

The Link

September 2005



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

This Month's Program: Board Nominations

It's September and it is once again time to solicit nominations for the BARRA board of directors. This year sees the expiration of the terms for Voit Drankhan, KA2WIO, and Brian Neri, WA2CWF. Any current member of BARRA, including incumbents, may be nominated for election.

Another housekeeping task to take care of at the September meeting will be the approval of the voting membership upgrade list, which appears at right. If there are any errors in the list, please bring them to the attention of a board member; anyone left off the list was NOT intentional!

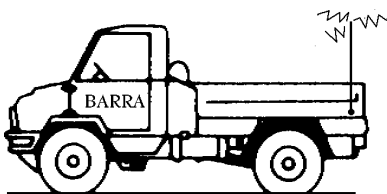
The lack of a program outside of club business for September brings us to our next article:

Program Chair and Ideas Wanted

The board, and especially your editor, are up to their eyes in various club activities and are therefore posting the availability of the position of Program Chair. This person will take care of scheduling programs for the general membership meetings throughout the year. Since we have our annual events at some meetings like the Technical Committee report in January, Auction in February, Mobile Clinic in July and Holiday Party in December, that leaves only September, October, April and June to find programs for.

We also need ideas for programs. If you have an interesting job or a hobby outside of amateur radio (there's other hobbies??), maybe that could be a program topic. While programs of a technical nature tend to fall more in mesh with BARRA, just about anything of interest would work for a program.

If you have a program idea, or would like to volunteer for the Program Chair position, please contact your editor at ka2wft@arrl.net or 834-2664 evenings.



Remember that the Link is available as an emailed full color PDF document attachment by email. The club saves postage costs and you receive a sharp-looking unmangled newsletter copy. To get your next Link by email, contact the editor at ka2wft@arrl.net

Voting Member Upgrade List

Per the BARRA by-laws, presented here is a list of those members who have in the previous year (October to September) participated in a club-sponsored or club-sanctioned activity and on approval of the list at the September general meeting, will become full voting members of BARRA for 2005-06.

At publication time we did not have the list of members who participated in ARES/RACES activities and will be added as soon as we have it.

WA2CWF B,F,T
WB2DSS R,T
W2EAS B,T,S
AJ2G P
N2GH T
K2GTM F,N,T,S
WA2HKS F,R,T
WA2HVE T,S
W2HYP R,T
N2IE A
KC2IJC T
K2ILH R,T,S
K2JGI T
WB2JQK R,T
WB3JVK T
KC2LGK A,F,S
K2LMH R,T
N2MHG T
WA2OLW T
KG2OR L
N2QJG T
K2RSK O
KB2TOY F,T,S
WA2TVT T
WB2VEU T
KA2WFT A,B,F,T,S,L
KA2WIO B
WB2VLV T
KB1XW T,S
N2YDM A,R,T,L
N2ZDU T
WA2ZSJ A,B,S
W2ZZA A,F,N,R,T



Key:

A: Auction help
B: Board of directors
F: Field Day
L: Link/Link articles
N: Tech Net control
O: Other activities
P: PO Box pickup
R: Repeater trustee
S: Soccer Tournament Communications
T: Technical Committee/Site work

*Dues are due starting next month!
Check next month's mailing label for your
renewal amount*

Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '06 634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '06 834-2664
Secretary	Brian Neri WA2CWF '05 941-5999
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '07 836-0417
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.	Gary Wysocki N2WLS

Voice Repeaters

WB2JQK	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
WB2DSS	PL 151.4	443.925+	Niagara Falls
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.

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

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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.).

Editor's PTT

Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT



It has been some time since I have written one of these columns but the events of the recent weeks have brought a few things to light that I felt needed commenting upon.

As we have been made painfully aware of the events in Louisiana and Mississippi, it has also been reported that the only communication in and out of the areas hardest hit by hurricane Katrina, especially in the first days after the storm, has been by amateur radio.

Indeed, our friends at the Lancaster club have been featured several times in the local media doing their bit, as it were, to assist with traffic to and from the gulf states.

One of the premises for the very existence of amateur radio is public and emergency service and once again hams have stepped forward to do just that. There are times when it is grumbled about our local traffic nets and their operation on local repeaters and how traffic handling can be handled more efficiently with newer technology. Admittedly, there are times when listening to the traffic nets is not the most exciting stuff happening on the radio dial, however the operators who participate in the nets are honing their traffic handling skills for serving in a catastrophe like the one that is upon our southern neighbors. Also, all the technology in the world isn't going to help when the power is knocked out and all you have is an HT and a piece of paper. Witness what is going on down south to see what I mean.

I hope this huge public service effort by amateur radio operators all over the country is not going unnoticed by the FCC. Lately, it seems, the FCC is all too eager to auction off another piece of spectrum to the highest bidder so that teenagers can have another techno-toy with which to communicate endless drivel among their friends, another techno-toy that quits when a disaster hits. If we look at the recent man-made and natural disasters suffered on our shores, we read about how in nearly every case cellular telephone circuits are either gone completely or become so hopelessly jammed that no communication takes place, and it was the hams who stepped in and got the message traffic flowing while the commercial circuits were being restored. In short, hurricane Katrina should be a wake-up call to the FCC to remind them that amateurs need spectrum in order to be effective and useful and to be able to live up to our charter when trouble strikes.

Hurricane Katrina should also be a wake-up call to ourselves in looking at our own disaster preparedness. Do you have emergency power of some kind, whether it is storage batteries or a generator? Do you have a supply of fuel for the generator? Are all the batteries for your HT(s) on charge and ready for use should the lights go out right now? Do you have a portable station, or rigs and antennas and power that can be grabbed on the run for deployment somewhere else? I know I sure don't for a lot of those items. Our prime season for weather upset -- winter -- is coming faster than you think. Man-made events could happen any time. We need to be ready right now.



Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Calendar of Events

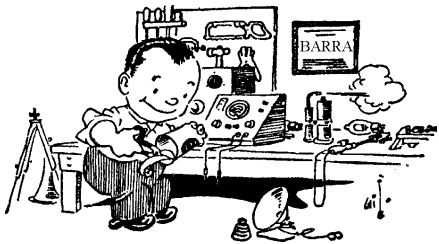
GENERAL MEETINGS

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, September 19, 2005 -- Meeting program TBA.

Monday, October 17, 2005 -- BARRA Annual Meeting with election of board members. Meeting program TBA.

Monday, December 19, 2005 -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party! Save the date now!



**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 17, 2005** at St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Tonawanda, for the purpose of electing directors and reviewing financial reports and any other business that may properly come before the membership.