

The Link

October 2007



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

Board Elections This Month

At the general membership meeting in September, nominations were solicited from the floor for candidates for the board of directors. This year the term for Ed Swan, W2EAS, expires. Ed was nominated, and he accepted. There was then a motion to close nominations, duly seconded and voted upon. Therefore, we have one candidate for the one position expiring this year. Congratulations, Ed!

The October meeting of BARRA is traditionally the Annual Meeting of BARRA, Inc. At the meeting we will hear about the year-in-review of the business side of BARRA. In short, we are holding our own, but it is an important report to hear first-hand.

In other news, we unfortunately at press time find ourselves without a program for the October meeting. We *really* need a member to step forward and work on lining up programs for our general meetings!!

However, all is not lost. There was a BIG work party at Cole Road a few weeks ago (see the pix on page 5) and we are sure that some of the participants will be on hand at the general meeting to talk about the event. "Chet's Shack" is looking the best it ever has in its history!

Come on out to the Annual Meeting of BARRA, we hope to see you there.

Other Hobbies Night!

The September meeting was Other Hobbies Night, and five members shared their "other" (non-ham radio) hobbies with us. Many thanks to all who participated!

Bill, K2ILH, brought out his remote control aircraft and associated components



Matt, K2EAG, and Angela, N3ARB, brought examples of their work photographing acoustic music groups, and the equipment they do it with

More pix on page 3!

Updated Membership Upgrade List for 2007-08

According to BARRA's by-laws, each fall we compile a list of those members who have participated in club activities, or other public service events, during the previous year from October 2006 to September 2007. This list was presented to the membership at the September general meeting and corrections were noted. The corrected list is shown below. These members are then eligible to vote on matters that come before the club, as well as a reduction in their dues renewal for the coming year.

Key:

A: Auction
B: Board Member
D: Meeting Refreshments
F: Field Day
L: Link newsletter
M: PO Box mail pickup
N: Tech Net controller
O: Meeting program
P: Public Service event
R: Repeater Trustee
T: Technical Committee (Mtg or Work Party)
X: Other club activities
Z: Repeater site host



N3AU T
KA2CQQ F, T
WA2CWF F, T
N2DAY P
WB2DSS R, T
K2EAG F, T
W2EAS A, B, T
WA2EYF F, T
AJ2G M
N2GHR, T
K2GTMA, B, F, N, R, T
WA2HKS R, T
N2HPP
WA2HVE F, T
W2HYPR, T
N2IEA
K2ILH P, R, T
KA2IWK T
KC2LGKA, D, F
KC2LZGT
KC2MXGT
KG2ORL
N2OBWP

WA2OLW T
KC2PKN T
KC2PXQ T
KC2QBU T
N2QJG Z
K2RSK X
W2SMW P
KB2TOYA, F, N, T
WA2TVT F, T
N2UEG F, P, T
AB2UK F, N, P, T
KA2WEY P
KA2WFTA, B, F, L, N, T
KA2WIO T
WB2VEUT
WB2VFEF
K2VGZF, T
WB2VLVP, T
AA2VM T
KC2VSP, T
KB1XWT
N2YDM O, R, T
N2ZDU P, T
WA2ZSJA, B
W2ZZA A, B, D, F, L, N, R, T

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '09	634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '09	834-2664
Secretary	Greg Miller K2GTM '08	565-1807
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '07	836-0417
Director	Dave Halik W2ZZA '08	824-3432

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.	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

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
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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

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

N5XU is a club station call sign for the University of Texas at Austin. You can find it at <http://n5xu.ece.utexas.edu>. It has many links, stories, and interesting tools for the shack. In particular I enjoyed the RF safety calculator. It is also at <http://n5xu.ece.utexas.edu/rfsafety/>. It automatically calculates values for effective radiated power, frequency, gain, and ground reflection. The program will tell you if you are in compliance!



If you are interested in computer programming access the Basic or C languages. The ARRL RF safety committee link is in here too. KM2L among others can be located; pictures and short biographies included. The club has some exciting DX stories from their alumni. I found one story about two amateurs who operated near Antarctica. After researching N5XU I felt incomplete; then again, not so! I searched for my own call sign. I was surprised, I am on the net! I found KG2OR listed for Straight Key Night, and some contests. I tried KM2L and it was like striking oil. He is cross referenced in a number of sites. Try your own call, you might be a footnote.

