



## Hams celebrate, install new officers

East Hawaii hams and friends celebrated the holidays and looked ahead to the new year at the annual BIARC Christmas party Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Keaau Community Center.

The afternoon potluck featured good grinds and good company, amidst festive decorations, and installation of our 2017 slate of officers.

The club will be led next year by President Gary Schwiter, WH6EPS; Vice President Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS; Secretary Angelina Schwiter, WH6EVK; Treasurer Paul Ducasse, WH7BR; and Directors Gus Treewater, K2GT; John Bush, KH6DLK; Kim Fendt, WH6KIM; Cory Allen, KN6ZU; Barbara Darling, NH7FY; Richard Darling, AH7G; Bob Schneider, AH6J; and Bill Hanson, N0CAN.



**BIARC will be guided in 2017 by President Gary Schwiter, at right; Vice President Peggy Gentle, second from left; Treasurer Paul Ducasse, at left, and Secretary Angelina Schwiter.**



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**Photos by  
Linda Quarberg  
and Barbara Darling**



**Barbara Darling sends everyone home with a jar of homemade waiawi jelly. Sharon McCartin helps decorate for the party.**



**BIARC family and friends enjoy the annual Christmas party Dec. 10 at the Keaau Community Center.**





**Outgoing BIARC President Bob Schneider enjoys the Christmas potluck.**

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Our next meeting will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Keaau Community Center. In addition to welcoming in the new year, the club is welcoming in the annual dues payments which keep BIARC rolling. So, remember to bring your checkbook. Cash, also, is good. Basic dues are \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family membership.



## *Christmas 2016*



**The first Saturday in January is Kids Day across the nation.**

## *Kids Day is Saturday, Jan. 7*

The first Saturday in January is Kids Day -- the time to get youngsters on the air to share in the joy and fun that Amateur Radio can provide.

Kids Day runs on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 1800 UTC to 2359 UTC.

Sponsored by the Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club, this event has a simple

exchange, suitable for younger operators: First name, age, location, and favorite color. After that, the contact can be as long or as short as each participant prefers.

Kids Day is the perfect opportunity to open your shack door and invite kids over to see what Amateur Radio has to offer. Details are on the ARRL website.

# ***The BIARC Biosphere***

## **Meet Richard Darling - AH7G:**

Richard was born in 1933 in Binghamton, New York. He lived in New Jersey and Pennsylvania until 7 years old. His family moved to the Panama Canal Zone where they lived for 3 years (1940 - 1943), leaving to go back to NY in 1943 in the middle of World War II. They moved back to Panama from 1946 - 1948 and from there to Arlington, Virginia where he graduated from high school. It was at that point in 1953 where he was first licensed as a novice (WN4ZYV) and shortly after that upgraded to his technician class license. In early 1954 he qualified for his General Class license.

After earning his first license, Richard attended Newark College of Engineering in Newark, NJ, where he studied electronics for a year. After that, he attended Capital Radio Engineering Institute and then joined IBM as an electronic technician. Shortly after that, Richard was drafted into the Army where he was trained on the Nike missiles. During his 3 ½ years in the Army, he was on the air from Fort Bliss, Texas, and Florida. After the Army, he was reemployed by IBM, working as an electronic technician in San Jose, CA.

Around 1988, Richard and a number of other IBM employees were caught in a reduction of force leaving them looking for new jobs. In Richard's case that meant a new opportunity working on various projects for Lockheed in the San Francisco Bay Area. Richard resided in San Juan Batista, south of the Bay Area, where he pursued his ham radio interests in his spare time and held the call WB6HGH. In 1989, his house there was destroyed in the Loma Prieta earthquake, resulting in a move to El Paso, Texas.

In 1995, Richard met Barbara in Florida where he was caring for his ailing father and they were married in 1999. In 2000, Richard and Barbara retired to Hawaii where Richard upgraded to his Extra Class license and received his current call of AH7G. Barbara also earned her Technician Class license and worked her way up quickly to her own Extra Class license. They made 3 trips to Midway Island where they worked in facilities assistance and communications.

