

Big Island Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

July 2019



The gavel is passed.

BIARC shares world of ham radio at Field Day in Hilo

Club members gathered at sea level on the fourth weekend in June for the annual ARRL Field Day activity.

These photos by Elisabeth Green, WH6FKT, and Paul Darryl, WH6EXL, tell the story of a fun event at the Hilo Bayfront Parking lot.



Next BIARC meeting is at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at Keaau Community Center.



Photos by Elisabeth Green, WH6FKT, and Paul Darryl, WH6EXL



Roy Kunishige, WH6FYK, brought his mobile 30-foot tower for Field Day.

The President's Corner



Outgoing President Pascal Nelson, AC7N, at left, hands over the reins of BIARC to new President William Polhemus, NH6ET, at the June meeting.

Changes

*"Times and conditions change so rapidly that we must keep our aim constantly focused on the future." -- **Walt Disney***

Changes are upon us. This month we bid 73 to our club president, Pascal, and his darling wife Debbie. At the same time, we welcome our new Bylaws and Constitution.

Pascal is certainly leaving me large shoes to fill. I certainly never expected to be the President of our club within my first year of membership. I am honored at the opportunity. Thank you, Pascal, for your efforts and the gift of your time as president. 73s to Pascal and Debbie; I look forward to working you as DX.

Our new Bylaws and Constitution are a welcomed change. I would like to extend a special thanks to Les Hittner for leading the charge to bring our organization's foundation to a position of tenable stability for the years to come.

The new structure will help the club grow; allowing us as members to focus on our interests, while broadening our horizons.

These guiding documents have brought about committees which focus on specific areas of interest. These committees are a

The BIARC Board has voted to hold regular board meetings on the second Saturday of the month, immediately prior to the monthly membership meeting. Whenever possible, the board will meet at 12 noon at the same location as the membership meeting.

Accordingly, the next board meeting will be at noon on Saturday, July 13, at the Keaau Community Center.

"These meetings are open to any interested member," said President William Polhemus, NH6ET.

great way for members who have had the desire to be involved, but who did not have an interest in being on the club's board.

These committees offer a chance to tap into some very fun parts of the club's activities. If you have an interest in the repeaters, or say enjoy activities like Field Day, here is your chance to be more involved in these parts of the club, by joining a committee that interests you.

For as much that has changed, as much stays the same.

Our anxiety about the potential loss of the location for our Kulani repeater has been relieved.

We will have the benefit of that great location for years to come. Our repeater committee can now see about replacing the antenna and feedline, knowing that it is a worthwhile investment to do so.

Changes will come. However, we will face them together.

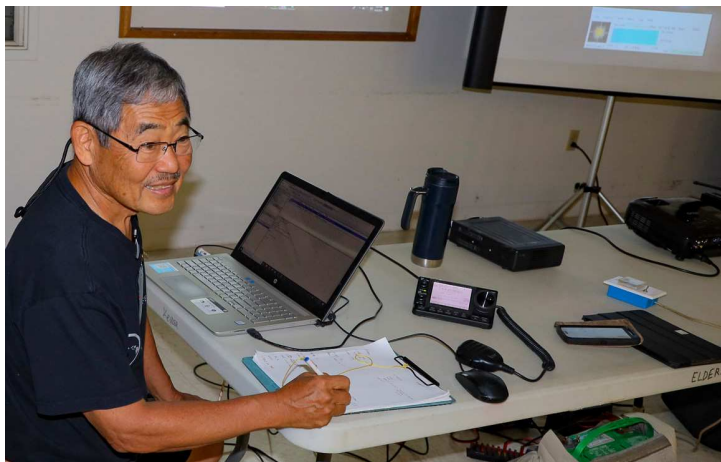
**73,
William - NH6ET**



Faces of BIARC

Photos taken by Gary Miller, KK6GM, at the June meeting, and by Bob Schneider, AH6J, at June 12 breakfast in Hilo.





Mel Uchida, KH6EKD, participates in June meeting digi demo with Pascal and William.

Minutes from June 8 BIARC meeting

1400: Pascal called the meeting to order. Recognized new faces. Gave his farewell speech.