73 de KG2OR, Richard Sellers.

More Other Hobbies!



Bruce, WA2HVE, brought examples of his excellent wood-working skills

Doug, KA2WFT, brought completed and in-process stained glass projects and the tools used in that craft.



License Check Reminder!

Check the expiration date of your ham license! Is it coming due soon?

CQ Satellite – CQ QSL Cards!

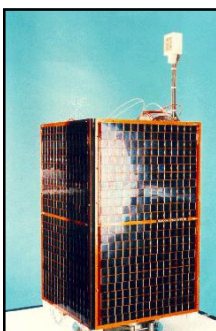
Sandy Halik – KC2LGK

April 2003 – I get a new identity...KC2LGK. You may ask why? I Did. I guess it's because my "OM" Dave W2ZZA wanted me to, or shall I say challenged me to. I'm always up for a challenge.

After that I still really didn't know why. OK, to talk to Dave during drive time and of course a few others along the way. I'm not much of a conversationalist and I was always told not to talk to strangers. With that being said, I'm not finding this hobby very exciting.

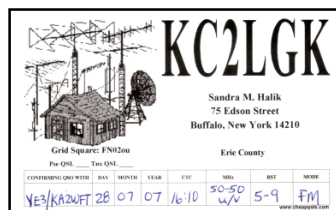
August 2003, I started working UO-14. Ted, WA2HKS, had the downlink of UO-14 on the linked BARRA repeater system ("Spacelink") and the uplink was on 2 meters. Satellite Sandy is born and this is getting exciting.

Bruce Paige, KK5DO, in Alief, TX and Randolph Kohlwey, N7SFI, in Park City, UT were my first two satellite contacts. Not bad for my first attempt. I couldn't believe how hard it was to get my ears tuned in to be able to copy any one person.



Satellite UO-14

So now that I made some contacts I have to send out QSL cards. Better yet I start getting QSL cards! Richard, N1ASA, from Bowling Green, KY was the first QSL card I got.



Unfortunately 10 days after I started working UO-14 was the last time I worked UO-14. Albert, K4VHV, in Elizabeth City, NC was my last QSO on UO-14 on August 12, 2003. Of course I didn't know it at the time, no one did, UO-14 was no longer working.

Well, that was fun while it lasted. You just never knew who you would contact. I managed to talk to several Canadians, Emily, W0EC, in California (woo hoo, another woman!), Leo, W7JPI, in Arizona who I still talk to on AO-51 and SO-50, Angel, WP3GW, in Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico and even WA2HKS in West Seneca.

As fast and furious as my satellite contacts started, they came to an abrupt end.

I bugged Dave constantly to get me back on the air with the birds. We sold one of our Icom 718s and we bought an Icom 821.

It was now Dave's job to get me the rest of the parts to get me on the satellites. It wasn't until November 2006 that I started working AO-51 & SO-50. I currently have 437 satellite contacts and 42 States.

My evenings and weekends consist of checking the schedules and planning activities around the birds. I wouldn't want to miss a good pass, you know? Just the other day breakfast had to wait for an AO-51 pass. Timing is everything, oh my, this girl is hooked.

Some of the more memorable contacts: Allen, N5AFV, from Houston, TX. I've worked him in five different grid squares. He was on a cruise this year in the Gulf of Mexico and each pass was a different square. I remember wondering where he would be next. I also worked Allen in Belize City, Belize. Color me stupid but I had

no idea where Belize was or that it even existed. It's in grid square EK57 if you were wondering.

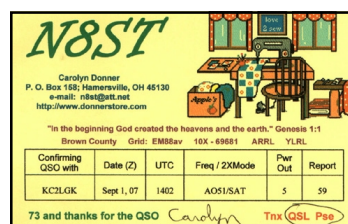
Then there is Eduardo, XE2YW, in Zacatecas, Mexico...boy was he hard to understand. Julio, TG9GJG, in Guatemala City, Guatemala. My furthest contact of 2282.7 miles was with Bernardo, he had a special prefix for the 75th Anniversary of FMRE 6I2HWB/XE2HWB. He's in La Paz B.C.S. Mexico (DL44).



