



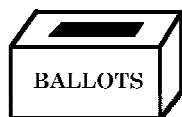
The Link

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

September 1995

Board of Directors Nominations This Month

This year marks the end of the terms for board members Bob Schneider, AJ2G, and Ed Swan, KD2JW, who have served most capably as your vice-president and treasurer, respectively. At the September meeting, nominations will be entertained from the floor for candidates to be elected in October. If nominated, Bob and Ed can run for re-election.



According to the BARRA Bylaws, the membership elects candidates for the board of directors each October at the Annual Meeting. At the November board meeting, the directors nominate and elect the officers.

The last few years have seen the slate of candidates be filled with only the same number of people as positions that are being vacated, and hence no need for an election. It would be nice to have a true election this year! The *Link* will publish any candidate-submitted biographies received in time for the October issue.

Bring your nominations to the September meeting for those members you feel will make a worthwhile contribution to the future of BARRA! Oh yes, you can nominate yourself!

Program for September: National Weather Service

Mr. Stan Levine of the National Weather Service is scheduled to present a talk at the September 18th meeting about the modernization of the NWS. He will have slides and will also discuss Operation Skywarn and the new Doppler Radar System currently being installed at the Buffalo Airport. This is the presentation that was scheduled for the June meeting but was postponed at the last moment.

This should prove to be a most interesting program and we look forward to Mr. Levine's presentation.

License Upgrade

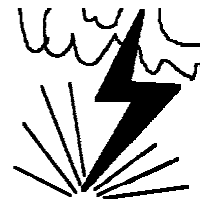
Congratulations to BARRA board member Mark Lienert, ex-N2RJA, on upgrading to advanced class KG2DE.

If you know of other BARRA members who have recently upgraded their amateur licenses, please let the editor know!



Cole Road Back Online After Lightning Damage

Following the severe lightning hit in late June, the Cole Road repeater site has been back online for some weeks now thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Technical Committee. Within days of the hit in the last week of June, the 146.91 repeater was back on the air with low power, and the 224.82 repeater was back on by mid-July. Throughout the rest of July, other damaged systems were repaired and returned to operation. By the beginning of August, practically every aspect of the Cole Rd system was again functioning.



To prevent damage of this magnitude from happening in the future, members of the Technical Committee have been spending the summer revamping the cable infrastructure of the site. Now every wire going to the equipment in the shack, whether RF, power (AC or DC), telephone, etc., passes through a plate, which is connected by 000 wire to ground. On that plate are additional surge protectors for the AC supply and telephone. The equipment rack has been effectively placed above ground, so that lightning entering the shack by whatever path will be guided to ground by the grounded plate, rather than through equipment or other circuitry.

In making these changes, the equipment racks in the shack have been moved out from the wall about two feet to facilitate this new wiring plan. An additional benefit is that it makes it much easier to work on the rigs as both sides of the racks are now easily accessible.

Mobile Clinic Well Attended

The Annual Mobile Clinic held July 18 at the Cole Road repeater site was another successful outing for the members of BARRA. Damage from the recent lightning hit and the repairs then underway could be seen, and the grounds to the towers were replaced during the picnic.

A record turnout (38) for the Mobile Clinic included some of the hams who participated in the ATV balloon launch at the Batavia Hamfest and they told of their adventures with that event. Also in attendance was a woodchuck who is suspected of being the culprit that swiped KB1XW's hot dog.

A pleasant summer evening helped to provide the perfect setting for BARRA's annual picnic. Many thanks to all who turned out and to the members who helped with the preparations.

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Stan Niesiolowski KB1XW '96	282-7159
Vice President	Bob Schneider AJ2G '95	837-1046
Secretary	Brian Neri WA2CWF '96	838-1673
Treasurer	Ed Swan KD2JW '95	877-0417
Directors	Voit Drankhan KA2WIO '96	941-5569
	Mark Lienert KG2DE '97	447-1738
	Steve Riek N2QJE '97	692-5669

Committees & Chairs

Technical	Gil Boelke W2EUP
Link Editor	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT
Associate Link Editor	Dave Sewhuk N2GH
Membership	Dick Diehl WB2JCB
Roster & Passwords	Keith Laudenslager K2DSN
Activities List	Ed Swan KD2JW
ID Badges	KD2JW
Erie County Emer. Coord.	Ray Baker N2DAY

Voice Repeaters

KE2PM	145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2GUG	146.73 -	Grand Island
W2EUP	146.91 -	Boston
W2OXB	147.00 +	Cherry Creek
W2EUP	224.82 -	Boston
WB2HYP	442.00 +	Wethersfield
WA2HKS	444.00 +	Buffalo

Digital Repeaters

W2EUP-1	145.59	Niagara Falls
N2GH-1	145.59	Wethersfield, NY
K2IMF-1	145.01	Out of Service

BARRA Net

Stop by Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm and join the Erie County ARES/RACES net which meets on the 146.91 and 444.00 repeaters. N2DAY is net control.

