

# The Link

September 2010



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

## This Month's Meeting: Annual Report of the Technical Committee

This month's meeting program is the annual report of the Technical Committee to the membership. The Technical Committee is that body of BARRA that does the actual work on our repeaters and at our sites. Many club members participate in one way or another on the Tech Committee and this month's report is the year-in-review summary of the committee's activities.

The Technical Committee meets once a month, year-round. During the school year the meetings are held at the BOCES Potter Road Career and Technical Center in West Seneca. Summer meetings are held (weather permitting) at the Cole Road repeater site. Both summer meetings this year were rained out and the committee met at W2ZZA and KC2LGK's house -- thanks to Dave and Sandy for the hospitality!

The committee's presentation will feature many photos of the activities and projects undertaken in the past year. This report session is always a good way to "visit" our repeater sites without leaving the comfort of your chair at the church!

Plan on stopping by Monday, September 20th! See you there.

## Were You a "Greenie"?

This past July the Buffalo area was host to the Empire State Games and as in previous years it was a big ham radio service event for not only local hams but also hams from across the state. Ham radio operations took place on BARRA repeaters, primarily 146.91/444.00. The hams who worked the games were issued bright green golf shirts and the athletic trainers at one games venue was heard to refer to the hams as "greenies."

There were a number of BARRA members who participated in this fun event (see the voting list at right), as well as a number of regulars heard on the BARRA Tech Net each week. Your editor worked the Games this summer for the first time in an embarrassing number of years and was reminded what a great public service and great public spotlight the Games puts on ham radio, especially in this age of the cell phone. The next time the Empire State Games hit town, consider working them. If you have the time and ability you can also work them next summer in Rochester.

The ham radio net control and organizer for the Games, Bob Brackett, KD2IM, was very appreciative of the BARRA repeaters and volunteers and thanks everyone who participated. A special thanks goes out to Bill, KB2TOY, and Dave, W2ZZA, who loaned some coax cables for use at the Games net control station at the UB Amherst campus

## Voting Membership Upgrade List

According to BARRA's by-laws, each year in September a list is compiled of those members who have participated in club or club-sanctioned activities in the preceding twelve months. These members are then eligible for full voting membership.

The list is by no means complete. It was put together at the last minute by your editor (as always!) with input from a couple of board members and repeater trustees. If you have been left off the list or a particular activity is not credited, there is no slight intended. Please contact your editor with the corrections. The list, as corrected, will be presented at the general meeting on Monday for approval. Corrections can be made at that time as well.

N3AU R, T	KG2OR L
K2CRR Q	KC2PIT F, T
KA2CQQ A, B, E, F, P, R, T	N2QJG Q
N2DAY P	WB2RD R
WB2DSS R	K2RSK C
W2EAS A, B, R, T	W2SMW P
AJ2G M	VE3TIJ L
WA2HKS F, R, T	KB2TOY A, F, G, N, T
N2HP P	AB2UK A, B, F, N, P, R, T
N2IE A	KC2UJH F, G, N, R, T
K2ILH R, T	N2YDM A, R, T
W2IMY T	KA2WEY F
KA2IWK T	KA2WFT A, B, E, F, L, N, T
WB2JCB A, P	WB2VEU T
K2JGI A	K2VGZ T
KC2LGK H, R	KC2VS P
KC2LZG T	KB1XW T
KG9NZ T	N2ZDU P
N2OBW P	WA2ZSJ A, B
WA2OLW P, R	W2ZZA F, H, N, R, T

### KEY TO ACTIVITIES:

A	Auction
B	Board Member
C	Event condiments/Ted's coupons
E	Empire State Games
F	Field Day
G	Cole Rd Lawn Mowing
H	Tech Committee Meeting Host
L	Link Article
M	PO Box Mail Pickup
N	Tech Net Control
Q	Repeater Site Host
P	Public Service Event
R	Repeater Trustee or Site Work
T	Tech Committee Member



Please direct any corrections, additions, etc. to your editor.

## Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Association, Inc.

