



# The Link

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

September 2002

## This Month's Program: A Review of Summer Work

This month's program will feature a review of the many work projects that took place this summer at a number of BARRA repeater sites. A great deal of the activity took place on the ground at the Cole Road site.

As advertised in earlier issues of *The Link*, there were a number of Saturday work sessions at our repeater site on the buildings and the contents of each. In addition, there were also projects at Elmwood Avenue, UB and Wethersfield this summer.

Come on out to the meeting and find out just what all happened! See you on Monday, September 16!

## No Coffee at September Meeting

It's a shame that it has come to this, but no one has stepped forward to take on the refreshment chair position for the BARRA general meetings. Per the board's decision last spring, if the position remained unfilled after the June general meeting, no more refreshments would be provided until someone volunteers to take it. The club imposed much too long on Mark, KG2DE's, good graces when he expressed his desire to step down from the task almost a year ago.

Anyone planning to attend this month's meeting and wishing refreshment needs to bring their own from home or stop at Tim Horton's or Wilson Farms on the way.

It's still not too late for future meetings, however, if someone wants to take it on. Come to the meeting and sign up, or contact a board member.

## A Plea for Help at Cole Road

While much work was accomplished over the summer at the Cole Road site, there are still some remaining tasks to be done. Most importantly is some physical labor needed in both of the shacks.

The old work bench in the main 'A' frame building needs to be removed. It won't be a difficult task, it just needs some muscle. Over in the former Riker shack, there are some items inside remaining that need to be removed and disposed of.

If you can lend a hand, please contact Keith Laudenslager, K2DSN, at 652-0036, or [klaudens@pce.net](mailto:klaudens@pce.net) or Ted Ertl, WA2HKS, at 674-3325 or [tertl@erie1.wnyric.org](mailto:tertl@erie1.wnyric.org).

## Voting Member Upgrade List

Each September the BARRA board and committee heads compile a list of all of the BARRA members who have participated in at least one BARRA event or performed some service for the club in the preceding year from October to September. These members are proposed to be voting members for the coming year and will be voted on at the September general meeting.

There were a number of categories this year ranging from helping with the ongoing cleanout of the former GLB shop, repeater site work this summer, and participation in any WNY RACES or other public service event. There are 41 members for the proposed list this year, which is up some from last year – great work everyone!

WA2CWF	N2MHG
N2DAY	N2MWO
KG2DE	N2OBW
K2DSN	KG2OR
WB2DSS	N2QJG
W2EAS	WA2RKP
KC2ESC	K2RSK
AJ2G	W2SMW
N2GH	KB2TOY
WA2HKS	WA2TVT
N2HP	WB2VFE
W2HYP	WB2VLV
N2IE	KC2VS
K2ILH	KA2WFT
KA2IWJ	KA2WIO
KA2IWK	N2WUV
K2JGI	KA2WYE
WB2JQK	KB1XW
KC2JUF	N2YDM
K2LMH	N2ZDU
	WA2ZSJ

### *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)

**Board nominations are this month! See Page 3!**

## Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

### Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '03 634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '03 834-2664
Secretary	Brian Neri WA2CWF '02 838-1673
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '04 877-0417
Directors	Voit Drankhan KA2WIO '02 941-5569 Keith Hendershot KB2VKK '02 668-0391

### 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.	Karl Weir N2NJH

### Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	29.68 -	Boston
K2ISO	145.17 -	Wethersfield
K2GUG PL 107.2	146.73 -	Niagara Falls
W2EUP	146.91 -	Boston
N2YDM	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

### UO-14 Retransmissions

The downlink of amateur satellite UO-14 is retransmitted on every pass over the Buffalo area on our 444.00 and 146.91 repeaters. For information on uplinking to the satellite, see the BARRA web page.

### 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>

Back issues of *The Link* and a membership application are available on our web site.

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*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).

**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
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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.).

**Board Nominations to Take Place This Month**

It's that time again: time for some current board positions to expire and to receive nominations for board elections. This year sees an unusual situation for BARRA, three terms are expiring and only two need to be elected next month.