BARRA Packet BBS

BARRA has a bulletin board area on the IPBUFF (N2NJH) Packet/Internet gateway system. Connect through any local node that shows IPBUFF in its node list. IPBUFF is also available to 9600 baud users on 145.53 MHz.



Editor's PTT

Welcome back! I normally don't like to harp on a topic more than once in these columns, but a few things came to my attention over the summer that have some bearing on my comments in the July issue. In that issue of *The Link*, I talked about the purported reliability of the cellular telephone network and the possible ramifications that those assumptions could have on amateur radio.

Shortly after the July issue came out, I was at the family cottage in northern Ontario on Georgian Bay. The cottage is out in the islands and has no landline telephone service. On the night of July 14/15 a major storm swept across the Great Lakes causing a lot of damage in its wake. According to media reports the next morning, electrical service locally was knocked out from Barrie to Britt -- a distance of well over 100 miles -- as well as the expected interruptions in telephone service and other utilities. Knowing the folks at home listen to Canadian radio and would hear the media reports of the extensive damage in our vicinity, I fired up the cell phone to call home and report that all was well with us. Surprise! The local cell site was a victim of the storm. I could get access through a more distant site, but each call attempt was greeted with a recording to call a Toronto number on a *landline* phone "for further assistance." Maybe the landline interruptions were to blame, or maybe it was because this distant cell site was operated by a different company. After waiting an hour or so, the local site was back online -- this was about 12 noon -- and I could place the call home. Fortunately this was not a life-or-death situation requiring immediate assistance, but merely an inconvenience. I shudder to think what someone else would have done in the same situation, but needed help fast. A ham could have fired up the HF rig or 2 meter HT, but as we know, not everyone is a ham.

Just this week, I was reading the September issue of *Worldradio* magazine and came across the following related item in their editor's column:

We'd like to add the (not exactly AR related, but applicable) next bit of information to the discussion of the Internet or cellular phones taking over the Amateur Radio role in emergencies. To spare the organization the utter ridicule that would come their way (deservingly, though), the city name has been deleted: "The XXXX Emergency Planning Office said 'rather than having to rely on telephones, for instance, where lines are at risk in bad weather, we are encouraging the wider use of fax machines.'"

There's a lot of techno-boobs out there at every turn, gang, and the most dangerous (to ham radio) are those in positions of power (political or otherwise) in our communities. Keep your eyes and ears open, and most importantly, keep up Amateur Radio!

KA2WFT

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, nor 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 CompuServe address: 73323,672. If submitting through the Internet, the full address is 73323.672@compuserve.com The editor may be reached by telephone in the evenings at (716) 833-8375.

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.).

Voting Member Nominations

Below are listed the members who have participated in a BARRA-sanctioned activity and/or performed some service for the benefit of the club in the last year. This list will be voted on at the September meeting. If a member has been inadvertently omitted, please call the editor or a board member, or come to the September meeting. The members upgraded to voting member status on this list will be those eligible to vote in the upcoming board of directors election in October.

KA2BIW	Fahrner, Joseph	D
WA2CWF	Neri, Brian	B,D,E,F
N2DAY	Baker Sr., Raymond J.	C,G
KG2DE	Lienert, Mark D.	B,D,F,J
K2DSN	Laudenslager, Keith	C,D
W2EUP	Boelke, Gilbert	A,B,C,D,E
WB2FJY	Koval, Jeff	H
AJ2G	Schneider, Bob	B,I
N2GH	Sewhuk, Dave	C,D,F
K2GUG	Stengel, Francis	A
WA2HK	Ertl, Ted	A,D
WB2HYP	Rink, Michael	A,D,F
N2IE	Ward, Kevin	D
K2IMF	Ismert, Donald	D
WB2JCB	Diehl, Richard	C,G
WB2JKL	Peterson, Ronald L.	D
KD2JW	Swan, Ed	B,C,D
KC2JY	Hill, Lester C.	A,D
N2KOU	Kalinowski, Francis S.	D
KB2LCD	Sliwinski, Renee	G
N2NJH	Weir, Karl	D,G
W2OXB	O'Connor, Jack	A
KC2P	Brodowski, Ronald E.	G
N2PEG	DuChaine, Robert N.	G
KE2PM	Flynn, Joseph M.	A,D
W2PVL	Latta, John	E
N2QJE	Riek, Steven T.	B,D,F,J
WB2VEU	Foremiak, Andy	D
KB2VKK	Hendershot, Keith	D,F
WB2VLV	Musialowski, Jerome	G
KC2VS	Reichert, Leigh P.	C,G
KA2WEY	Hughes, Robert H.	G
KA2WFT	Alderdice, Doug	C,D,F,J
KA2WIO	Drankhan, Voit	D,H
N2WUV	Luckoski, Vince	D,G,H
KB1XW	Niesiolowski, Stanley	B,D,F
N2YDM	Bass, Ben	D

