

# The Link

October 2011



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

## Annual Meeting and Board Election on Tap for October

The Annual Meeting of BARRA, Inc. will take place on Monday, October 17 for the purpose of hearing reports and electing board members. The term of Charles, KA2CQQ, ends this year and Charles has expressed a desire to not run again. At the September general meeting new member Bruce, N2TFG, was nominated to run for the board. If no other candidates are nominated at the October meeting, Bruce will be elected by one vote cast by the secretary.

The other part of the October meeting will be to hear the financial report of the club prepared by our treasurer, Ed Swan, W2EAS. Other business that may properly come before the board and membership at that time will also take place.

Don't miss this important part of BARRA's year. Also, remember that membership dues are now due. Your renewal amount will appear on the mailing label of paper copies of *The Link*, and e-Link recipients will receive a special email with their dues amount.

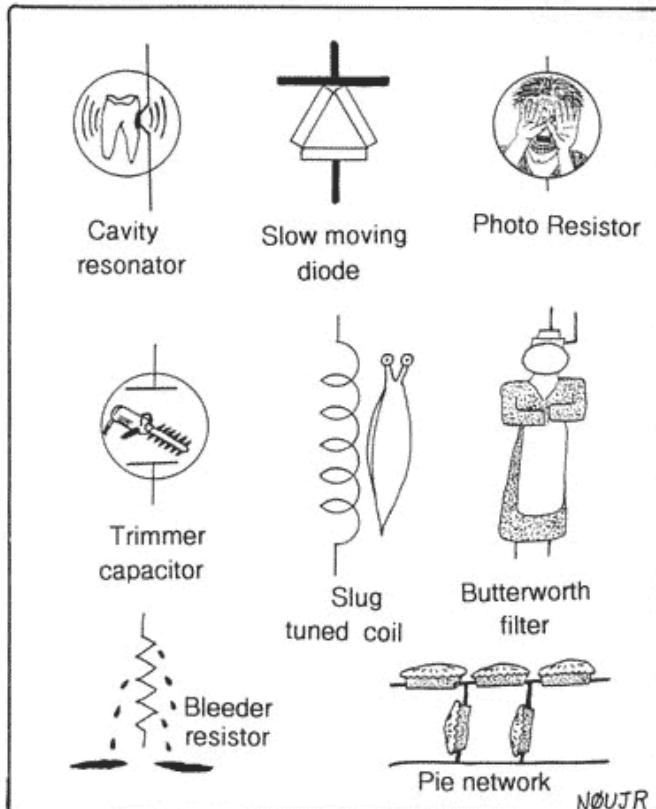
## Antenna Improvement on the 146.73 BARRA Repeater

Bill Pike, K2ILH



Darrell, KC2UJH, works atop the 146.73 tower installing the new antenna

Copyright © 1997 by Greg Trook



Little known standard electronic symbols.  
<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/n0ujr/>

When 73 was moved to its current site over two years ago, an existing antenna was used. While adequate, the existing antenna was a poor match and plans were made to install one that was better suited to this application. A meeting was held with our host, Bob (K2CRR) to identify possible tower locations, and a dual band Diamond antenna was purchased. Helix owned by the club and other material was staged in anticipation and interested parties were organized to participate in the raising.

As usual, getting a group together for repeater work seemed to be an impossible task. But a crew was organized and a date set. Wouldn't you know it, as the date arrived real life commitments drained off the crew. Oh well! Hey, it's a hobby. Another year passed.

On September 13, Darrell, KC2UJH, was at my place and brought up the subject. When? Tomorrow? OK!

So I emailed the interested parties and loaded tools in the car. Next morning Darrell and I arrived on site and started. We were going to get this done with! After six hours we were done. I did manage to shanghai Leigh, KC2VS, on his way to his boat and he helped me wrestle the Helix on the ground and up the tower to Darrell who worked 147 feet up for several hours.

When we finished we were so tired that we didn't connect it to the repeater to check it out. A couple of days later I went back to connect it up and make measurements. Power out is 25 Watts and reflected is zero. Access and signal strength are considerably improved. Time will tell how the coverage area has improved.

Thanks again to Bob, K2CRR, for supporting BARRA in this activity.

## 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	Charles Grammer KA2CQQ '11	886-4513
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '13	836-0417
Director	Damon Edwards, AB2UK '12	847-2140

### 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

W2EUP	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

Imagine! I am sitting at the RAWNY meeting on September 13th, 2011, and George Roberts, KA2QYA is giving the club a very visual and hands on demonstration of the FLEX 3000 Software Defined Radio System, and because George is a super character my mind wanders into 1955. I am dreaming about John Ford's film *Mr. Roberts!* James Cagney, Henry Fonda, and Jack Lemmon would have enjoyed this program. Thanks to George for a super performance. Since Joe Cooper gave SDR a program years ago I think the system has become more user friendly. The visual parameters of the radio are very good. Things move around the board quickly; with a high degree of reliability; which includes efficiency.



At this point I needed to Google "Software Defined Radio," and "FLEX Radio" so as to learn more about the art. In 1984 a group of people developed digital radio using computers. The original company E-Systems became Raytheon. Around 1988 Peter Hoeher, and Helmuth Lang created new adaptations for the idea in Germany.. They put it into aero space, and in turn the business became useful to military, and satellite performance. Today FLEX advertised its FLEX 3000 is used in a physics project in Alaska. It is studying auroral phenomena.

I must say I have to bite into what Flex Radio is doing for amateur radio. George said, "Its price is reasonable." Then he gave us the figure, and you can ask him about that, or do your own research for pricing. The software accessories, computer requirements, and antenna configurations are up to you. The receiver capabilities of wide bandwidth, auto tune, and greater than 90 db make the FLEX competitive with expensive ham radios.

