

Big Island Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

November 2019

BIARC annual
elections and
semi-annual
business meeting
are at 2 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 9,
at Keaau
Community Center

It's Voting Season

No, I'm not talking about the upcoming primary. Neither am I talking about the general election which it leads to.

No; there is an election of actual consequence afoot.



NH6ET

It is time to vote for the Big Island Amateur Radio Club's executive board members!

The November meeting is the semi-annual business meeting of the club. The keynote of this meeting is the annual election to fill positions on BIARC's executive board.

This election will be a bit different than those held by the club in the past. Similarly, it will be a bit different than the future elections.

Our recent adoption of the new Constitution and Bylaws brings a new structure, and also a new election procedure. The current board is the



The President's Corner

By BIARC President William
Polhemus, NH6ET

interim board; existing only long enough to carry the club to this election.

At this election, we will elect the first regular BIARC executive board under our new structure. Once the board members are elected, they will then elect board members to the individual board offices.

What makes this election different from the ones we will hold in the future is that we need to elect for six positions, all at once. In the future, only three executive board offices will be due for election each year.

This time around, three executive board members will be elected to one

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... BIARC elections, continued

year terms, and three will be elected to two year terms.

Starting next year, all executive board members will serve two year terms.

The current (interim) executive board members are free to be re-elected to the board. Any BIARC member who possesses an amateur radio license, and is over 18 years of age, may also seek election to the executive board. They may be nominated by another member, or they may self-nominate.

I highly encourage anyone interested to throw their name in and run!

And, we have a process for that.

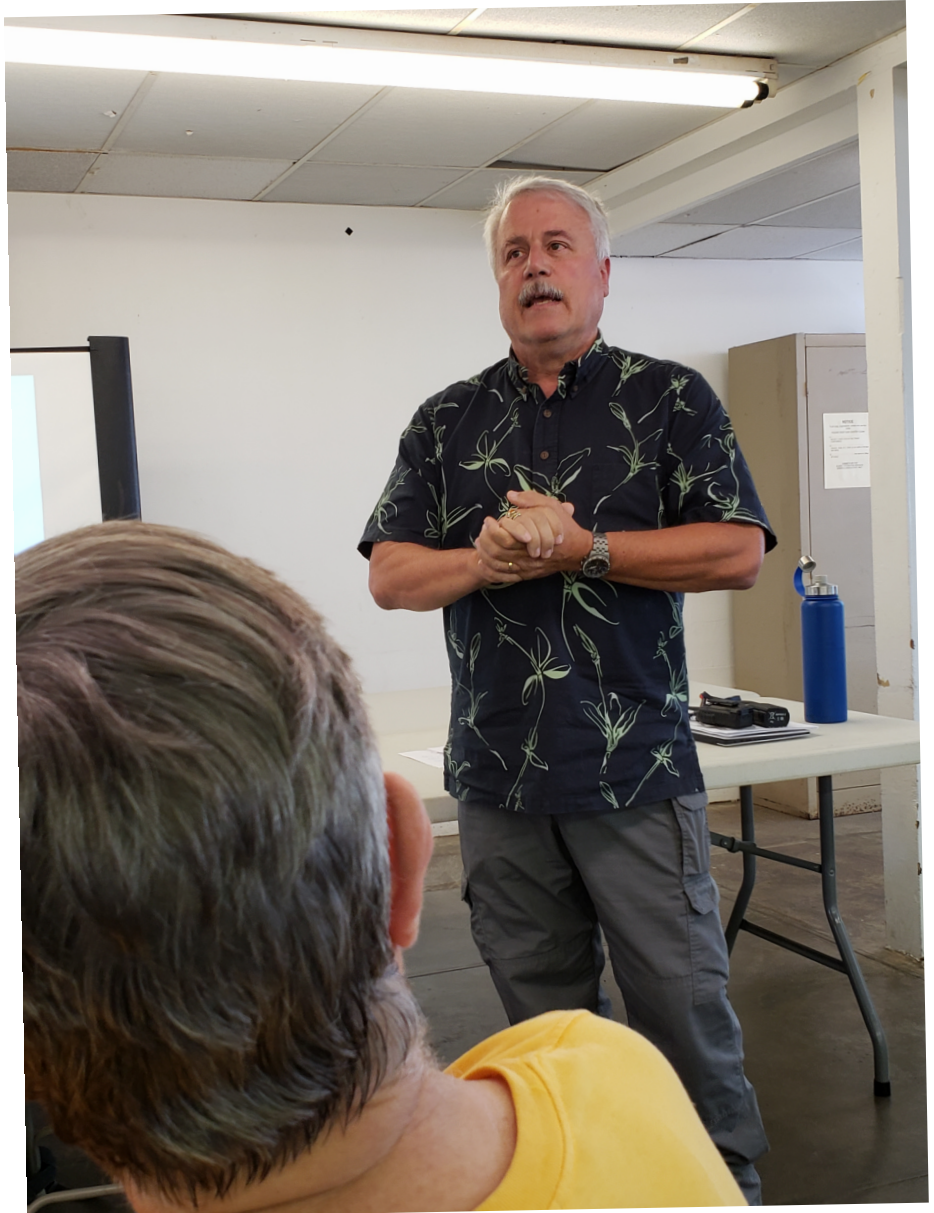
Paul Ducasse - WH7BR - being the Trustee for the club, is the odd man out in this process. As he is not up for re-election, he graciously accepted the arm twisting, by the rest of us on the board, to chair the election committee.