Memorable of late is W3PM, Gene in GN13 aboard the *Queen Mary 2*. What's even better was his QSL card: a picture of the *Queen Mary 2*

along with a picture of him on board in his tuxedo with HT and 70cm eggbeater in hand.

The last few weeks I've been hurrying home to see what's in the mail box. Recently I caught up on sending QSL cards and I am hoping to get some back in return. Sending and receiving QSL cards is something I look forward to.

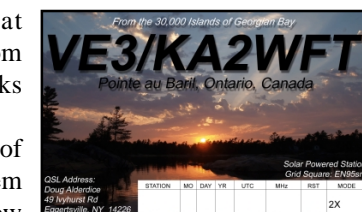
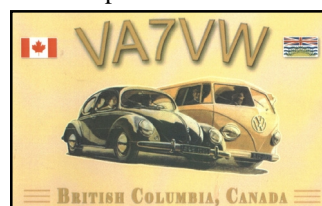


Will there be a card today? Where will it be from? I open the mail with a smile...here's one from Carolyn in Ohio. Oh my, she has a sewing machine on hers! Ham radio: it's not just for guys! But don't worry men, of all my contacts only four of

them were women.

Oh, and here's one that didn't come in the mail, it's from EN95, Georgian Bay – thanks Doug!

QSL cards come in a lot of different forms. Some of them very standard and some that show the personality of the other operator. Like the one from VA7VW – there's a picture of an old VW bus and Beetle on it.



OK, so now four years later...I get it, I know why I am a Ham. I found my niche and satellite is it. This is what I like to do; I find it way better than a long rag chew!

Catch you on the Birds & BARRA repeaters.

Thanks to Dave and others along the way that encouraged me to get involved with radio.

Editor's Note: The FM low earth orbiting (LEO) "Easy Sats" like AO51, SO50 and AO27 are a great way to explore the world of ham radio via satellite and don't require a room full of expensive equipment; many can be worked with a dual band HT and an Arrow antenna <http://www.arrowantennas.com>. Check out web sites like <http://www.amsat.org> to learn more about them.

Work Party at Chet's Shack!

Photos by Ted, WA2HKS

Saturday, September 22nd saw the replacement of the roof of "Chet's Shack" at the Cole Road repeater site. The weather was perfect for just this sort of work and the gathered work crew made a big job look easy. The old roof was stripped off to the decking and the new ice barrier and roof put on. Many thanks to the work crew consisting of Bruce, WA2HVE; Dave, W2ZZA; Charles, KA2CQQ; Bob, N3AU; Greg, K2GTM; Dave, WA2TVT; Damon, AB2UK; and Ted, WA2HKS. (Apologies to anyone missed on the crew)



Top left -- The crew works on pulling the old roof off. Seen in the photo are N3AU, KA2CQQ, K2GTM and WA2HVE.

Top right -- K2GTM, KA2CQQ, WA2HVE and WA2TVT work on applying the new shingles.

Middle left -- General view of the work site.

Middle right -- Finished shack as viewed from the northwest side.

Bottom left -- Southwest view of the shack. "Chet's Shack" hasn't looked this good in its entire history! A tremendous thanks to one and all who participated in the many work parties to get the shack to this point. All that remains to be done on the exterior is some trim work.

WE RAN OUT OF SPACE! DUES ARE DUE!

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Calendar of Events

GENERAL MEETINGS

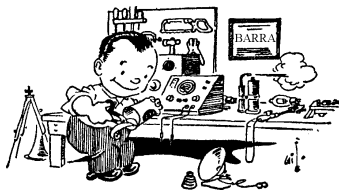
General meetings are held at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Brighton and Fries Roads, Tonawanda, across from Kenmore East HS. Doors open at 7:00 pm for rag chew, business meeting at 7:30, with program following.

Monday, October 15, 2007 -- Annual meeting of BARRA, Inc. and election of board members. Program TBA.

Monday, December 17, 2007 -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party. Come out and enjoy holiday fellowship with the BARRA crew.

Monday, January 21, 2008 -- Annual Report of the Technical Committee to the membership.

Monday, February 18, 2008 -- Annual BARRA Auction. Turn electronic trash into treasure at our fun-filled event.



**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 15, 2007** to elect board members and hear financial reports. All members are encouraged to attend.