

# The Link

October 2006



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

## BARRA Annual Meeting is This Month, Club's Financial Situation to be Discussed

BARRA's by-laws state that the annual meeting of the corporation should take place each October for the purpose of hearing financial reports and electing board members. We will, of course, do both!

At last month's general membership meeting nominations were taken from the floor for candidates for the expiring terms of Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ, and Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT. The incumbents were nominated and they accepted their respective nominations. Other nominations were asked for but not received and there was a motion from the floor to close the nominations. The secretary will cast one ballot at the October Annual Meeting to re-elect our nominated candidates.

The more serious side to the evening will be the discussion of the club's financial status. A summary sheet for the fiscal year appears inside this issue on page 5.

As many may know, we lost our tenant at the Cole Road site, WNGS-TV, this past spring. WNGS has entered into a new agreement with WKBW-TV and is no longer in need of our facility, which they had used to get their off-air signal to the cable companies. The loss of this tenant means a \$1700 per year loss to the club. As you can see on the year-end report, the club lost nearly \$700 this year -- and we were without WNGS's rent for only part of our fiscal year! This is an extremely dire situation in which we find ourselves.

Some recent cost cutting moves have been implemented, namely the autopatch was turned off, dues were raised, and members who wish a paper copy of the newsletter underwrite that. It is a good start, but we have some significant costs that cannot be changed: liability insurance, utility expense at Cole Road, and property taxes for the Cole Road property.

An oft-discussed topic is the club applying for 501(c)3 status. Our treasurer has been looking into this over the past few years. While at the face of it 501(c)3 would appear to be a saving grace, there are some harsh realities associated with it. The first one is that significant costs will be incurred in the application process, primarily for counsel from an attorney experienced in 501(c)3 applications. There are, however, absolutely no guarantees that once applied for, it will be granted.

The second "gotcha" to 501(c)3 status is that even if granted, the Town of Boston would not and does not have to automatically grant property tax free status to us. That would be another situation to apply for, providing 501(c)3 status was granted.

A third aspect to the 501(c)3 status is that to even be considered "worthy" of applying for the status, we need to have a major educational component to our operations. At first look, this

would appear to be an easy one: we can run license classes. However, considering we have difficulty getting enough members to participate in various club activities like the soccer tournament communications and the ongoing renovation operation to Chet's Shack, it would seem optimistic at best that we could pull together enough folks to teach licensing classes at the present time.

Another concern with 501(c)3 status, albeit not as major as the financial uncertainties above, is that we would have to re-vamp our membership structure as 501(c)3 organizations are not allowed to have multi-level memberships like our voting and non-voting status.

In short, we could end up spending a lot of money and effort to end up at exactly the same point we are at now, only with an even smaller treasury due to the costs associated with the application process for official 501(c)3 status.

A more practical way to seeing our way to a blacker bottom line is to further reduce costs wherever possible, and to increase membership. We all probably have at least one ham friend who is not a BARRA member but uses our machines. We need to be more diligent in inviting our ham friends to become members and to participate in our activities. A membership application is always available on the club's web site, [barra.hamgate.net](http://barra.hamgate.net).

The Tech Net has been somewhat of a boon to the membership. Our popular Wednesday night offering has resulted in several new members and the Friday night Tech Committee meetings are lately seeing equal or better attendance than the general meetings! We need more activities like the Tech Net that bring out the prospective members.

As we head into our 40th year as a club, we are looking good, but we could be better. Come out to the Annual Meeting on Monday, October 16, and bring your ideas.

## BARRA Bowling?

To that end of coming up with some club activities to generate some interest and participation, how about something non ham radio? Board member Dave Halik, W2ZZA, is floating the idea of a BARRA bowling activity. It's something fun that almost everyone can do and is a great fellowship opportunity as well.

If this sounds like something you'd like to do, give Dave a call at 825-4417 or drop him an email at [dave.halik@verizon.net](mailto:dave.halik@verizon.net). A day and time will be determined once the level of interest is ascertained. If there's enough interest, maybe we could challenge other ham clubs to field a team to take us on? The mind reels with the possibilities...

## 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	Greg Miller K2GTM '08 565-1807
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '07 836-0417
Director	Dave Halik W2ZZA '08 825-4417

### Committees & Chairs

Technical	Ted Ertl WA2HKS
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
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.

CBS-Scanners-Ham-Marine-Business Radios-Radar Detectors

## HIRSCH'S

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**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*

Types of satellites in our world have changed dramatically. In 1957 the Soviet Union launched Sputnik. Our world was thrown deeper into the cold war. When I was in grammar school in the 1950s there were exercises for nuclear war. The teachers gathered us into the halls, and we had to kneel on the floor, and put our heads on the floor, against the walls, until the all clear sounded. We were in the space race.