Nominations can be made by contacting Paul anytime up until the BIARC members vote to close the nominations at the Nov. 9th meeting.

It's your club.

Steer it where you would like it to go.

**73,
William - NH6ET**



Club Trustee Paul Ducasse, WH7BR, is chairing the election committee. President William Polhemus encourages anyone interested in serving on the board to throw his or her hat in the ring. Contact Paul for details.

These photos from the October meeting are courtesy of Linda Quarberg, WH6LQ

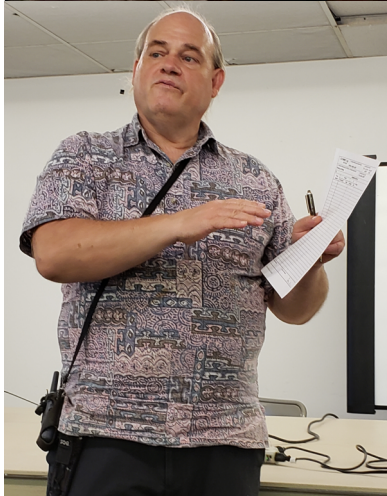
The BIARC Board earlier this year voted to hold regular board meetings on the second Saturday of the month, immediately prior to the monthly membership meeting. Whenever possible, the board will meet at 12 noon at the same location as the membership meeting.

Accordingly, the next board meeting will be at noon on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Keaau Community Center.

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

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...
**More
pics
from
October
meeting**



At October's BIARC meeting, Tim Bryan (KH6TOB) briefs the membership on the documentary he did on Puerto Rican ARRL Section Manager Oscar Resto's (KP4RF) mission last year to the 50th state.

Here are links to KH6TOB's Resto documentary; watch all 3 parts now on YouTube

At October's BIARC meeting, Tim Bryan (KH6TOB) briefed the membership on the documentary he did on Puerto Rican ARRL Section Manager Oscar Resto's (KP4RF) mission last year to the 50th state.

Oscar was key in the vital ham response to the devastating hurricane Maria.

Tim explained how to access the video on YouTube.

Go to:

Part 1-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAdUkPSO7VQ>

Part 2 -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5dYIN_f6Hc

Part 3 -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7SwAammwHo>



Hawaii ARES Leverages Contest Station and Winlink for 2019 Simulated Emergency Test

10/09/2019

ARES volunteers in Hawaii took the opportunity of the 2019 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 6 (UTC) to test [Winlink](#) radio messaging to the US mainland, using the [KH6YY](#) (KH6J) contest station on O'ahu. One of the premier contest stations in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, KH6YY offers a commanding propagation path over an expanse of saltwater.

"You have to start with digital modes somewhere," ARRL Pacific Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A, said, conceding, "We have a long way to go." A group of radio amateurs has developed a robust Winlink system in the Hawaiian Islands to help support communication in a natural disaster. The Amateur Radio email system is well known for its role in emergency and disaster relief communications, providing the ability for users to exchange email with attachments, photos, position reporting, weather, and information bulletins. Winlink was extensively used in the aftermath of high-impact hurricanes in the Caribbean, as well as following an earthquake in Mexico.

Hawaii boasts the most isolated population center in the world — 2,390 miles from California and 3,850 miles from Japan. Pretty much everything is DX.

KH6YY sports eight antennas, most on 90-foot towers, and nine operator positions. For the SET, the station was configured to receive traffic on 7,100 kHz (dial frequency) in PACTOR, WINMOR, ARDOP, and VARA modes. The four-element 40-meter beam was aimed at Hilo. Simulating an internet outage, the setup was used to pass received traffic to a second 20-meter gateway on 14,100.5 kHz and forwarded to a mainland gateway with internet access.