KEY TO MEMBER ACTIVITIES

A	Repeater Trustees	I	Present Program
B	Board	J	Refreshments
C	Committee Chairs		
D	Tech Committee & Repeater Work Parties		
E	Mobile Clinic		
F	Hamfest Tables		
G	Buffalo Marathon (or other Public Service)		
H	Miscellaneous Activities		

REPEATERS

or

Our Machines that go "KerChunk" in the Night

145.17 - The squelch tail on the transmitter was lengthened to allow the cooling fan to operate longer. This machine has tubes in the finals which need to be cooled properly.

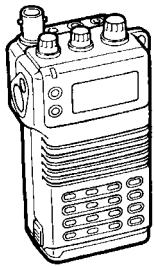
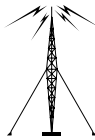
146.73 - The repeater appears to be working very well after the remedial receiver work at the beginning of the summer.

146.91 - See the article on page one about the follow-up work on the lightning damage at this site. One correction to the lightning damage report in the July issue is that the two meter power amp damaged in that incident is a Micor unit, not a General Electric. KB1XW is looking into getting that amplifier repaired.



147.00 - KB1XW is still looking for people with chain saws to put together a work party at this site to do some clearing around the wind generator. Over the years, the trees nearest the tower have grown large enough to block the proper wind flow around the wind generator. If you have a chain saw and are interested in participating in a work party, contact KB1XW at 282-7159. When enough people are interested, a date can be scheduled.

224.82 - A bad case of desense has cropped up with this repeater, preventing all but very strong stations from getting into the machine. It is believed that the new final transistor installed after the lightning hit has deteriorated, creating excessive noise in the receiver. Further evaluation is needed.



442.00 - The repeater transmitter was off frequency a bit and was tweaked back by WB2HYP in late August. While at the site for the adjustment, experiments with two meter coverage from inside the site were conducted by N2YDM and WB2HYP with an eye towards two meter remote base possibilities. Very satisfactory results were had with just an HT and a rubber duck antenna.

444.00 - Most of the bugs and growing pains in the receiver voting system for this repeater have been worked out. There are a total of three receivers for this repeater, two at the UB Main Street site (on different buildings), and one at the Cole Road site in Boston. The main repeater transmitter outputs a different PL tone based on which receiver is voted, and changes in real time. This has been an exciting addition to the repeater and has really furthered the "blanket" coverage of the 444 machine in the WNY area.

Thanks for WEST Net Donation

Early in the summer, BARRA received a donation from Barb Weirich, AA2CX, for the use of the 145.17 Wethersfield repeater for the activities of the Weather Emergency Service Team. BARRA is pleased to play a part in the important role this net undertakes and extends its thanks to AA2CX. As a thank-you for her donation and Net work, the board sent Barb a callsign plaque made by N2WUV.

New Members

BARRA welcomes the following new members accepted at the August board meeting:

N2IZX	Lynn Rosenberg, Rochester
KB2TOY	Bill Brown, West Falls
KB2VKK	Keith Hendershot, Buffalo
<none>	Brad Rink, Avon (WB2HYP's harmonic)

New Member Processing Glitches

It has come to the attention of the board that the processing of many of our recent new members has not gone as smoothly as we would wish. Several new members have not received their repeater passwords or new membership packets. With many BARRA committee people on and off vacation throughout the summer, some of the membership applications have gotten bogged down in the flow between those committees.

The board apologizes to all members affected by this and promises to have things straightened out in the next week or so. If, by the end of September you have still not received your new member materials, please contact a board member.

Where is the BARRA DF Equipment?

At a recent meeting of the Technical Committee, the question of BARRA's direction finding equipment came up. This equipment, and there were two sets, has not been seen by committee members in some years. If anyone knows the whereabouts of these items, please contact Gil Boelke, W2EUP, at 674-3446, evenings.

Advertise in The
Link!



**HIRSCH'S
2-WAY RADIOS**

Largest Selection of
BUSINESS • MARINE • AMATEUR
CB'S • SCANNERS • SHORTWAVE
SALES & SERVICE SINCE 1961

Quick Delivery
Handhelds And Mobiles
F.C.C Licensed Technicians

M-T-Th-F 12-9pm Sat. 10-5pm
Leasing • Rentals • Repeaters

632-1189
219 CALIFORNIA DR.
WILLIAMSVILLE

Repeater Field Report Forms In This Issue

Gil Boelke, W2EUP, chairman of the BARRA Technical Committee has proposed an effort which will require the assistance of all BARRA members. To determine the actual coverage areas of the club's repeaters for further improvements like remote receivers and transmitters, an accurate "profile" of each machine is needed. While a few members of the Tech Committee could burn up a lot of gas driving around the greater WNY area to find this out, what better way to involve the membership than to find out how the repeaters come through -- in the areas where the members use them!

