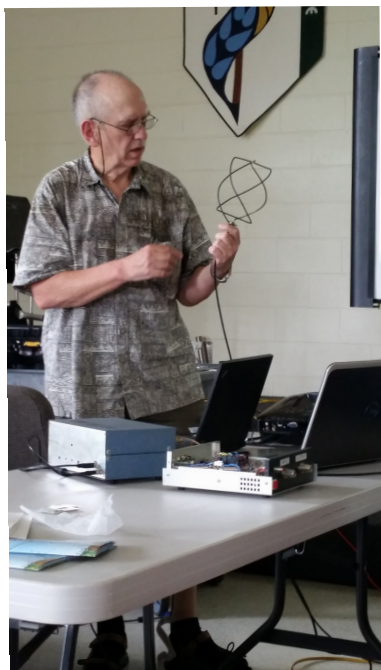


June 2015 Newsletter

Big Island Amateur Radio Club



Focus: Vector Network Analyzer

Photos by Linda Quarberg, WH6LQ

At the May meeting, Jesse Crawford, AH6UB, discussed how he built a teeny tiny Vector Network Analyzer, or VNA, from a modular kit using a stereo microscope and itty bitty soldering equipment.

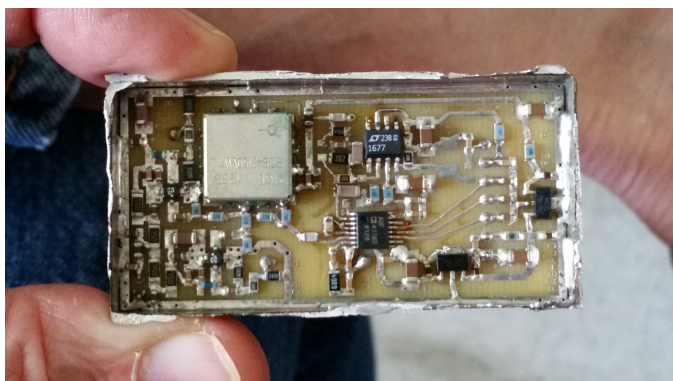
The result: the equal of lab instruments that cost many times more.

"It's such a versatile piece of test equipment that it boggles the mind," said Jesse.

Definitions:
-- Vector Network Analyzer: This remarkable piece of equipment measures both amplitude

and phase properties.

-- Stereo Microscopes: Optical microscopes use incident light illumination for inspection. Stereo Microscopes offer a broad range of magnification options, along with features such as zoom capability or interchangeable objectives in higher-end models.





Yearly Set Test set: All hams invited to Hilo Medical Center exercise

The yearly Set Test will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, in the Hilo Medical Center Nurses Conference Room on the Main Floor. (It will be part of the annual Makani Pahili Net. For more details, visit the website www.qsl.net/ah6rh.) Stop at the information desk in the lobby for directions. As the chief operator, I would like to invite club members to come and visit during this exercise. Come early, if you like. HF and VHF are operational at the HMC amateur radio emergency communication station (see the photos, which include shots of the "invisible antenna"). Bring your HT to operate if you like.

Hams also may register to be part of the regular support crew at HMC. Applications will be available on-site and the process will include a brief interview. If placement is secured, an applicant needs to complete a health form and schedule an appointment for a health clearance. For those signing up, there will be a \$45 processing fee for State & Federal criminal background checks and a picture taken for ID badge. An orientation will follow. Those volunteering for four-hour shifts in the ongoing program receive refreshment percs.

For more information, contact Joanne C. Yoshiyama, Hilo Medical Center Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 932-3165. Hilo Medical Center is at 1190 Waiānūenue Ave. Hope you can drop in and have a look and operate.





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 Open Season QSO Party

Prepare for the Open Season (PSK) QSO Party to be held June 6-7 this year. The event runs for 48 hours, from Saturday 0001 UTC to 2359 UTC on Sunday. Log deadline postmark is June 22. Best frequency to listen to is 28.120, then QSY to make your normal 10-10 exchange. Check out websites for all details: www.ten-ten.org and www.10-10.org.

Ten-Ten International Net's QSO Parties are held for fun, and to meet old, new and prospective members around the world.

Prepare for the Spirit of 76 QSO Party from June 29-July 5. There are 7 days and 6 modes. You can contact a single operator six times, with these six modes and a frequency to monitor: 1. USB (28.345); 2. RTTY (28.086); 3. CW (28.050); 4. FM (29.600); 5. PSK (28.120); 6. AM (29.000) with regular 10-10 exchange of name, call sign, QTH (state, province or DX country) and 10-10 number or 0 (zero) if contact has no number. Remember: You don't have to be a big gun to contest!

The Aloha Chapter meets at 6:30 p.m. HST Mondays on 28.490MHz. Ten-Ten welcomes AH6IO as a new DX member. To see what DX paths are open, listen for beacons from 28.175-28.300MHz, especially 28.200.

Anyone activating a 10-meter beacon should be aware that propagation beacon frequencies are coordinated. Contact Bill, WJ5O, our IARU Region 2 HF Beacon Coordinator, at wj5o@amsat.org or <http://www.qsl.net/wj5o/bcn.htm>. You have to make contacts to get results!

73,
Irene, NH7PE

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."

Hot News

Friday lunches on tap

Barbara Darling announces a new Friday lunch series is underway.

Here's her report:

Because various members have asked her to reinstate the regular Friday lunches, which had been held for many years at various venues, a small core group did a bit of field research on a recent Friday and found Nani Mau Gardens to be a good fit.

"We'll try to have Friday lunches again," says Barbara.

"We figured we'd try it for three months and if there was no interest we would stop."

The BIARC lunches are open to all interested hams and friends at 11:30 a.m. Barbara says the buffet lunch costs \$15, which includes salad, main dishes, dessert, drinks (coffee, tea, soda, water) and tips.

Payment for lunch is made in the gift shop prior to joining the group in the restaurant for a time of fellowship, fun, food and far-ranging discussion.

Club gearing up for Field Day

Robert Oliver, chairman of the June 27-28 BIARC Field Day, welcomes volunteers of all interests. If you'd like to get involved, give him a call at 969-9993 or send him an email at oliver@reotron.com.

Annual Hawaii QSO Party set for August

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

Coordinator Joe Speroni, AH0A, and his committee are seeking stories and photos of last year's operations to share on the website. If you have something you'd like to share with others, send an email to awards@HawaiiQSOParty.org.

BIARC leadership shuffled

Bob Schneider will serve as vice president and Robert Oliver as treasurer for the rest of the year, following the resignation of treasurer Mike Last due to insurmountable geographical and logistical impediments resulting from his QTH in Ka'u. Thanks, everyone, for working this out and making the transition a smooth one.