

May 2015 Newsletter

Big Island Amateur Radio Club



Club holds a hamfest April 11 at Keaau CC



Barbara Darling, NH7FY, sells Micronesian woven crafts, her homemade lilikoi and waiawi jellies and other items to benefit club members' communication, education and health outreach efforts in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Photos by Linda Quarberg, WH6LQ

The Big Island International Hamfest was held April 11 at the Keaau Community Center.

Activities included information-sharing, networking, card-checking and door prizes, followed by VE testing in the afternoon. The event was coordinated by ARRL Pacific Section Manager Robert Schneider, AH6J.

Barbara Darling, NH7FY, held a small sale of Micronesian woven crafts, her homemade lilikoi and waiawi jellies and other items to benefit club members' communication, education and health outreach efforts in the Federated States of Micronesia. Read more about this Pacific mission later in the newsletter.

From The ARRL Letter:
FCC proposes 2200, 630 meters amateur access

Amateur Radio is poised to gain access to two new bands! The FCC has allocated a new LF band, 135.7 to 137.8 kHz, to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis. Allocation of the 2.1 kHz segment, known as 2200 meters, was in accordance with the Final Acts of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07).

The Commission also has proposed a new secondary 630 meter MF allocation at 472 to 479 kHz to Amateur Radio, implementing decisions made at WRC-12. No amateur operation will be permitted in either band until the FCC determines specific Part 97 rules it must frame to permit operation in the new bands. Amateur Radio would share both allocations with unlicensed Part 15 power line carrier (PLC) systems operated by utilities to control the power grid, as well as with other users. In addition, the FCC has raised the secondary Amateur Service allocation at 1900 to 2000 kHz to primary, while providing for continued use by currently unlicensed commercial fishing vessels of radio buoys on the "open sea."

Allocation changes, proposed rules and suggested topics for comment are in a 257-page FCC Report and Order, Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking addressing three dockets -- ET-12-338, ET-15-99, IB-06-123 -- which affect various radio services in addition to the Amateur Service. FCC released the document April 27.

With respect to the new LF sliver band at 135.7-137.8 kHz, the FCC concluded that Amateur Radio and PLC systems can coexist there. "Since the Commission last considered this issue, amateurs have successfully operated in the band under experimental licenses without reported PLC interference," the FCC said. In 2003, the FCC turned down an ARRL proposal to create a 135.7-137.8 kHz Amateur Radio allocation, after utilities raised fears of a clash between Amateur Radio and PLC systems operating below the AM broadcast band.

"It is clear that we will have to establish appropriate requirements for amateur use of the band, if we are to ensure compatibility with PLC systems." WRC-07 set a maximum effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP) limit of 1 W, which is what the FCC is proposing.

The FCC "explicitly" rejects the suggestion that it choose one use of the spectrum over the other: "Our objective is to allocate spectrum on a secondary basis to amateur stations in a manner...compatible with existing PLC systems. However, we also expect to permit amateur operators to make use of the allocation in a manner that is less burdensome and more productive than they are currently afforded under the experimental authorization process."

Opportunity for special volunteer

Do you have a computer printer that works (black and white ink is just fine)?

Several of our members depend on receiving paper copies of the monthly newsletter. Volunteers who have been providing this service are unable to continue.

BIARC needs a volunteer to print out fewer than 10 copies, and mail them out each month. The club will provide reimbursement for postage, etc., as needed.

If you'd like to kokua, please contact President Ted Brattstrom at volcanoted@hotmail.com.

BIARC needs treasurer

Our treasurer, Mike Last, has resigned for geographical reasons. The longtime Ka'u resident has found the job requires someone living closer to Hilo and its financial and postal facilities.

If you'd like to help out, please contact President Ted Brattstrom. And we thank Mike for his efforts on behalf of BIARC.

What is Wilderness Protocol?

The Wilderness Protocol calls for hams in the wilderness to announce their presence on, and to monitor, the national calling frequencies for five minutes beginning at the top of the hour, every three hours from 7 AM to 7 PM while in the back country. A ham in a remote location may be able to relay emergency information through another wilderness ham who has better access to a repeater. National calling frequencies: 52.525, 146.52, 223.50, 446.00, 1294.50 MHz.

-- From the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Field Resources Manual (Appendix 6)



HF privileges open to all hams on 10 meters

All Technician Class Licensees have 10-meter privileges, so try your hand on HF!

