

The Link

September 2003



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

This Month's Program: Shack Work at Cole Road

Our welcome-back-from-the-summer program this month will be a review of the major shack work done at our Cole Road repeater site a few weeks ago, in which the base of the shack was replaced. It was NOT a simple job!

The Cole Road "A" frame shack was originally constructed on a series of concrete piers set in the ground. Unfortunately, those piers were not set terribly far into the ground; that is to say they were not below the frost line. Over the years, the freeze/thaw cycle of our climate worked its "magic" on those piers and slowly heaved them out of the ground. The shifting of the piers was always known and the shack has been shimmed and leveled many times over the years, however the situation became critical within the last year or so.

Recognizing that something had to be done this summer, the Technical Committee and the Board of Directors started looking at options last winter. After a variety of ideas and suggestions were considered, it was decided to remove the piers and set the shack on a series of timbers, namely railroad ties, which were themselves set in crushed stone, on the ground.

It was quite a job and we are most thankful to the tremendous crew that turned out to help (listed in no particular order): WA2HKS, W2EAS, WA2ZSJ, KC2JUF, N2YDM, WA2CWF, KA2WIO, KC2LAQ, K2DSN, N2ZDU, WB2FXY, N2MHG, and "Wile E." A special mention and thanks is needed for Tom, KC2HMY, who while not a member of BARRA heard about the work party and dropped in to help because he uses the machine!

There are some photos in this issue on page 6 of the work done, but they don't tell the whole story. Come on out to the meeting to hear all about how it was accomplished -- it's a story worth hearing! See you there.

Board Nominations Are This Month

It is time once again to entertain nominations to the BARRA board of directors. This year sees the expiration of the terms of Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ, and Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT. Any member is eligible for nomination, and you can nominate yourself!

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the September general membership meeting. Be sure to attend and bring the names of those whom you feel will be good leaders for our club.

A Word From the President

Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ

I would like to thank the club members who showed up to work at the W2EUP repeater site last month. It did my heart good to see many hams at the site; a lot was accomplished. From antenna work to securing the new foundation for the "A" frame, it was a great day and I actually had some fun doing the work -- and the weather even held out!

The turnout was good and the ideas and help from the group helped accomplish our task in a timely manner. We had a free lunch and came up with other ideas for the shack from securing the rail ties to cleaning up the site. I would like to select another day in October to clean up the site a little. If you are interesting in helping please let me know, it's a great way to meet some of the club members.

A special thanks to the vice president of RAWNY who heard our call for help and came out to give us a hand completing the work.

As the club scales down it is important that we have the leadership to take us into the future and ask you to consider giving the club part of your time as a board member. It does not require you to be a high-tech person but rather someone committed to helping forge the club in the right direction. I know everyone is concerned about the time commitment and rightfully so. However, with the invention of the computer and e-mail it takes a great deal of pressure and time off our shoulders.

The last couple of field trips to different sites (pictures in this issue!) was incredible and the FM transmitter site especially was an eye opener. It makes you think what goes into keeping a station on the air. If you have ideas for other field trips or guest speakers, please let me know.

Our Christmas Party will be here before you know it and you should see the door prizes we have planned. Remember to mark your calendars for December 15th, and bring a friend, keeping in mind that you do not have to be a club member to attend.

I would also like to propose reducing the number of board meetings, which in turn reduces the time commitment required by the board members. If you are interested in a position on the board, please allow your name to be placed in nomination at the September meeting. I have also thought of moving the board meetings to different locations in the area if this would help and increase attendance. Please consider a board position. We always welcome fresh faces!

Don't forget to sign up for the e-mail version of this newsletter! It comes to you crisp and in color!

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 '05 941-5999
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '04 877-0417
Director	Voit Drankhan KA2WIO '05 941-5569

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
K2DSN	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
WB2DSS	PL 151.4 443.925 +	Niagara Falls
WA2HKS	444.00 +	Buffalo
WB2DSS	PL 151.4 444.75 +	Kenmore

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.

SpaceLink

Please note that due to a serious problem with the UO-14 satellite, the SpaceLink is no longer in operation.

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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.

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 Membership Upgrade List

Each year in September, a list is compiled of all members who have performed some task for the benefit of the club. According to our by-laws, the members who do something for the club in the preceding year are granted "voting member" status and are allowed a five dollar discount on their dues renewal.