Incoming message traffic on 40 meters would be automatically forwarded to the mainland on 20 meters. Most of the traffic went to gateways in Mexico and Texas for forwarding to the internet. One user reported receiving email confirmation that a message was received within minutes. —

Thanks to Stacy Holbrook, KH6OWL

KH6YY
played big
role in
Simulated
Emergency
Test

***One of the premier
contest stations in the
middle of the Pacific
Ocean,
KH6YY offers a
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an expanse of
saltwater.***

Health Net to provide emergency link for hospitals

At the October meeting, Jim Tatar, WH6EMN, discussed the Health Net he and others are setting up to provide an emergency radio link between most of the hospitals and major medical centers in Hawaii.

"This will be for use in the event of a major communications failure in any or all of the affected locations. We are trying to form a club right now to get a call sign for the club members when working the net," said Jim.

For more info, call Jim at 960-1545.



At the October meeting, Jim Tatar, WH6EMN, discusses the new Health Net.

BIARC Board Meeting

October 12, 2019

12:17 **Meeting called to order**

Role Call (7) Quorum (6)

Board Members:

William Polhemus – President
Leslie Hittner, Secretary
Tony Kitchen, Treasurer
Paul Ducasse – Station Custodian

Absent: Mel Uchida and James Huntley – Vice President

Non-Board Members in attendance:

Gary Schwiter, Bob Schneider

Minutes of last Board meeting: Regular meeting on 09/14/19

William **moved** and Tony **seconded** that the minutes of last meeting be approved as published. Motion **passed**.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was submitted in writing. In summary, the current bank balance is \$2815 and there are 81 members in the club. Tony noted that the club's financial records system is on a *modified cash basis*.

William **moved** and Paul **seconded** to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Motion **passed**.

New Board Member (Taken out of order):

William stated that he had approached Bob Schneider to replace Peggy Gentle, who resigned last month. William **moved** and Tony **seconded** that Bob Schneider fill the remainder of Peggy's Interim Board term. The motion **passed**.

William welcomed Bob Schneider to the BIARC Interim Executive Board.

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Committee Reports:

- (1) **Digital Systems (Mel/James):** (No report)
- (2) **Education and Outreach:** (No report) Les reminded those involved in getting the word out each month as to the second Saturday BIARC activity that has been scheduled per the September meeting.
- (3) **Operating Activities:** (No report)
- (4) **Program:** (No report) November is the Annual Membership Meeting. December will be the annual Christmas Party and Pot Luck.
- (5) **Public Service Communications:** (See written report attached) The report focused primarily on the upcoming SET. A concern that Arose during SET was the use of USB for digital and its potential for interference to adjacent frequencies being used by multiple served agencies.

Bob Schneider noted that ARRL Pacific Section Director, Jim Teimstra, will be visiting Hawaii Island in November and that a luncheon with Jim - open to all ARRL members - is in the planning stages. Final plans and an invitation to ARRL members will be sent by email later in the month.

- (6) **Voice Repeaters:** (No written report) William gave an oral report of Voice Repeater Committee activity. It is firm that SPECTRUM will abandon the tower and return the land to its "natural" state, but nobody seems to know when that will happen. This is the same tower that the BIARC Kulani (146.16/76) repeater is using. It appears that SPECTRUM has a 3-year extension to its original lease. All upgraders to the Kulani repeater antenna system are on hold until this site issue can be resolved. William states that there is are other site option on Kulani:
 - a. County Tower
 - b. Insite commercial tower
 - c. An abandoned tower possibly owned by Nextel or Sprint.

Literally, nobody knows what is going on right now. Power is OK for now, but the committee is enhancing the emergency power capabilities of the site. Including installing a new damaged-but-fully-functional 125 amp-hour battery donated by William.

The installation of a DMR digital repeater on Mauna Loa is proceeding. William is waiting to receive the MMDVM necessary to convert a donated analog MTR2000 repeaters to DMR. He has obtained permission to connect the repeater to Paul Agamata's static IP Mauna Loa Internet connection by microwave. It may also be possible to beam internet resources from Sheep's Station on Mauna Kea to Mauna Loa.

The frequency of the repeater will be 442.575/447.575 and William anticipates the following control code usage:

- a. DCS code 172 will switch from digital to analog
- b. Digital will employ DMR Color Code 10.

