

The Link

September 2006



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

This Month: Voting Member Upgrades and Board Nominations

This month's meeting will see the membership approving the list of voting membership upgrades (see Page 4) and opening nominations for candidates to the BARRA Board of Directors.

The terms of board directors Nelson Oldfield, WA2ZSJ, and Doug Alderdice, KA2WFT, expire this year, so there will be two positions seeking candidates. All current members of BARRA are eligible for nomination, and incumbents can be nominated if they choose to run again.

At press time there is no formal program planned for the meeting, which brings to mind a renewal for our call for someone to coordinate programs for our meetings. However, the meeting is still an important one, and there may be an impromptu update on repeater work this summer -- there's been a bit of that going around! The coffee promises to be hot and the doughnuts fresh (thanks again, Sandy!), so stop on by.

New Dues and Newsletter Policy Taking Effect With Renewals

Next month will see us starting into the dues renewal season again and there are some changes to keep in mind. Earlier this year, the board proposed and the membership voted for an increase in dues, starting with the renewals for 2006-07. All dues are increasing by \$5, and is the first increase in dues since the late 1970s.

In addition, due to ever-increasing postage costs and the success of the electronic version of *The Link*, the board further proposed and membership voted in favor of changing the policy on delivery of our newsletter, *The Link*. Starting with this fall's renewals, all members who wish to receive the newsletter by US Mail must pay an additional \$4 with their dues to cover costs associated with paper delivery of *The Link*. Members who select email delivery of the newsletter are subject to no additional fees.

The board regrets these changes, but in light of dwindling membership and increasing costs, there was really no alternative. The board has been extremely mindful of the club's bottom line over the recent years, but even with all the cuts made (turning off autopatches, etc.) we still face the real possibility of deficit spending. The dues increase and member subsidy of newsletter postage are ways to help the club's financial position. The board continues to look at all of our expenses with an eye toward further savings.

If you are not currently receiving *The Link* by email and need to do so, you can sign up with your editor at any time by email, ka2wft@arrl.net.

Echolink on 146.73, Update

Bill Pike, K2ILH

During a recent meeting of the BARRA Technical Committee, the utilization of the Echolink connection on the 146.73 repeater was reviewed. As presented in the July issue of *The Link*, this repeater has been connected to the Internet by Echolink this summer. That connection has expanded the availability of contacts through the repeater to include other repeaters, link stations, and individual stations worldwide. Calls can be initiated locally using DTMF entry or remote stations can connect to the repeater from repeater, link or individual nodes at their locations.

Moderate activity has been noted, principally by other stations connecting to us. These typically number three to four a day. Many of these appear to be listeners and hearing no activity, they disconnect. Of those connects that do make a call, some go unanswered as you might expect. A few result in a DX contact that can be interesting and informative.

Very few connections are originated from the repeater. These may be calls to known stations such as local expatriates. Random connects yield about a 1 in 10 actual connection with a live person. A possible reason for the dearth of originating connects was suggested. Could it be that possible potential users don't have the DTMF codes handy? The following are offered; only two two digit numbers are needed:

00 Connect to a random node. Any country world wide.
Disconnect from all nodes that may be connected.
(Currently set for 3 ways maximum.)

If you want to go deeper use some of these :

01 Connect to a random link
03 Connect to a random user
09 Reconnect to the last connected node
08 Status
* Play info
Disconnect from current node.

Speed dials :

98 Connect to WA2UJR link
99 Connect to K2GII link (in FL)
95 Connect to K2LGJ link

If anyone wants a special speed dial number for their favorite repeater connection, or what have you, this can be considered. Of course you can connect by encoding any node number. This repeater's node is currently 299329. Current plans could include enhancements of the system, or discontinuance depending on interest. It was decided to leave it running, as is, during the day and early evening for a month or two more before deciding what changes will be made.

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	Greg Miller K2GTM '08 565-1807
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '07 836-0417
Director	Dave Halik W2ZZA '08 825-4417

Committees & Chairs

Technical	Ted Ertl WA2HKS
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
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.

