been involved with radio electronics and radio broadcasting for over 25 years.

Dave's interest in Ham radio began in the late 60s when he was first exposed to the Radio Amateur Handbook by a friend. After visiting the shacks of local hams, notably WA2HKS, Dave was hooked. After completing his education he pursued a career in broadcasting. Ham radio took a back seat but Dave never lost touch with the hobby.

In 2001 Dave changed careers to his other interest, robotic engineering. This move took him out of the 24-7 squad and made him an 8-to-5er leaving time for ham radio. In 2002 Dave was licensed and quickly drafted into BARRA. On the fast track in ham radio he is active in almost every faction of BARRA, notably Field Day, TechNet (as backup net control), Tech Committee, and trustee of the W2EUP repeaters. Dave is an avid designer and builder and is constantly working on club projects.

Drawing from his engineering and management skills, Dave has helped plan and implement many BARRA repeater site improvements. He is a driving force in the effort to upgrade the club's aging infrastructure.

Dave's traditional ham radio values and knowledge of electronics make him an ideal candidate for the BARRA Board.



GREG MILLER, K2GTM

Greg Miller has been a ham since age 13. He is currently a General and plans to take the test for Extra Class in the near future. Greg joined BARRA almost two years ago. He has spent countless hours at the Cole Road site working on technical and physical repairs and upgrades on the equipment and facilities. He also has been instrumental in reviving BARRA's participation in ARRL Field Day activities. Greg is the primary net control for BARRA's weekly Wednesday night TECHNET and an active participant in BARRA's Technical Committee meetings. Greg's interest in amateur radio is far-reaching. He especially enjoys restoring vintage equipment, digital modes, and DXing. Greg is also an active member of RAWNY. He is currently employed as a broadcast engineer at WKBW-TV and has technical experience in broadcast radio and film.

Greg looks forward to helping BARRA promote its mission and goals. He also plans to promote the club publicly to help the group increase its membership numbers.



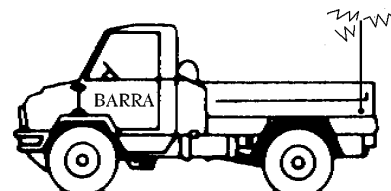
BRIAN NERI, WA2CWF

My ham radio experience since 1958 includes the usual plus Army Signal Corps service in the late 1960s as a radio/teletype/cryptography operator. I served as an operator, radio team chief and acting signal corps officer. I have also been BARRA's secretary since 1991 and have helped with numerous BARRA Auctions and work parties at Cole Road. Current ham radio interests include collecting and restoring antique military communications gear.

Non ham radio activities include teaching high school Social Studies (retired) and auto/motorcycle restoration.

I am willing to serve BARRA for another term.

All ballots must be either mailed in an envelope with a return address to the club PO box to be received by 3 PM Monday, October 17th, 2005, or delivered in person to the BARRA Annual Meeting, Monday October 17th, 2005 at 7:30 PM at the church.



Hobby Highlights

Richard Sellers, KG2OR



I have a few thoughts about the direction the hobby is taking. When I was studying for my novice license in the late 1970s there were five license classes: Novice, Technician, General, Advanced and Extra. I passed through them, plus the Morse code requirements. Today no code for all classes is an agenda, five words per minute is the standard, and Technician, General, and Extra classes prevail.

Tube amps have been replaced by solid state, and computer software has permeated our field for world wide communications. I do not have to clutter this page with technical innovations. I remember receiving satellite telemetry from Russian satellites on 20 meters. Today they are gone. The point is we are entering an age where old machines become useless, and the market pushes more advanced items facilitating speed, accuracy, and performance. I used to struggle with testing, hours upon hours of Morse code practice, running to the local FCC building for a test, cramming for the exam, and finally getting on the air and rag chewing day after day.

Today I do not even need a log; I can regulate most of the hobby by robotics, and the shack looks empty with an HF rig, Morse code key, and a microphone. Band plans, computer links, new concepts for terrestrial communications, and higher and higher frequency tests are driving the hobby into a stage of technological revolution. The old art of communication based upon random selection has developed into a variety of deterministic radio adaptations; like railroad tracks, lights and switches.

I hope the new age of amateur radio operators enjoy their privileges like I have. I think many of the incentives which we had are swept under the rug today. The Novice will have to work hard to find the ropes we went through, and reap the rewards the hobby has to offer.

73 de KG2OR, Richard Sellers.



Joe Eberle, N2ZDU, high atop the Cole Road East Tower on a recent work party session. WA2HVE photo.



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the BARRA
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**Wednesdays
at 8 PM**

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BARRA

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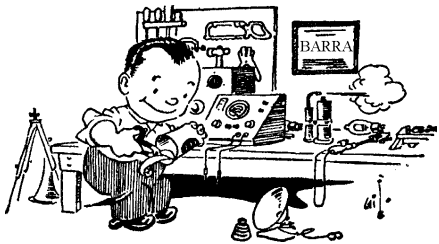
Calendar of Events

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, October 17, 2005 -- BARRA Annual Meeting with election of board members. Bill Brown, KB2TOY, will present a program about SPLAT!, a computer program that predicts RF propagation using the Longley-Rice model.

Monday, December 19, 2005 -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party! Save the date now!



**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.

The **Annual Meeting** of BARRA, Inc. will take place **Monday, October 17, 2005** at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Tonawanda, for the purpose of electing directors and reviewing financial reports and any other business that may properly come before the membership.