A page of four standard forms is included in this issue between pages 4 and 5, and one is filled out as an example. The forms are relatively simple to fill out, and each member is encouraged to submit at least one report. If you do not have the capability for a particular band, that's fine! Report on whatever band(s) you use.



At the top of the form are blanks for your call, rig, power, and antenna used. The large box to the right is for any additional comments you wish to make about your report.

Each line below that is for each of the BARRA repeaters. Please indicate your location at the time you made the report for that repeater, and indicate in one of the boxes to the right the received signal from the repeater with an "R" and if you talked to someone through the repeater from that location, indicate your signal report in the appropriate box with a "T."

Once we get a number of reports in from each repeater, a profile map can be assembled for each machine and a better view of the coverage of each machine can be attained. Feel free to submit as many or as few reports on each machine from whatever locations you happen to travel. The more the merrier! Send your completed forms to the club's PO box. This will be an ongoing project over the next few months.

There will be more forms available at the general meetings. If you cannot make it to a meeting and need more forms, call the editor.

A Call for Programs

If you have any ideas for a talk to be given at a BARRA meeting, whether it is yourself or someone you know or have heard of, let Bob Schneider, AJ2G, know about it! Bob organizes and arranges for our guest speakers and field trips and will take care of the particulars. While BARRA is a technically-oriented club, the programs don't always have to be of a technical nature. Maybe you have an interesting hobby (other than ham radio) that you could tell us about, or perhaps you have a neighbor or co-worker who is really "into" an interesting sideline. Is your place of employment a "neat" place for BARRA to tour? If so, give Bob a call some evening at 837-1046.

Membership Chair Sought



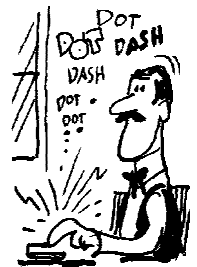
Dick Diehl, WB2JCB, has been serving as an interim Membership Chairman since the resignation of KC2VS. When he took over, Dick had expressed the desire to fill in for only a brief period of time, and yet we are coming up quickly on his one-year anniversary!

The duties of the Membership Chairman are largely clerical, keeping track of dues paid, issuing membership cards and sending new member packets to new members and so on. We will be glad to help you out and get you started!

If you are interested in volunteering for the position of Membership Chairman for BARRA, please call a board member, or come to the meeting September 18.

Is Your FCC Info Up to Date?

Have you moved since your amateur license was issued? Did you file a Form 610 with the FCC when you moved to change your address? Your editor was perusing a ham callbook CD-ROM recently and discovered a number of BARRA members whose address on the CD-ROM (and hence with the FCC) is different than the address on the club roster, which is assumably your current address.



The importance of keeping your information up to date with the FCC cannot be emphasized enough. If for nothing else, an incorrect address on file with the FCC will result in your QSL cards going to the wrong address!

Take a moment to check your ham license NOW and make sure the address is accurate. If not, file a Form 610 with the FCC right away to change your address!

Hamfest Table Planned



Following the successes of the BARRA information tables at the Rochester, Batavia and Lancaster hamfests, a final table is planned for this hamfest season at the Buffalo Hamfest on September 16 at the Erie County Fairgrounds. At these tables we distribute informational pamphlets about BARRA and answer questions about the club and our repeaters, and hopefully sign up a few more members!

If you are interested in helping out for any part of the day during the Buffalo Hamfest, please call Mark Lienert, KG2DE, at 447-1738 or Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT, at 833-8375.

Do your ham radio friends belong to BARRA? If not, sign them up!

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n
Post Office Box 507
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



*"Serving Western New
York and the Niagara
Peninsula"*

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Calendar of Events

GENERAL MEETINGS

All general membership meetings are held at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Brighton and Fries Rds, Tonawanda, across from Kenmore East HS.

Monday, September 18, 1995 - Presentation and slide show by the National Weather Service. Operation Skywarn and the new Doppler Radar will be discussed.

Monday, October 16, 1995 - BARRA Annual Meeting and election of board members. Program topic to be announced.

Monday, December 18, 1995 - Annual BARRA Christmas Party, spouses and non-members welcome!

**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 GLB Electronics, 151 North America Drive (formerly Commerce Pkwy), West Seneca. 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 work parties every Wednesday evening, 8:00 pm, at GLB Electronics. Stop by and give a hand to a repeater or other BARRA project!



The Technical Committee has formal meetings the first Friday of each month around 7:30 pm at GLB. 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.