### Club Officers & Directors

President	Nelson Oldfield WA2ZSJ '12	634-6394
Vice President	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT '12	834-2664
Secretary	Charles Grammer KA2CQQ '11	886-4513
Treasurer	Ed Swan W2EAS '10	836-0417
Director	Damon Edwards, AB2UK '12	847-2140

### Committees & Chairs

Technical	Ted Ertl WA2HKS
Link Editor	Doug Alderdice KA2WFT
WNYSORC Representative Chair	Ben Bass N2YDM
Membership,	
Roster & Passwords	KA2WFT, W2EAS
Activities List	Ed Swan W2EAS
ID Badges	W2EAS
Erie County Emer. Coord.	Vince Harzewski N2JRS
Erie County RACES Officer	Gene Kremzier N2OBW

### Voice Repeaters

W2EUP	PL 107.2	29.68-	Boston
K2ISO		145.17-	Wethersfield
K2ILH	PL 107.2	146.73-	N. Tonawanda
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

### APRS Digi-peater

K2ILH-2	144.39	Amherst
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### 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

WNY's Largest Communication Store Since 1961  
219 California Drive - Williamsville, NY 14221

Hours-M,T,Th,F 10-5:30; Sat. 10-5:00; Closed Wed.

(716) 632-1189

Sales - Service - Installation

*WA2OLW (Leprechaun Graphics, 675-3764) still has BARRA jackets and T-shirts available.*

## 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

### The BARRA E-Mail List Serves

To join, send look up the group "barrabflo" on

<http://groups.yahoo.com>

The Tech Committee also has an email group, BARRA-Tech, on Yahoo Groups. Or, email the editor to receive an invite to join either or both groups.

*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

US Mail newsletter delivery: add \$4.00

**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

*Richard Sellers, KG2OR*

Henry "Hank" Kuhn, W2IRU (SK) used to prepare radio material for the blind. He was a RAWNY and BARRA member for many years. His deep voice warmed the inner soul, and as many people believe, he was dedicated to working very hard for the hobby. This "Hobby Highlights" is dedicated to Henry.



I recently learned from Richard Fiorello, WB2HWA, who has been blind since birth, but never met Henry, that he put up a small Diamond 5/8 wave VHF, UHF, and a Butternut HF9V vertical which compliments his Kenwood TS 480. This set up is quite different from his 1973 world; a Drake TR4, and a Mosley T-33, and a dipole.

Richard was licensed in 1973. He took his General test at the FCC office in downtown Buffalo. Until this day he remains a General. His first station was at his parents' house in a rural setting in WNY, Elma NY.

He became interested in the hobby through a friend of his father, and observations he made in high school and while he was attending Canisius College. Richard said to "look up Handi Ham" on the Internet which is a web site with podcasts, and audio versions of ARRL, Echolink, and many ham radio educational links.

Braille and audio devices are very important to Richard. CW Braille writers, and audio messages performed by speech synthesizers help him to tune and set frequencies. Since these advances in technology ham life has become easier. Although he hasn't applied for WAS, because QSL cards were very difficult to make, he has worked all states. He also had TVI problems; especially when his mother-in-law was watching the Yankees in the ninth inning. Adding wireless Echolink is next, and he is looking forward to routing his system. According to Richard, he has help from his friends including Kevin, WA2FKV, and Lee, KC2RBL. They have assisted in putting up the new antennas.

Imagine that in his earlier days of operating he bridged his SWR meter and tuned his rig by driving high sound pitch for maximum load, and dipping the grid by lowering the sound pitch. Today these practices are performed by audio feed back and key pad entries. During Hank Kuhn's time he saw the progress being made while he made available to blind people many articles. Now computer speech synthesizers can compile reading material in an instant!

WB2HWA is a RAWNY member. Richard and his dog are a familiar site at their meetings. I learned by talking to him that he is very knowledgeable about radio theory and practice. Progress will continue, and the SK voice of Henry Kuhn resounds in my mind; even though the computer revolution has made the labor of his love a function of a speech synthesizer.

The demand precedes the supply. 73.

# Buffalo Amateur Radio Repeater Ass'n

Post Office Box 507

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120-0507



## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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## Calendar of Events

### GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, 2368 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, near Sheridan Drive. Doors open at 7:00 pm for rag chew, business meeting at 7:30, with program following.

**Monday, September 20, 2010** -- Annual report of the Technical Committee to the membership.

**Monday, October 18, 2010** -- Annual meeting of BARRA, Inc. for the purpose of hearing reports and electing board directors.

**Monday, December 20, 2010** -- Holiday Party with the BARRA gang. Bring out your ham friends to our annual holiday gathering.



**NO GENERAL MEETINGS IN JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, AUGUST OR NOVEMBER**

The *Link* is not published in March, May, August and November.

### BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday 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.

Double-check your editor's work on the Voting Membership Upgrade List on Page 1. If you were forgotten, it wasn't intentional! Contact Doug with any corrections.