With the changes in the BARRA by-laws, duly voted upon at the June meeting, the number of board positions in the club has been reduced to five. This year sees the expiration of the terms of Voit Drankan, KA2WIO, Brian Neri, WA2CWF, and Keith Hendershot, KB2VKK. Voit and Brian have already expressed a desire to run again for the board.

However, there will still be nominations received from the floor at the general meeting on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Be thinking of those members whose presence on the BARRA board would benefit the club and bring those nominations to the meeting.

**Don Houck, N2HHK, SK**

Just before press time we received the sad news that BARRA member Don Houck, Sr., N2HHK, passed away. Don joined BARRA many years ago through his friendship with Les Hill, KC2JY, and while not active in the club's activities Don was an enthusiastic supporter of BARRA. Don helped out the club some years back in a major way when we were informed that our insurance policy would no longer be handled by our carrier at the time. Don was a big help then in finding us a new carrier and policy, which we still carry today.

**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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## Hobby Highlights

*Rich Sellers, KG2OR*

I enjoy reading about amateur radio expeditions. The exotic locations, radio equipment used, antennas, and the thousands of QSOs generated usually draws my attention, and the stories about the weather, and day-to-day life of the operator is a welcome change of scene; like a vacation after a long time at work.

In October 1975, *QST*, pg.78, W0FCL, David Hays wrote a correspondence about innovating and designing equipment for radio operation. He felt that making your own matches, or antennas rather than buying them is the difference between CB'ers and amateur radio operators. Decide for yourself. If every time I put up my antenna and run the radio is like CB then so be it, but not everybody has the time or skill to home brew, also I think that my amateur radio experiences, AM, FM, theory, and code are different from CB. I can appreciate a change of scene.

My ham shack is in a basement apartment. I can use a G5RV dipole or a vertical whip when I operate. I send the coax outside the basement through a window and hang the dipole in the backyard on a fence in a horizontal 'V' shape. It is up about seven feet. More recently, I took a vertical mobile whip for forty meters and attached it to a bush three feet above the ground. The antenna was up about ten feet. At five watts I worked Connecticut. After the work I take the antenna down, and put the rig into storage. You can see the problems involved with operating in the apartment. Tenants sometimes ask, "what are you doing?" That distracts me from enjoying setting up the station. The landlord will not allow roof top antennas, because the roof is tile. I have set up a dipole under the roof of an apartment, and formed it as two sine waves, and I obtained favorable results! When I go to the USS Little Rock, or somebody's house to operate I can appreciate a change of scene.

I took a surf on the web in the ARRL members' service and found under 'apartment' about thirty three entries, some articles, correspondence, or Hints and Kinks. I was able to read about eleven of these on the ship in our library. If you have past *QST* issues gathering dust let me know. You can leave them in the ship's library. We need the eighties to the present, and from the fifties back in time.

For the apartment dweller getting on the air hosts adaptation problems. Where to put the rig, locating the antenna, space for RF safety, as well as decorating issues. Who wants a hundred and thirty two feet of wire hanging from the ceiling? The question of indoor or outdoor antennas, a transmatch, harmonics, grounds, mounting structures, novel ideas, and angle of antenna declination are areas to think about. Unless you can build a flag pole, or mast antenna, or dipole more than fifty feet away from the shack then I suggest QRP operation. We must obey RF safety regulations.

I found some interesting articles in *QST* about radio operation in the apartment. The tips these authors give may save you time when building a station. There are many places to put antennas in the apartment. On the roof, between roofs, outside using the flagpole technique, or even bushes or trees. I got the feeling that after reading this material an "each to his own" philosophy may define the choices a person may make when it is time to tune up. Stay clear of the coils, and use an SWR meter

to achieve a good impedance.

In September 1959, *QST*, pg. 18, W2BIV, Myrton J. Billings wrote about the precautions necessary for safe antenna operation in the apartment. He suggests insulation, masts, and good halyards when constructing antennas which can withstand bad weather. "Indoor and Outdoor Antennas for Apartment Dwellers Some Tips on Getting a Signal on the Air" by Lewis G. McCoy W1ICP, September 1964, pg. 45, describes an indoor twenty five foot wire, and a transmatch design for 80M. He alludes to being able to tune rain gutters, fences, or bed springs, or you can hang wire outside the window, or between two buildings; the clothes line. His transmatch will reduce first and second harmonics.