1416: John Bush handed out Certificates of Appreciation to Jim Kennedy, Pascal and Debbie Nelson and -- in absentia -- Peggy Gentle, who was off-island, for service to the club way above and beyond the normal call of duty.

He told them they have made "outsized contributions and commitments to BIARC." And, he added: "We know you are leaving ... but remember: You can run, but you can't hide, because this is the digital age."

1422: Doug Wilson gave an update on ham classes in Waimea and Keaau. He also reported that Homeland Security Training is



coming to the Big Island, with a few slots available.

Pascal thanked Doug for all he has done, and is doing, for amateur radio and the community at-large.

1427: Tim Bryan reported that he is putting the finishing touches on the video presentation of Oscar Resto's mission last year to the 50th state. Oscar was key in the ham response to Puerto Rico's devastating hurricane.

1428: Greetings from immediate-past-President Gary Schwiter, who has been away.

1429: Tony talked about the club having a Field Day after all. It will be at sea level in Hilo, and Roy Kunishige, WH6FYK, has signed on to bring his mobile 30-foot tower.

1435: Jim Kennedy thanked his fellow hams for their help in lowering his tower and disassembling his antennas.

1438: KH6DX has equipment for sale since he will be moving to the mainland.

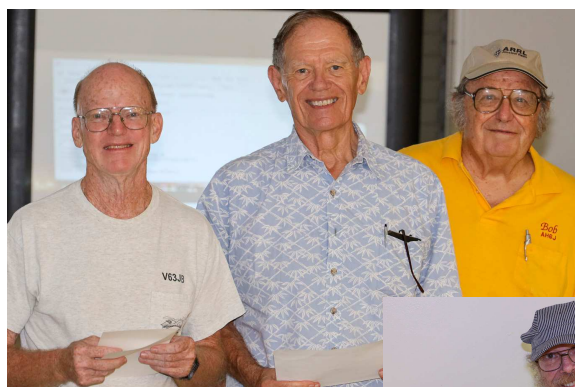
1441: Pascal officially resigned; William officially took office.

1443: Break

1504: Digi demo by William and Mel while Pascal explained the process.

1555: Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by an ad hoc subcommittee of note-takers



Continued on next page

More on June meeting and what's to come

(From Mel, via the BIARC online networking site, BIARC@mailman.qth.net, on the following day)

Hi folks: Thanks to all who attended the BIARC meeting yesterday.

I volunteered to be a part of the digi demo because although I have the hardware to access digital ham modes, I lack the knowledge and experience to use it effectively.

Pascal's and William's inputs helped boost my understanding of how all this magic works. I had just installed VARA on my computer during the meeting, so when we attempted to demo that mode, my laptop settings had not caught up with the new software, hence the glitches we encountered.

Because of those delays, a few items on the agenda did not get covered:

1) Jim WH6FQI had brought his handheld and TNC-X to show how he links this to his laptop which enables him to do portable/mobile Winlink.

2) For July's BIARC meeting Jim will show his emergency power setup.

3) Some of you saw the hand-held "tape measure" yagi antenna on the table up front. This is a prototype of the antenna we'd like to offer at the August BIARC meeting. We thought this would be fun for members to make

for "Grid Madness" coming up on Sept. 15. If there's enough interest the club will provide (at cost) all the parts needed, and assembly will take place during the meeting.

A description of the project is located here: http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm

At this point plans call for using PL-259 coax connectors, but you will have to get your own adapter to fit your specific radio. Please email me if you have an interest in building this antenna. This is not a commitment, but we'd like a show of hands to project the cost and materials. (Mel KH6EKD glenmio@aol.com) Well, that brings us up to date on all we wanted to cover yesterday. Hope to see you at next month's meeting. Happy DXing. -- **Mel KH6EKD**

Jim WH6FQI says:

The July program is on "Ham Can" and battery power. The program will cover the following points:

/ reasons for having a Ham Can
/ Components, minimum and optional
/ Wiring of the system
/ Battery types
/ Charging via solar and/or grid power



Debbie and Pascal at Burger King on Wednesday, June 12.