In prior years, Richard held a number of different calls while on short stints to various DX locations:

***Continued on next page***



***Richard and Barbara Darling***

## **Up Close & Personal**

***How did YOU get involved in ham radio? That's the focus of this new feature in our monthly gazette.***

***The BIARC Newsletter invites members to chronicle their lives before and after hamhood. The goal: Getting to know each other better to foster interest in our shared hobby and in the varied personalities, missions and types of fun and community service that combine to keep us focused on amateur radio as an important part of our respective lives.***

***You can write about yourself, or pick the ham sitting next to you at the next meeting and interview him or her. Write short; write long. It'll be fun to get to know each other and ourselves as a club.***

***John Bush launches the new column with a look at his longtime friends Richard and Barbara Darling, with whom he has spent countless nights providing communications between residents of Micronesia and their friends and relatives living in Hawaii and in various locales on the U.S. Mainland.***



### ***From previous page***

KG4/W4ZYV - Guantanamo Bay; KH4/W4ZYV - Midway Island; KH6/W4ZYV – Hawaii; AH4/AH7G – Midway; T32DA - Christmas Island; ZK1AR –Rarotonga; KZ5AR – Panama Canal Zone; VP2AZ – Antigua; KG4AR - Guantanamo Bay, and WB6HGH – Northern California.

His awards include DXCC Honor Roll, WAC, and WAZ. Richard has a daughter and son-in-law in Salinas, California. Both are licensed hams.

Richard has been a QSL card checker in Hawaii for ARRL. He is also the QSL manager for V63YWR (William), V63YAH (Albert), V63YMY (Martin), and V63YJY (Job) on Federai Island, Ulithi Atoll. He has also been a Director of BIARC (Big Island Amateur Radio Club). Since October 2011, Richard has been very active running daily schedules and phone patches for V63YWR, V63YAH, and V63JB on Federai and Falalop islands on Ulithi Atoll, Woleai Atoll, and Yap island.

### **Meet Barbara Darling - NH7FY:**

Barbara was born in Kingston, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Wyoming Seminary in Kingston, PA. She has three children: David K1TTT in Massachusetts, Judith in Florida and Michael in Texas, five grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. She also has three cousins and a brother who are ham radio operators.

Barbara worked for the United Penn Bank in Wilkes-Barre, PA, for 15 years starting out as a teller and ending up as an operations officer. When Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh bought UP Bank 350 employees were let go. She moved to Florida when her parents retired in the Ft. Meyers area.

Barbara decided to go into nursing, as she qualified for Federal Funds for retraining in a new field because so many people were let go from the bank. At age 60 she graduated with an LPN degree. She went to work at Calusa Harbor in Ft. Meyers where Richard's dad was a resident in a retirement home. Barbara ended up being his nurse on the nursing floor. Richard had come in from Texas to help take care of his dad. After his dad passed away he decided to stay in Florida. Richard and Barbara were married in 1999 and moved to Hawaii the following year.

Barbara and Richard started attending BIARC meetings after having met a lot of the hams in the

area. Harry Nishiyama KH6FKG and Ron Phillips AH6HN kept bugging her to get her license. In 2001 she finally broke down and got her Technician license and within a year had obtained her Extra level. (She did have to take the code test twice).

Barbara and Richard have done quite a bit of traveling. They made three trips to Midway, one for 3-1/2 months as they were volunteers. While there, Richard was asked to set up a ham station and Barbara worked in the operations office, monitoring radios, sending faxes, reporting the weather to Honolulu, taking phone calls and other duties. They also spent two weeks on Christmas Island, Kiribati where Richard did operating. Barbara couldn't operate because she didn't have her license yet, but got to talk to son Dave K1TTT from each place.

Barbara has been very active in BIARC. She recalls a possible 6 years total as president, 2 as treasurer, 1 as secretary, 1 as Vice president and many years as director. She has been the KH6 Hawaii QSL Bureau manager for over 8 years, handling over 209,000 cards for the entire state. BIARC took over the Bureau in March 2008.