In August 1964 *QST*, pg. 34, Terry Griner, W3DEA, made a "Retrievable Antenna 'A Solution for the Apartment Dweller'" He constructed a base with an antenna angle of forty five degrees out the window. He used two six foot aluminum poles! He also made a center-fed zep dipole with a mast and attached it to the building making it retrievable after use. In 1967 Lewis G. McCoy W1ICP, June *QST*, pg. 42, designed a window antenna with a transmatch and a twelve foot Reynolds aluminum tubing, also at forty five degrees from the window. His transmatch uses coax couplers, an inductive coil, and variable capacitors which he taps for impedance. In March 1972, *QST*, pg. 30, Robert T. Halter, K7RDH, and David P. Weik, WN7PDW wrote "The Renters Delight Another Solution to Antenna Problems." They used dish pans filled with concrete and screwed a tripod into the pans to secure a beam antenna on a roof for stability. In a more novel and humorous way Arthur J. Peterson, W7CZB, October 1974, *QST*, pg. 22 made the "Apartment Dwellers Slinky Jr. Antenna." Using a dipole he linked six Slinkys, three on each side, and with a good dip meter, and earth ground went to business on 80M. His antenna out performed random length wires, whips, and window antennas. He said consider beauty and frequency and the indoor Slinky will do the job. In June 1975, *QST*, pg. 15, Milton Drake W2JPN, solved roof top antenna problems and designed a balcony whip with a television rotor, loading coils for every band, and a band switching device. He also used a forty five degree angle for his antenna. Peter O'Dell, AE8Q, in December *QST* 1980 pg. 40-43, developed a system for the high rise apartment and no roof privileges. He suggests a flag pole antenna and a transmatch using two variable capacitors, a loading coil and a balun. He also spent time looking at cold water pipes for a ground, and wondered were the pipes eventually grounded? He developed a counterpoise with radials attached to one point in the station chassis.

As can be seen amateur radio operators have adapted to apartment living. Their creativity in this area serves to illuminate a principle of our hobby; to promote and develop skills and interests in amateur radio, and design devices which can enhance performance.

73 de KG2OR, Richard Sellers.

*Editor's Note: We can add one more bibliographic note to Rich's narrative with the article that appeared in these pages from our own Dave Faul, VE3TIJ, who has an apartment ham shack at his home in Ajax, Ontario. David's article appeared in the June 1997 Link.*

## Skywarn Informational Nets

*From Skywarn Newsletter*

Don't forget to check into the monthly informational nets of the National Weather Service's Skywarn program. The September net has already been held so watch for information about the October date. On 2-meters, the nets are held at 7PM on the 145.31 Attica and 147.15 Fulton repeaters and at 7:30 PM on the 146.67 Arkwright, 145.11 Bristol and 147.255 Watertown repeaters. Don't forget that even if you're not a ham, you can listen in on your scanner!

On HF, the weekly nets are held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM at 7.234 Mhz (+/- QRM)

The Skywarn nets are a good opportunity to keep touch with our local reporting procedures.

## Another Weather Service Open House

*From Skywarn Newsletter*

The National Weather Service's Buffalo office will be holding an Open House of its building on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2002 from 11 AM to 5 PM.

Visitors will see how weather forecasts are created and issued and learn about the equipment we rely on such as satellites and radar. In addition to a tour of our facility, there'll be plenty of outdoor exhibits to see. There'll be a weather balloon and various instruments on display, videos to see, and numerous pamphlets and handouts. The Buffalo Chapter of the American Red Cross will be on hand to answer questions about weather-related disaster relief. The FAA Flight Service Station will have a tent with information and displays for anyone involved with, or interested in, aviation. The Buffalo-Niagara Airport Crash/Fire/Rescue will have one of its "monster" fire trucks on display. Visitors will also be able to see a special aspect of military weather services. A Combat Weather Team from the Air Forces 20<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron from Fort Drum, New York will be on hand with a tactical weather station, which is used to support Army combat operations.