Aloha, and mahalo for a job well-done

The Nelsons are on their way to their new home in North Carolina. They were picking up their car in Seattle and heading east. It will probably be a few weeks before they reach their destination.

We will miss them, as they were quite an asset to our club. Their new address will be 3506 Sanfords Creek Ct., Colfax, NC 27235; phone will remain as 808-747-4921 and E mail vpnels@gmail.com.

We say 73 and 88 to Pascal and Debbie.

Several of us enjoyed a small send-off breakfast on June 12. Pascal and Debbie stayed with the Darlings the night of the 11th and went to breakfast with us at Burger King in Hilo the next morning. (This is the day that they left the island headed to North Carolina.) We were joined there by John Bush, KH6DLK, and Bob Schneider, AH6J, and his wife, Esther.

Barbara Darling NH7FY

Mark your calendars: Grid Madness 2019 set for Sunday, Sept. 15

Stan Froseth, AH6KO, event manager, announces that Hawaiian Islands Grid Madness 2019 -- the sixth annual running of the fun statewide event -- is set for Sunday, Sept. 15.

The popular VHF/UHF simplex event will run from 1300 to 1700 HST.

Everyone is invited, so put it on your calendar, says Stan. For complete info, go online to gridmadness.blogspot.com.

"Grid Madness is for all hams in the State of Hawaii. This event is designed for FUN, and to test your equipment, coverage and operating skills using simplex FM on 2 meters and 70 cm," says Stan. "Contact as many stations as you can in as many Grid Squares as you can, using **SIMPLEX ONLY**."

Grid Madness offers a great "Get on the air" operation for new hams and good emergency communications practice for responder groups.

"It's a fun activity for everyone -- see who you can contact locally or across the water."

New for 2019:

-- Madness Mitigation -- Additional designated channels on 2m and 70cm, with suggested use of calling frequencies.

For comments and questions, send a note to Stan at AH6KO@arrl.net.

Tech License course schedule

Doug Wilson's annual county-wide free Technician License course schedule wraps up in October. The six-week courses include five training sessions, with licensing exams given on the final week. The last session of the year begins Oct. 17 at the Keaau Community Center. The classes are free, with the normal \$15 testing fee to ARRL, whose VEs (volunteer examiners) conduct the testing for the Federal Communications Commission. As always, current licensees wanting to upgrade also may take tests for advanced licenses at that time. To register for the classes, or for more info, contact Doug, KH7DQ, at douscelle@aol.com.



Aloha,

Kimo Chun, KH7U, program manager for Oahu contest station KH6YY, passed us information about the group's new website with details on this impressive station and its antenna farm.

Alex Benton (KH6YY), an avid promoter of Amateur Radio, supports the station for groups interested in contesting and promoting HF activity in Hawaii. The station is known worldwide for its strong signals and skilled operators. It places well in most worldwide contests every year.

Alex and Kimo are interested in helping new hams experience the world of Amateur Radio contesting and welcome visitors to participate. For information about planned activities, check out the station web site, <http://kh6yy.net>.

Oahu and neighbor island visitors can contact Kimo at kh7u@arrl.net for more information and an opportunity to operate in an upcoming event.

**ARRL Pacific Section
Section Manager Joseph Speroni,
AH0A, ah0a@arrl.org**

10-10 International Aloha Chapter

Local hams active on 10-meters encourage amateur radio licensees at all levels to join in the fun. [More info on the world of Ten-Ten is available on Facebook and at <https://www.ten-ten.org>]

FCC re-charters Technological Advisory Council for new term

The FCC has re-chartered its Technological Advisory Council (TAC) for a 2-year term. Comprised of a diverse group of leading technology experts, the TAC provides technical expertise to the FCC to identify important areas of innovation and develop informed technology policies.

Greg Lapin, N9GL, will continue to represent ARRL on the TAC.

"The TAC will consider and advise the Commission on a variety of topics such as the deployment of 5G technology, the evolution of broadband networks and devices and their implications, the spectrum needs of unmanned aircraft systems, new developments in antenna technology, and the applications of artificial intelligence to telecommunications networks," the FCC said in announcing the re-charter.