The Aloha Chapter of Ten-Ten International Net, Inc. meets on 28.490 MHz, with an alternate frequency of 28.487MHz, every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. HST. If you don't hear me, don't just listen, call "CQ!"

Help keep 10 meters in amateur radio hands.
Thanks and aloha.

—Irene, NH7PE

10-10 International report: Get ready for the Spring CW QSO Party

Ten-Ten International Net's Spring CW QSO Party was held May 2-3 from 00:01 UTC Saturday to 23:59 UTC Sunday (2:01 p.m. HST Friday, May 1, to 01:59 p.m. Sunday, May 3, HST).

Participants operated in the CW portion of the band and used CW only.

These QSO Parties are held for fun, and to meet old, new and prospective members around the world.

Remember: You can work QRP, too! An Individual Classification can also include OM/XYL teams or any families or groups of people using individual call signs and 10-10 numbers, as well as single station operators.

Prepare for the Open Season (PSK) QSO Party to be held June 6-7 this year.

Ten-Ten International has two official daily nets called every day except Sunday. Both nets run at 1800z (8 a.m. HST) on 28.380 and 28.800 MHz from various places on the mainland.

Listen and if you can hear them, join in!

There are approximately 80 nets worldwide called every week on 10 meters. If you run across one, be sure to say "Aloha."

73,
Irene, NH7PE

Stations that worked W1AW/p, W100AW have special card route

Stations that worked W1AW/p and W100AW during the Centennial may request QSL cards via the Incoming QSL Service on the Centennial QSO Party web page.

This is a one-time only use of the QSL Bureau for this purpose, and those who want to receive cards via the Bureau should ensure that their accounts are sufficiently funded, because cards will not be held.

Cards destined for stations outside the US will be sent via the QSL Bureau.

Participants also may request cards directly, providing one SASE for up to six cards per envelope.



The group at the Kalawao Lookout in 2011. From left: Bev/AH6NF, Kimo/KH7U, Joe/AH0A, Ron/AH6RH, Jim/WH6GS.

Photo courtesy of Bev Yuen, AH6NF

Stories, quotes, pix to be shared on Hawaii QSO Party website

This year's Hawaii QSO Party is set for the Aug. 22 weekend. Details are on the website at www.HawaiiQSOParty.org.

To pique interest in the upcoming big, statewide event, and give well-rounded coverage of the 2014 edition, coordinator Joe Speroni, AH0A, and his committee are seeking stories and photos of last year's operations to share on the website, so others can know a little more about participants and their stations. The aim is to encourage anyone interested to log on and enjoy a fun collection of photos, stories and quotes from hams around the world.

"And we welcome ideas/suggestions for HQP 2015," said Joe. If you have something you'd like to share with others, send an email to awards@HawaiiQSOParty.org.

Last year, several multi-op groups participated. KH6BWG, the Kalawao County group, was stationed at Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai. KH6BWG was led by Bev (AH6NF) from the Ko'olau Amateur Radio Club. The East Hawaii contest station group hosted by Lloyd (KH6LC) operated from home base in Puna. The Honolulu Emergency Amateur Radio Club (KH6CE) operated at Randy's (KH6IB) QTH, and a KH6J group participated from the Ko'olau Amateur Radio Club. Tom (NH6Y) helped Maui hams get on HF for the contest.

"Our thanks to all the stations that operated to make the event successful. The HQP team appreciates everyone who participated and submitted logs. Despite band conditions, we had an increase in station logs, with 270 submitted, and a jump in total QSOs reported. Mahalo, everyone," said Joe.

From Hilo to FSM with love



At Hilo Airport on April 10, BIARC member John Bush, KH6DLK/V63JB, leaves for the Federated States of Micronesia with 11 bags including an ARRL go kit. He gets a good sendoff from some of his BIARC friends. He also meets Juanito (Chief of Mamo Island) and his wife, Ellie, also leaving for FSM. At the airport seeing the couple off is their son, Raven, who is going to school in Hilo. In 2012, Bush was awarded the American Radio Relay League's annual International Humanitarian Award for his "efforts in the development of an electronic infrastructure, including electronic technologies and amateur radio, on the islands of Federai and Woleai in the Federated States of Micronesia."



Photos by
Bob Schneider, AH6J