In 2003 Barbara and Richard visited Norm Paik NH7CT and his wife Kathleen on Virgin Gorda in the Virgin Islands. This was her first DX operating using VP2V/NH7FY. She was able to WAS from there having all the 50 state contacts confirmed. Her other awards include WAZ, WAC, WAS from Hawaii, had 5 first place awards in CQ WW contests from Oceania, is a member of 10-10 International and DX Century Club in 2003.

On the Triple H Net (a 40 meter net) she was the only woman in Hawaii to obtain her award number for working all states and having the contacts confirmed. Her number is 823 and Richard's is 874. At last count, Barbara has worked and confirmed 291 entities from Hawaii. Barbara has a call sign for the Cook Islands (E51FYI) but hasn't had a chance to use it yet.

Barbara has helped provide dental hygiene supplies, school supplies, care packages of food and recently diapers to families on Ulithi and Woleai atolls in Micronesia.



## CW Operator's Club is for all

The CW Operators' Club founded in 2010 is aimed at increasing the number of competent CW operators on the HF CW sub-bands. The CW Academy was launched by the CW Operators' Club in 2012 and is a program that addresses all levels of enthusiasts: from those aspiring to become licensed operators who want to learn and use Morse code; to veteran operators who are intent on increasing their CW skills, speed and activity.

The CW Academy semesters are eight-weeks long and held three times per year (Jan-Feb, April-May and Sept-Oct). The classes are free and taught by Alan Maenchen, AD6E, with class group sessions on the Internet (Skype). Alan's classes are for Hawaii residents and primarily for licensed hams. You can sign up at the website "The CW Operators' Club," which is listed below.

Classes are typically held twice a week and days and times are worked out between the instructor and students where possible. If not, classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays of each week.

Students are given daily

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assignments prior to each meeting, and the twice-weekly meetings are held online using Skype group calling (audio/video).

During the online meetings students and advisors can all see and hear each other, as well as Morse being sent by any of them. Using Skype creates, in effect, a virtual training room. It is helpful to have a CW sending device or a radio so you can practice sending CW during the class sessions.

The class being offered is a Level 1 class. This is for beginners and operators whose code speed is 10 words per minute (WPM) or less. The objectives for the students in this class are to learn all Morse letters and numbers at a letter speed of 20 wpm and a word speed above 15 wpm; to learn conversational protocols; to be introduced to contest QSOing; and to be

introduced to DX pileup best practices.

There is no cost or obligation to participate in CWops CW Academy Classes; membership is not required. Enrollment is open to anyone with the desire to learn or improve his or her proficiency in Morse Code.

For more information please contact Alan P. Maenchen (AD6E) at [ad6e@arrl.net](mailto:ad6e@arrl.net) and visit <http://cwops.org/cwacademy.html>, where you will need to sign up.

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The ARRL Pacific Section  
webpage is at:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/pacific-section>

## National Parks on the Air contact tally tops 1 million!

Participants in ARRL's National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program have completed more than 1 million contacts! Activators operating from National Park Service units across the US and Chasers around the world pushed the contact tally over its goal last week. ARRL sponsored NPOTA to help the National Park Service celebrate its centennial.

"National Parks on the Air has become one of the most popular events in the history of the League," NPOTA Administrator Sean Kutzko, KX9X, said. "It's been fun seeing so many hams take part."

Kutzko said the NPOTA Facebook group really helped drive participation, especially in the last 3 months, when it became clear that the 1 million-QSO goal was within reach. "Some 25,000 NPOTA contacts were uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW) every week since October," he noted. "The entire group came together and simply willed the 1 million-contact mark to be broken. It was incredible to watch!" He said some real friendships developed among those who frequented the NPOTA Facebook page.

Those taking part in NPOTA made nearly 20,000 visits to 460 of the 489 NPS units eligible for NPOTA credit, including portions of the National Trails System and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Nearly 150 Chasers completed contacts with more than 400 of the 489 NPOTA units this year, while one Activator transmitted from more than 250 different NPS units in 2016. Kutzko said the activations effectively transported those National Park Service units via radio to all 50 states and more than 100 countries



***Participants in ARRL's National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program have completed more than 1 million contacts.***

during 2016.