On February, 3, 2006, Russian cosmonaut Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, and others on the International Space Station, created and launched the satellite suit (Suitsat). It was deployed into orbit, and everyone thought it wouldn't last long. It generated radio signals and SSTV for amateurs. It didn't fall back to earth as quickly as some predicted. It finally re-entered the earth's atmosphere on September, 7, 2006 about 840 miles southwest of Australia. Compare this act to Sputnik. The world and freedom have been symbolized through the fashion industry. The event had world wide attention. It made Reader's Digest Best 100, "Best Empty Suit," Amsat started a "Chicken Little Contest," where contestants predicted re-entry dates [www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/suitsatContest.php](http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/suitsatContest.php) I found this information in the ARRL web site and Arnewline.

Amateur radio operators have been able to expand their talents with computers, TV, and digital technology upon space shuttles, and the International Space Station, emergency communication, public service, and the rag chew. Keep informed about the next Suitsat. It may be solar powered. Amateurs and fashion experts will be waiting for its debut. Satellite architecture has become novel. I have read where early satellites had retractable metal rulers for antennas. It seems to be a very creative area for technology. Let's wait until the next Suitsat appears. More improvements are on the way.

73 de KG2OR.

*WA2OLW (Leprechaun Graphics, 675-3764) still has BARRA jackets and T-shirts available. Space didn't allow us to run the larger ad this time.*

AixiZ Service and International LLC

OEM Laser Components

[WWW.MFGCN.COM](http://WWW.MFGCN.COM)

Chuck Maricle W5CM

## A Fireside Chat

Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ

It has been quite a while since I wrote an article and thought it might be time to keep you posted.

To answer the first question for which there seems to be a lot of interest is that I have changed companies. Yes, I worked for Crest for 25 years. I am still doing the same type of work, just for a larger company. Watch for my company ads coming soon in *The Link*.

Our club like many clubs is downsizing, it is tough to get people involved and this has been the discussion at many of our board meetings. We have a great group and as president I must admit that I am proud of their actions. One of the joys of being on the board is seeing how a small group does such an outstanding job.

In this issue of *The Link* on page 5 you will find a cash flow sheet for our just completed fiscal year. We are actually running slightly in the negative. This year we lost our lease contract with WNGS, which put about \$1,700 each year into our club treasury. The board had advance word that we might lose this contract and we carefully watched our expenses and were not caught off guard when the official notice came. Every item was reviewed and talked about. We are running the club on a barebones budget.

If you have any ideas on where the club can save some money or generate some I would like to hear from you. We have been lucky in the fact that some of our requirements for items to help us out have been donated. I know about a few and I am sure there are more that I do not know about.

**The club will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year in 2007** and we would like to do some different things. We are already talking about some special events, possibly a Bisons baseball game, a transmitter hunt and some new field trips. We could use some help on this. If we have some members who work at a place or has contact with someone that might make a good trip please let me know.

The Christmas Party at the church will take place as usual in December. We will have pizza ,wings, cookies and beverages. It is a great time to see old friends drop by. You need not be a member to stop by any meeting and the Christmas Party would be a great month for that. If you have a ham friend please feel free to bring him or her along, and encourage them to join!

**In February** we have our **annual auction**, it is now the largest event other than dues that generates money to operate the club. Can you check you attic or garage to see if you have some items you could donate to the auction for the club that would be appreciated. Every year we have members who donate their auction items to BARRA!

A special thanks to Doug, my vice president; he does a lot for the club and along with the other members of the board they have helped make my job enjoyable and the influx of a couple new members to the board with fresh blood has helped keep us healthy.

We have some equipment stored at Crest that we need to move out. We need storage space for the items we wish to keep so if you know of any storage space available please let me know. Some of the stuff we choose not to keep and cannot sell locally we are considering placing on Ebay.

Your thoughts and comments are greatly appreciated, even if you read this from a distance away I am only an e-mail away.

73 and good wishes!

## Updated Voting Member Upgrade List

Last month we published a list of members who had participated in various BARRA activities during the previous October to September. The list was updated by sharp-eyed folks and we here present the list approved at the September meeting. By participating in a BARRA activity, a member is then elevated to Voting Member status for the following year and is entitled to a \$5 reduction in dues for that year. A voting member is allowed to vote on matters that come before the membership.

If we have still managed to miss someone, please let your editor know at once and we can correct the error.