Oh, so I am back at the RAWNY meeting, and George is projecting some CW, phone and PSK 31 on the wall, and I hear an operator sign end of work in CW. I said, "that is very clear" as if it was on Echolink. So be it. The age of SDR is truly becoming one of the great products in the market. All I have left to say is, "now in this corner weighing seven pounds is FLEX!"

73 de Richard Sellers, KG2OR.

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

The annual meeting of  
BARRA, Inc.  
will take place  
**Monday, October 17, 2011**  
for the purpose of hearing reports  
and electing board members



## Cole Road Electric Service Replacement Project

On September 17 a few folks gathered at the Cole Road repeater site to replace the deteriorating electric service disconnect and meter channel. The disconnect has been a subject of discussion and targeting for replacement for some time now, and a photo of the old box was featured in a recent issue of *The Link*.

Dave, K2KCK, a retired NYSEG worker and friend of new member Bruce, N2TFG, did the replacement work with help from Ed, W2EAS, and Bruce. Ted, WA2HKS, served as cameraman to record the event. Dave arranged with NYSEG for the power to be turned off so the changeover could be safely made. The new meter channel and disconnect were installed along with new grounds and conduit. The new installation is pictured above.



At right and below, Ed gives a hand to Dave in mounting the backboard containing the new equipment to the service pole.

It is hoped that this new disconnect will address an ongoing problem with increased energy usage at the site, which started last spring. It is believed that the corroded connections in the old disconnect were to blame. Time will tell whether that problem has been solved, but the bigger problem of the old meter channel and disconnect has been finally taken care of. Our thanks to everyone involved in this important project.



## Voting Membership Upgrade List

According to BARRA's by-laws, each year in September a list is compiled of those members who have participated in club or club-sanctioned activities in the preceding twelve months. These members are then eligible for full voting membership for the coming year.

The list below is the corrected version approved at the general membership meeting in September. However, further corrections may still be made if necessary. If you are missing an activity in which you participated, or were omitted entirely, please let your editor know ASAP and the appropriate correction can be made.

KA2CQQ	B, P, R, T	N2OBW	P
K2CRR	Q	WA2OLW	R
N2DAY	P	KG2OR	L
WB2DSS	R	N2QJG	Q
W2EAS	A, B, R, T	WB2RD	R
AJ2G	M	K2RSK	C
N2GH	R, T	W2SMW	P
WA2HKS	F, R, T	KB2TOY	A, F, T
N2HP	P	N3AU	T
W2HYP	R, T	KC2UJH	F, N, R, T
N2IE	A	AB2UK	A, B, F, N, P, R, T
K2ILH	P, R, T	WB2VEU	T
W2IMY	T	KC2VS	P
KA2IWK	T	KA2WFT	A, B, F, L, M, N, T
WB2JCB	A	N2YDM	A, R, T
KD6JES	T	N2ZDU	T, P
K2JGI	A	WA2ZSJ	A, B, F
K2LED	F, T	W2ZZA	F, G, R, T
KC2LGK	F, G		
KC2LZG	T		
KG9NZ	T		



### KEY TO ACTIVITIES:

A	Auction
B	Board Member
C	Event condiments/Ted's coupons
F	Field Day
G	Cole Rd Lawn Mowing
L	Link Article
M	PO Box Mail Pickup
N	Tech Net Control
Q	Repeater Site Host
P	Public Service Event
R	Repeater Trustee or Site Work
T	Tech Committee Member

Remember that dues are now due!  
See your mailing label or separate email for your renewal amount. Dues may be paid at meetings or by mail.

Give to a friend! Encourage membership in BARRA!

## Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association

Post Office Box 507  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Can we print your phone # in the club roster? YES NO

I wish to receive the newsletter in PDF format by e-mail attachment YES NO

\*\* Note: If you wish to receive a paper newsletter by US Mail, please add \$4.00 to your dues.

I hereby make application for membership to the Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association and agree to abide by the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations set forth by the FCC and this Association and shall to the best of my ability work towards the advancement of Amateur Radio and the goals set forth by the Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association.

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by \_\_\_\_\_

BARRA dues structure: Initial Application \$25.00 (US Funds. Please deduct \$5.00 for each item below that applies)

- Senior Citizen (Age 65+)
- Disabled Member
- Full-time student with ID

ADD:  Newsletter by US Mail 4.00

Total enclosed dues, less any of the above (if applicable) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Applications are voted upon once a month at our Board meetings. You will be advised of your status by the Membership Chairman.

Are you a member of any other Amateur group? If so, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a ham? \_\_\_\_\_ When did you become a ham? \_\_\_\_\_

License Class \_\_\_\_\_ What bands/modes do you operate? \_\_\_\_\_

Member of ARES \_\_\_\_\_ RACES \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL \_\_\_\_\_

Other hobbies and interests \_\_\_\_\_

What is your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Name wanted on your name tag (first name, one only, please) \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to become a member of BARRA?

# Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



Clip art copyrighted by Bobbie Peachey,  
<http://webclipart.about.com>



## 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.

**Monday, October 17, 2011** -- Annual Meeting of BARRA, Inc. for the purpose of hearing reports and election of board members.

**Monday, December 19, 2011** -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party. Get together with the BARRA crew for some holiday fellowship.

**Monday, February 20, 2012** -- Annual BARRA Auction! Start thinking now what you'd like to bring and sell at our annual swapfest.



**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 7:30 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.

**Dues are Due!**