While we try to be thorough in our compilation, some members may have been missed. If your call does not appear on this list and should, advise your editor or a board member ASAP.

Repeater Trustees

K2DSN
WB2DSS
N2YDM
WA2HKS
K2LMH
W2HYP
WB2JQK

Technical Committee

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N2YDM
K2DSN
KA2WFT
KC2JUF
KB1XW
W2EAS
KA2WIO
KC2KHJ
WB2VEU
N2GH
W2HYP
K2LMH

Link Articles

K2ILH
N2YDM
KG2OR
KA2WFT
N2HP
KC2JUF
WA2ZSJ

Annual Auction

K2JGI
N2MWO
N2YDM
W2EAS
K2MDM
N2IE
KC2FIV

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KC2JUF KC2LGK
WA2TVT
W2EAS

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WA2CWF W2EAS
KA2WIO

Life Member

W2PVL

PO Box Pickup

AJ2G

WNYSORC Rep

N2YDM

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N2YDM
KA2IWJ
KC2JUF

Tower Climber

N2ZDU

A-Frame Project

WA2HKS
KA2WIO
WA2ZSJ
KC2JUF
KC2LAQ
K2DSN
N2ZDU
WB2FXV
N2MHG
WA2CWF
W2EAS
N2YDM

Prizes, Donations, Refreshments

K2RSK WA2ZSJ K2MDM



*** Please note that at press time we had no information about members who participated in public service events. Please contact the editor or a board member with that information.*

Tours, Tours, Tours!

BARRA has enjoyed a busy couple of months touring some local sites of interest. Starting on a damp, chilly evening in May we joined the RAWNY group at the downtown naval park and enjoyed some fellowship and a tour of the USS *Little Rock*. June found us at the Wethersfield transmitter site of WNSA 107.7 FM, home also to our 145.17 and 442.00 repeaters. Early August had us once again on the road to the Hamburg combined transmitter site of WNED-AM and WHLD-AM. Photos are credited wherever possible, and our thanks to all who helped document our activities.



KA2IWK Photo

The combined BARRA and RAWNY group enjoys pizza and each other's company before the tour starts.

USS Little Rock Tour



KB2FAK Photo

Peter, K2RSK, checks out the *Little Rock's* HF station while Harold, KD2V, (left) and Leigh, KC2VS, (right) look on.

WNED/WHLD AM



KA2WFT Photo

The five-tower, eight-acre antenna farm at WNED/WHLD.



KA2WFT Photo

Dave, KC2JUF, explains the use of a field strength monitor.

more pictures on the next page...

More from WNED/WHLD AM ...

*KA2WFT Photo*

The group checks out the loading apparatus at the base of Tower #1.

*KA2WFT Photo*

Dave, KC2JUF, explains the circuit and equipment that phases the five-tower array to the transmitters.



WNSA 107.7 FM

Photos by N2YDM

<--- Look, up in the sky: it's a bird, it's a plane??? No, the group views the 500-ft tower



The tour begins with an overview of the massive renovations done on the entire physical plant.



<--- Mike, W2HYP, talks about the 442.00 repeater, visible behind him.

Cole Road A-Frame Project

*W2EAS Photo*

A subset of the total work crew poses in front of the completed job. Nice work, guys!

*W2EAS Photo*

A side view of the new base under the shack.



Some views of the shack project in progress. *N2YDM Photos*



A Special Thanks

A special thank-you goes to Ted's Jumbo Red Hots, Peter K2RSK and Marc K2MDM for providing condiments at the July Mobile Clinic!

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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, September 15, 2003 -- Review of the major shack work at Cole Road in August. The shack was taken off its original concrete piers and set on RR ties. Come hear how it was done!

Monday, October 20, 2003 -- BARRA Annual Meeting and election of officers.

Monday, December 15, 2003 -- Annual BARRA Christmas Party. Bring the spouse and/or a ham friend and enjoy holiday fellowship with the BARRA gang.

Monday, January 19, 2004 -- Annual report to the membership of the Technical Committee.

**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 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.

Official Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc. will take place
Monday, October 20, 2003 at 7:30 PM
for the purpose of hearing reports and electing members to the board of directors.