Kutzko said NPOTA garnered interest from hams at all proficiency levels, but he was especially gratified to see how it encouraged less-experienced hams to acquire new skills, such as operating a portable station on battery power, learning CW, or discovering digital modes. "Pileups from some activations rivaled those during a major DXpedition -- if only for a few hours at a time," he added.

Jim Clark, Jr., an NPS Ranger at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Site in Vermont, said NPOTA helped to generate greater awareness of his unit. "National Parks on the Air has afforded us the opportunity to connect with a much larger and more diverse audience than we could have ever imagined," he told ARRL. "We are

pleased and proud that the world of Amateur Radio helped us to celebrate 100 years of service to the nation."

Kutzko said being able to blend Amateur Radio with the history and scenery offered by the National Park Service was a wonderful gift. "We heard from countless amateurs who learned something about our country while operating from an NPS unit and experiencing 'the other side' of a pileup. There will be other on-air events from ARRL, but National Parks on the Air was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I don't think there will ever be anything quite like it in Amateur Radio again. I will miss it."

Keep up with the latest NPOTA news on Facebook. Follow NPOTA on Twitter (@ARRL\_NPOTA).

NPOTA ends on December 31 at 2359 UTC!



## **Amateur Radio Parity Act bill unable to overcome senator's objections**

The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, suffered an unbefitting demise on December 9 as the 114th Congress drew to a close. After passing the House of Representatives on a unanimous vote earlier this fall, the bill stalled in the Senate due to the intervention of only one member, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL). The measure would have directed the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions, such as covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) imposed by homeowners associations.

"[During 2016] Nelson received thousands of e-mails, letters, and phone calls from concerned constituents asking for his support of H.R. 1301. Numerous meetings were held with his senior staff in an effort to move the legislation forward," ARRL said in a news release. "Negotiations, which led to an agreement with the Community Associations Institute (CAI), the national association of homeowner's associations and publicly supported by CAI and ARRL, were brushed aside by Sen. Nelson as irrelevant."

The unhappy ending followed nearly 2 years of intense effort on the part of ARRL and thousands of its members. ARRL directors will discuss the future of the initiative at their January meeting.



***Clark Burgard, N1BCG, was one of the organizers of the special event. [Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, photo]***

## **Commemorative special event reenacts 1921 transatlantic reception**

Radio amateurs in the US and in Scotland have reenacted the first successful transatlantic reception of a shortwave Amateur Radio signal nearly a century earlier. Special event station N1BCG in Greenwich, Connecticut, and GB2ZE in Ardrossan, Scotland, completed contacts on SSB and on CW during the December 11 event. ARRL, the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), and the Radio Club of America (RCA) partnered to support the activity, organized by ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, and Clark Burgard, N1BCG, who loaned his history-rich call sign for the occasion.

On December 11, 1921, in Ardrossan, Scotland, reception of a radio signal transmitted from an RCA test station -- located in a small shack on the Greenwich, Connecticut, property of Minton Cronkhite, 1BCG -- helped to usher in the age of global communication.

## **Isle hams stand up emergency net**

Lest we forget, loss of modern communications happens - land lines, cell phones, Internet - can all depend on a single point of failure. Recently we had an incident on the Big Island that took them all down simultaneously.

On November 7 at 11 a.m. a broken branch severed a mainline fiber optic cable, completely disabling all cell, land line and 911 phone and Internet service to 60% of the Big Island.

South Hawaii ARES operators activated a VHF Emergency Net on the 145.290 repeater and on 40M HF to support served agencies with radio communications.

East Hawaii ARES operators supported this effort on 7.088 MHz relaying traffic to the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency in Hilo. Nineteen ARES operators participated.

The nets stood down at 4 p.m. after regular communications returned.

***--73, Rick Ward, WH6FC - South District ARES DEC***

## **ARISS celebrates 20th**

ARISS-International delegates, joined by many other supporters around the world via teleconferencing, marked 20 years of ham radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) in November at the International Space Center in Houston, Texas.



Irene Kubica, NH7PE, is an avid participant in 10-meter activity and encourages hams at all levels to join in the fun.