CBS-Scanners-Ham-Marine-Business Radios-Radar Detectors

HIRSCH'S

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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 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. 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

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

Rich Sellers, KG2OR

Before you get on the air did you ever think of obtaining solar sunspot numbers? It is like looking out the window for weather conditions. You can easily find SSN, and A or K indexes on the computer. High numbers mean storms, and low numbers refer to quiet time. Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, has written, "The Sun, the Earth, the Ionosphere: What the Numbers Mean, and Propagation Predictions-A Brief Introduction to Propagation and the major factors affecting it." He writes about sunspots, atomic theory, coronal mass ejections, solar winds, the indexes, electromagnetic fields, and their role in exchanging electrons in the ionosphere; causing F layer splitting. www.arrl.org/tis/info/K9LA-prop.html You can also find an abundant amount of information on this subject at www.sec.noaa.gov/ for space weather, radio blackouts, and solar and geomagnetic storms. Also, search for solar science, and click on NASA Marshall's solar physics, solar science.msfc.nasa.gov/ "the Sun in Action."



I have tried to use the radio during high sunspot activity and it is very difficult to send or receive radio signals. Most frequencies become static, a consequence of solar electromagnetic radiation entering the compressed electromagnetic lines of earth which destroy ionization. This happens on the illuminated side of the earth at high latitudes.

Please take some time to research the solar sunspot literature. You can obtain a scientific analysis of your space weather. It should be helpful in planning the use of your radio.

73 de KG2OR.

Editor's Note: Solar A and K index numbers, as well as space storm information affecting RF propagation, can also be obtained from WWV at 18 minutes past the hour.

WA2OLW (Leprechaun Graphics, 675-3764) still has BARRA jackets and T-shirts available. Space didn't allow us to run the larger ad this time.

AixiZ Service and International LLC

OEM Laser Components

WWW.MFGCN.COM

Chuck Maricle W5CM

Voting Member Upgrade List

According to the BARRA by-laws, each September a list is compiled of the activities that each member took part in over the previous year. By participating in a BARRA activity, a member is then elevated to Voting Member status for the following year and is entitled to a \$5 reduction in dues for that year. A voting member is allowed to vote on matters that come before the membership.

This list is not cast in concrete. We are certain that there are folks who have been inadvertently omitted from an activity. If you have been left off, it wasn't intentional! Contact your editor at ka2wft@arrl.net or 834-2664 evenings, or at the meeting on Monday September 18th.

KA2CQQ	F	N2HP	X	KC2LZG	T	WA2TVT	FT
WA2CWF	F	WA2HVE	ST	N2OBW	X	AB2UK	FT
N2DAY	X	W2HYP	R	WA2OLW	T	WB2VEU	T
WB2DSS	LRT	N2IE	A	KG2OR	L	K2VGZ	T
K2EAG	TX	K2ILH	LRSTX	KC2PKN	FT	WB2VLV	TX
W2EAS	ABST	KA2IWK	ST	N2QJG	K	KC2VS	X
KC2EQU	X	K2JGI	A	K2RSK	Q	KA2WFT	ABFLST
AJ2G	P	WB2JQK	R	W2SMW	X	KB1XW	T
N2GH	RT	WB3JVK	T	VE3TIJ	L	N2YDM	LRST
K2GTM	BFNQST	KC2LKG	AFMS	KB2TOY	FTS	N2ZDU	STX
WA2HKS	FRT					WA2ZSJ	ABS
						W2ZZA	ABFNRST

KEY:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| A - Auction | P - PO Box pickup |
| B - Board member | Q - Other activities |
| F - Field Day | R - Repeater trustee |
| K - Repeater site host | S - Soccer Tournament Ops |
| L - Link article/other | T - Technical Committee |
| M - Meeting refreshments | X - Public Service/RACES |
| N - Tech Net Control | |



Above: Overview of the site. Backup transmitter cabinet is in foreground, main repeater rack on the left with duplexer cabinet on top; main transmitter cabinet is to the right, behind the backup transmitter. Control cabinet is behind the main rack.

Meet Your Repeater!