Hamvention attracts big crowd

Dayton Hamvention®, hosting the 2019 ARRL National Convention, chalked up its third year at its new venue, the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. Amateur Radio's largest annual gathering was May 17-19.

For many hams, Hamvention offers an opportunity each spring to renew old acquaintances and make new ones, and for manufacturers to debut their latest and greatest gear.

ARRL
So Now What?
Podcast

Available on iTunes, Stitcher, & Blubrry

Sponsored by

LDG
ELECTRONICS

www.LDGElectronics.com



So Now What? is sponsored by LDG Electronics, a family owned and operated business.

ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, co-host the podcast.

Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Carcia the veteran operators, the podcast explores questions

that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will feature guests to answer questions on specific topic areas.

Listeners can find So Now What? on Apple iTunes, Blubrry, Stitcher (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices.

Episodes will be archived on the ARRL website.

American Honda has announced a voluntary recall of some 200,000 portable generators sold in the US, due to a potential fire and burn hazard. The recall includes the EU2200i, EU2200i Companion, and EB2200i generators. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says the affected portable generators can leak gasoline from the fuel valve. Users should stop operating the recalled generator and contact an authorized Honda dealer for a free repair.

Magnetic loop antenna designs multiply

Magnetic loops have become popular as effective and compact antennas for traveling and stealth applications. An HF magnetic loop design by John Chappell, W3HX, was an honorable mention in the 2018_QST_Antenna Design Competition. Chappell's mag loop offers coverage on 80 - 20 meters, and he runs FT8 at 50 W. See his article on page 39 of the June 2019 issue of_QST.

Richard Robbins, WA8RR, wanted to build one of his own for 40 and 20 meters, and he described his efforts in a recent edition of his club's newsletter, _DELARA News.

An online calculator helped him come up with the basics, and he decided on a 10-foot circumference loop constructed from half-inch copper pipe that would handle 100 W. His prototype, constructed from a piece of pipe "hand bent into an approximate circle," a Dayton Hamvention flea market capacitor, and a coax drive loop, would tune the two bands -- although, as expected, tuning was very sensitive and affected by body capacitance.

He worked up a reduction drive and remote motorized tuning, and was able to make several FT8 contacts, using his antenna analyzer to tune the loop. "The tuning would shift as I was transmitting," Robbins recounted. "This is a result of a very high circulating current and heating of the separate components."

Encouraged, he went for a higher-end design constructed around a 5 - 500 pf vacuum variable capacitor, the project's most expensive component (\$150 or more on eBay).

"It is big and heavy," Robbins said.

AMSAT president Spier awarded E.T. Krenkel Medal

AMSAT President and ARRL Life Member Joe Spier, K6WAO, has been awarded Russia's E.T. Krenkel Medal. The prestigious honor is bestowed on individuals and organizations for outstanding global contributions to Amateur Radio.

Spier has also served AMSAT as Executive Vice President, and Vice President, Educational Relations. The award's

namesake, Ernst Teodorovich Krenkel, was a radio amateur who, over the years, used the call signs RAEM, U3AA, and UA3AA. Spier became AMSAT President in 2017. He's a supporter of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) and of scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Spier also is a Life Member of the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers (SARA). ARRL Headquarters staff alumna and Life Member Ellen White, W1YL, was awarded the Krenkel medal in May.



**Joe Spier,
K6WAO**

-- Thanks to AMSAT

Rick Murphy, K1MU, receives ARRL President's Award

At its May meeting in Dayton, Ohio, the ARRL Executive Committee, on behalf of the board of directors, conferred the ARRL President's Award on Rick Murphy, K1MU, one of the unsung heroes of Logbook of The World.

The award recognizes individuals showing long-term dedication in support of ARRL programs. Murphy was credited for his work to upgrade and improve LoTW TQSL software to help users more easily and successfully use LoTW.

Murphy was cited for single-handedly rewriting TQSL to make it accessible to those with limited vision, to display information in languages other than English (more than 10 so far), and for providing consistent online support to users.



Aloha