KA2CQQ	F	N2HP	X	KC2LZG	T	WA2TVT	FT
WA2CWF	F	WA2HVE	ST	N2OBW	X	AB2UK	FT
N2DAY	X	W2HYP	R	WA2OLW	T	WB2VEU	T
WB2DSS	LRT	N2IE	A	KG2OR	L	K2VGZ	T
K2EAG	TX	K2ILH	LRSTX	KC2PKN	FT	WB2VLV	TX
W2EAS	ABST	KA2IWK	ST	N2QJG	K	KC2VS	X
KC2EQU	X	K2JGI	A	K2RSK	Q	KA2WFT	ABFLST
AJ2G	P	WB2JQK	R	W2SMW	X	KB1XW	T
N2GH	RT	WB3JVK	T	VE3TIJ	L	N2YDM	LRST
K2GTM	BFNQST	KC2LGG	AFMS	KB2TOY	FTS	N2ZDU	STX
WA2HKS	FRT					WA2ZSJ	ABS
						W2ZZA	ABFNRST

### KEY:

A - Auction

B - Board member

F - Field Day

K - Repeater site host

L - Link article/other

M - Meeting refreshments

N - Tech Net Control

P - PO Box pickup

Q - Other activities

R - Repeater trustee

S - Soccer Tournament Ops

T - Technical Committee

X - Public Service/RACES





## BARRA Cash Flow 2005-06

10/1/2005 through 9/30/2006

### INFLOWS

Advertising	66.00
Annual Dues	1,020.00
Auction	
Coffee-Donuts	10.00
Commission	340.75
Door	50.00
Raffle	18.00
TOTAL AUCTION	418.75
Donations -- Gifts	392.00
Interest	78.06
Mugs Sold	5.00
Xmas Party Donation	110.00
<b>TOTAL Inflows</b>	<b>2,089.81</b>

### OUTFLOWS

Electric	575.35
Insurance	615.00
Link	
Postage	101.50
Printing	31.32
TOTAL Link	132.82
Post Office Box	50.00
Rent Donation to Church	250.00
Repeaters	
W2EUP	126.91
TOTAL Repeaters	126.91
Repeater Council	30.00
Taxes	
Cole Road	756.33
TOTAL Taxes	756.33
Telephone	132.73
Xmas Party Expense	109.58
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>2,778.72</b>

### OVERALL TOTAL

-688.91

## Dues are Due!

Each October, the BARRA dues renewal season begins anew. This year sees the increase of dues by \$5, plus the additional \$4 surcharge for members who wish to receive the paper newsletter.

The status of your dues is shown on the mailing label of paper copies and by a separate email for electronic newsletter recipients. Note that the amount quoted on the paper labels is the dues amount *without* the paper newsletter surcharge. If you wish to continue paper delivery of your newsletter, please add \$4 to your dues amount. If you currently receive a paper newsletter and wish to start receiving the electronic copy, please make sure you submit your email address with your dues. A couple of members have already done that and we thank them for their promptness. In addition, we had a number of folks renew at the September meeting - a whole month before dues were due! Thanks, guys!

## For Sale

The following items are being offered by Dr. Anthony Nello, a retired voc-ed teacher. All items are as-is to the best offer. To place an offer on an item or items, or to ask questions, phone 652-8012 and leave a message for a return call.

Cedar Chest approx 3'x2'x2' of electron tubes, easily a couple of hundred tubes of all vintages, not boxed.

Bushel basket of tubes, as above, all vintages not boxed

Three computers:

Gateway 386SX

Compaq 3/255

AT Clone

Two 15" monitors

Large photo darkroom enlarger, nearly new

Drafting boards, 20x26, qty 3

Hallicrafters SX-100 receiver and speaker

Eico Model 720 transmitter

PA amplifier chassis

Eico Model 770 4-channel CB transceiver

Heathkit VF-1 VFO

Simpson mA panel meters, qty 12, new in box

6ft length of steel shop drawer units, three drawers high, containing many tools and components

## From the Archives

A shot of the original Cherry Creek repeater shack, taken by an unknown photographer in the mid-1970s.



## Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



### FIRST CLASS MAIL

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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 16, 2006** -- BARRA Annual Meeting with election of board directors.

**Monday, December 18, 2006** -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party! Join the BARRA gang for food and seasonal fellowship.

**Monday, January 15, 2007** -- Annual report of the Technical Committee to the membership.

**Monday, February 19, 2007** -- Annual BARRA Auction! Turn trash to treasure at our popular electronics exchange.



**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 16, 2006**  
For the purpose of hearing reports and  
electing directors of the board.