## *The 10-10 Connection*

with NH7PE,

### **10-10 Aloha Chapter**

The world of HF radio is open to all licensed amateur radio operators, including Technicians, on the 10-meter amateur radio band. From the website of Ten-Ten International, here are the basic answers to the overriding question:

Just what is the Ten-Ten International Net?

The Ten-Ten International Net, Inc. was formed back in 1962 as the Ten-Ten Net of Southern California. Its purpose was to promote activity and good operating practice on the ten meter amateur band. During the first few years the organization grew slowly, but by 1975 there were 10,000 members, and the word "International" had crept into the name. To date, there have now been more than 75,000 10-10 numbers issued world wide.

## **Lots of fun in store for hams on 10 meters in 2017**

Happy New Year from the Aloha Chapter of Ten-Ten International Net, Inc.!

Remember, the Ali'i Net on Kauai is called Saturdays at noon on 27.730MHz. On Sundays at 10:30 a.m. HST there is a PSK net on 28.120MHz out of Galesburg, IL. There is a CW net on Sundays at noon on 28.150MHz from Raeford, NC, and another CW net on Mondays at 4 p.m. HST, also on 28.150MHz from St. Charles, IL. Give them a try.

Remember, the Winter QSO Party will be held the first full weekend in February, Feb. 4-5, UTC time. With 48 hours of fun, some of you could try an OM/XYL station team, your whole family or a group of people using individual call signs and 10-10 numbers. Just think how much fun that could be some afternoon! Phone QSO Parties

can be made on SSB, FM or AM. Or, try QRP, 5W or less for CW and digital QSOs, 10W with phone operations during the entire event. Or, go mobile. Mobile entries are only accepted for the Winter and Summer Phone QSO Parties and the 10-10 Sprint on Oct. 10. Make yourselves and others happy ... have a 10-meter day your way!

Be sure to start your lists for the year-long Anniversary (55) QSO Party and the Meet the Volunteers QSO Party. For the 2016 QSO Parties, mail those logs to Dan Morris, KZ3T, postmarked by Jan. 15, or email them to: [tentencontest@ten-ten.org](mailto:tentencontest@ten-ten.org). Members are encouraged to upload logs at the KJ4IZW contest scoring website, [www.hamclubs.info/scorer](http://www.hamclubs.info/scorer).

**CW Notes:** The International Morse Preservation Society of Great Britain has the Americas Chapter, FISTS CW Club, which encourages all hams to get on the air and operate CW.

It takes \$10 to join FISTS CW Club and get your FISTS number for life, a quarterly KeyNote Newsletter and you are ready to work toward all FISTS awards. FISTS frequencies are around 3.558, 7.058, 14.058, 21.058 and 28.058MHz.

Code Buddy Volunteers are available to help FISTS members increase their speed or to simply improve their sending and receiving of Morse Code. The following web page lists Code Buddy Volunteers: <http://www.fistsna.org/codebuddy.html>. For membership questions, ask Dennis Franklin, K6DF, at [membership@fistsna.org](mailto:membership@fistsna.org).



# FYI: The Website Exchange

Run across a website that may be of interest to fellow hams?

Submit it to the newsletter at [lcritchlow@mac.com](mailto:lcritchlow@mac.com).

Here's one forwarded by BIARC Vice President Peggy Gentle.

Food for thought:

[http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/the-amateur-radio-obsessives-who-send-messages-from-the-ends-of-the-earth?utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_medium=atlas-page](http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/the-amateur-radio-obsessives-who-send-messages-from-the-ends-of-the-earth?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=atlas-page)



~~~~Free classified ads~~~~

(Send text for ads by 20th of month to [lcritchlow@mac.com](mailto:lcritchlow@mac.com))

## \*\*\*\*\*2017 BIARC leadership\*\*\*\*\*

*The club is led this year by President Gary Schwiter, WH6EPS; Vice President Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS; Secretary Angelina Schwiter, WH6EVK; Treasurer Paul Ducasse, WH7BR; and Directors Gus Treewater, K2GT; John Bush, KH6DLK; Kim Fendt, WH6KIM; Cory Allen, KN6ZU; Barbara Darling, NH7FY; Richard Darling, AH7G; Bob Schneider, AH6J; and Bill Hanson, N0CAN.*