The Buffalo office of the National Weather Service is located at 587 Aero Drive in Cheektowaga. There is no charge for admission. For security reasons, however, adults will be required to show identification to enter the facility.

Mark your calendars now! Hope to see you there!

## Items Remaining at GLB Shop

After over a year of weekly effort by many members and coordinated by Keith, K2DSN, the former GLB shop in West Seneca is nearly empty. Some items do remain, however, and are available to interested members for a suitable donation to the club.

In particular, there are a lot of metal shelf units as well as some desks, chairs and file cabinets. There is also a full-size drafting table waiting for a new home. (Drafting tables make great work benches!)

If you are interested in any item, contact Keith, K2DSN, at 652-0036 or [klaudens@pce.net](mailto:klaudens@pce.net).

## From the Archives

October 1968 BARRA Link

*President's Message: As you have probably heard I have been in the hospital since the 23 September so my activities have been limited.*

*However, I have had time to ponder and collect my thoughts. My enthusiasm is as great now as it was when we organized. I feel that, ultimately, our club will become one of the best known groups in the country. Not because we have a large membership, but because we have an active, progressive group that has continuously supported the growth of F.M.*

*Once again I would like to request your help. Jeff Kaye from WKBW has requested that BARRA support WKBW during the annual Salvation Army Drive as we have in the past.*

*We have sent him our acceptance and should have all the particulars soon. It looks like 6 or 8 mobiles and a base station for a Saturday in December would do the trick.*

*I expect to be out of the hospital about 4 October and should be in great shape for our next meeting.*

73, Fran K2GUG

## New Venue for Technical Committee Meetings

The BARRA Technical Committee has announced a new meeting location for its first-Friday-of-the-month meetings. Room 117 at the BOCES Potter Career and Technical Center, located at 705 Potter Road, West Seneca on the corner of Slade, Potter and Orchard Park Roads is the new location.

With the impending sale of the old GLB shop a new meeting spot was needed. Though a rather accidental contact by new BARRA member Dave Halik, KC2JUF, it was discovered that the Potter Road location was in search of groups just like ours to make use of the facility. Ted, WA2HKS, followed up on that lead and we now have a meeting spot for the next year.

As always, any BARRA member is welcome to check out the Technical Committee, the forum where the status of current club projects is reported on and evaluated and new projects are proposed and planned. Being a "technical" person isn't required – often the viewpoint of a non-tech type is needed and encouraged.

The monthly meetings usually adjourn to a local restaurant for munchies and less formal discussion on other topics. This month it was Arrow antennas.

## Christmas Party News

It seems awfully early to be thinking of the Yuletide season, but at this month's board meeting in an effort to bolster and encourage attendance at our holiday party this year, club president Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ, has generously offered an interesting change in the party this year: there will be no charge to the attendees and there will be a door prize raffle for a DVD player! The date is Monday, December 16, 2002. Mark it now on your calendars and plan on attending with the spouse and kids.

It is indeed generous of Nelson and his company, Crest A/V Electronics to offer this for our party. Thanks, Nelson!

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# Calendar of Events

## GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Brighton & 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, September 16, 2002** – Review of summer work parties at various BARRA repeater sites.

**Monday, October 21, 2002** – Annual BARRA Meeting with election of Board members. Program presentation by Bruce Small, KM2L, on the topic of “Is electromagnetic radiation safe?” and “How do I know if I am in compliance with the new regulations?”.

**Monday, December 16, 2001** – Annual BARRA Christmas Party. Come out and join in the holiday spirit with BARRA friends and families. DVD player door prize raffle courtesy of Crest A/V Electronics!

**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 Crest A/V Electronics, 1570 Main Street, Buffalo, between Michigan and Ferry Streets. 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 each month at 7:00 pm in Room 117 of the BOCES Potter 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 (**C**offee & **C**rumpets **I**nterrupted by **T**echnical **T**alk), where progress of current projects is evaluated and new projects are planned. The meetings usually conclude with munchies at a nearby restaurant.