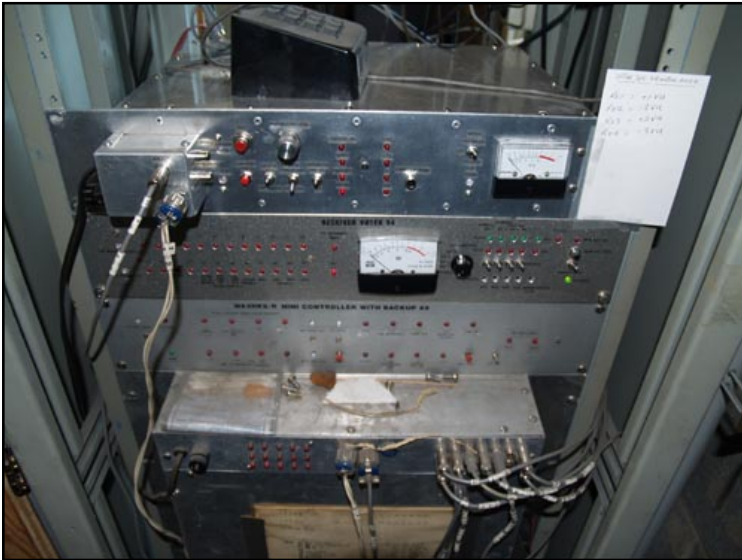
Ever wonder what the 444.00 MHz repeater looks like? Here it is! KA2WFT snapped a few shots on a summer visit to the site with trustee WA2HKS.

Below: Main repeater rack. Contains the #1 receiver, transmitter exciter and intermediate power amp, control receiver and some other neat gadgets.



Above: Control cabinet. Contains receiver voter, link receiver, weather receiver, and control systems. Backup battery bank is in the bottom of this rack. *More pix on Page 5!*

More Photos of 444.000!



Above: Closeup of receiver voter (second unit down from top), controllers (bottom two units) and the famous voice of WA2HKS/R "lives" in the top unit.



Above: Main transmitter amplifier rack. Power supply (top), amplifier (middle) and antenna and backup transmitter switching equipment (bottom).



At Left: Backup battery bank.

Editor's Note: the ad below was received via email via the club's web site and is offered by a non-member. We are listing the ad as a courtesy without endorsement or comment.

FOR SALE

If you have any questions or would like to see the equipment, call Ron Kunst @ 585-359-1241, leave a message if no answer. All items are in the Rochester area.

Station Radios:

ICOM, 720A HF all band transceiver, w/ICPS15 power supply and ICSP3 external speaker. Modified for MARS work. (400\$)

Swan, 250C 6m SSB Transceiver, w/Swan 117xc power supply/speaker. (100\$)

HeathKit Lunchbox 6m, w/Squa-lo 6m ant. (10\$)

Mobile Radios:

Standard, C1208DA 2m (controller/mic/speaker needs repair). (50\$)

10m SSB, Converted CB. (10\$)

Handheld Radios:

ICOM, IC-P4AT 440 fm. (100\$)

Kenwood, TH-31A 220 fm (50\$)

Station Equipment:

Murch, UT-2000A Transmatch ant, tuner. (50\$)

Diawa, CN-520 Cross needle SWR & power meter (20\$)
1.8-60 mhz, 200w/2kw.

Nye-Viking, Hybrid phone patch. (20\$)

Heathkit, Can-Tenna. (10\$)

Antennas:

Hygain, TH3-MK3 (3 element), Tri-bander beam. (50\$)

Hygain, 214S-1 (14 element), 2m beam. (50\$)

Hygain, 64B (4 element), 6m beam. (10\$)

Tower & Rotor:

Rohn, 26G. 30' + (3, 10' sections) w/top section, tip-over base and guywires. CDE, Ham rotor. (tower & rotor 150\$)

Note: tower, rotor, tri-bander & 2m beam are up and need to be taken down.

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 18, 2006 -- General membership meeting at the church, nominations of board candidates. Program TBA.

Monday, October 16, 2006 -- BARRA Annual Meeting with election of board directors.

Monday, December 18, 2006 -- Annual BARRA Holiday Party! Join the BARRA gang for food and seasonal fellowship.

Monday, January 15, 2007 -- Annual report of the Technical Committee to the membership.



**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 16, 2006
For the purpose of hearing reports and
electing directors of the board.