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The committee is recommending removing the equipment at Naalehu in Ka'u. The cabinet is in very poor shape and should be junked. The batteries and four solar panels could be taken to Pepeekeo for use in hardening the 167.28/88 as this site is one where BIARC may be able to obtain a fiber-optic internet connection.

(7) Records Retention Ad Hoc: (Proposed Policy submitted) Action to be taken under Old Business.

(8) Elections Ad Hoc: (No written report and acted upon out of order) The following election plan was suggested by Paul:

Present a slate of the six existing Interim Board members, if they each agree, then take additional nominations by email or directly by voice until closed by a motion at the Annual Membership Meeting on November 9, 2019. Nominations received soon enough will be included on a pre-printed ballot. Late nominations can then be written in as needed by voters. William **moved** and Les **seconded** that this plan be implemented. The motion **passed**.

(9) Ad Hoc - Membership Booklet: (Tentative booklet presented and acted upon out of order) William **moved** and **Tony** seconded to approve the Booklet as designed and presented. The motion passed. **Les** moved and **Paul** seconded that Petroglyph Press be asked for a cost estimate for 100 copies and that these copies be printed and distributed to BIARC members after the January Executive Board meeting.

(10) Record Retention Ad Hoc:

Old Business:

(1) Records Retention Policy: the following changes were made to the policy by acclamation during board discussion:

DEFINITIONS: COMMON ELECTRONIC ARCHIVE:

Delete ***USB owned by BIARC*** and insert ***electronic storage owned or maintained by BIARC***

IV ARCHIVES:

Paragraph A: delete **on a BIARC-owned USB drive**

Add **DropBox web-based synchronized storage will be a minimum requirement for a common electronic archive. A USB drive will be a secondary backup.**

READ credentials will be shared by every Executive Board member.

The President shall have BACKUP privileges.

The Secretary shall have READ/WRITE/BACKUP privileges.

The Ad Hoc Committee will return with a Policy proposal that incorporates the above changes for final approval in November.

(2) Marketing Plan – No Action taken.

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New Business:

- (1) **Approve BIARC Mission Statement** – The statement and accompanying Radio Amateur's Code offered by the Membership Booklet Ad Hoc committee was approved with the following changes:

Replace **train** with **educate** in the very first line. Delete **by local authorities** in the fourth line. Les **moved** and William **seconded** the wording of the mission statement and Radio Amateur's Code as noted above. Motion **passed**. These statements will be inserted in the previously approved Membership Booklet.

Other Business: None.

Adjourn: There being no further business, William adjourned the meeting at 13:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Hittner, Secretary

Enc: Treasurer's report
Public Service Communications Committee Report
Membership Booklet Template
Proposed Records Retention Policy
BIARC Mission Statement

Reports from Grid Madness

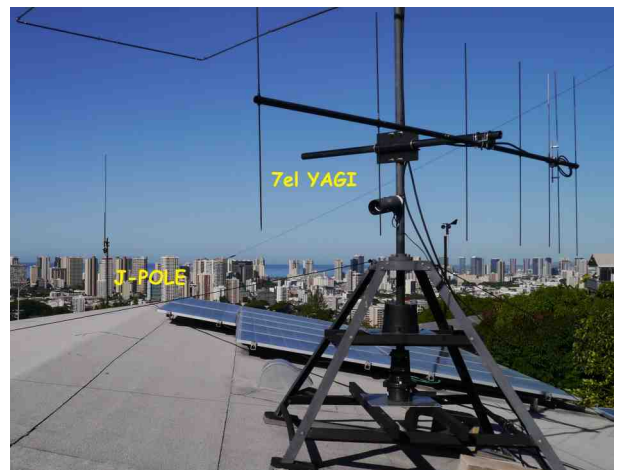
Which is better?
J-pole or Yagi?

>>>

KH6DH (Gerald, Base, BL11ch): The "big" antenna was pointed at Maui and it would have covered the Big Island as well from my qth. The "big one" was a 7 element M2 for 2meters. But I mostly used a J-pole... NH6Y was going crazy, I know he was on Haleakala, but I don't know where or how high. Most newbies think that the higher gain Yagiis always better. But not so. Takes time to rotate. The J-pole has always been better for me. Probably 90% of Q's were from J-pole. Yagi not too much better to Maui.

Could have been that, the Maui guys were just located sooo well that the yagi was just a slight bit better. The skyline that you are seeing in the picture is Waikiki.

And I am at about 350 ft. elevation.



**Details on
this year's
event start
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page ...**

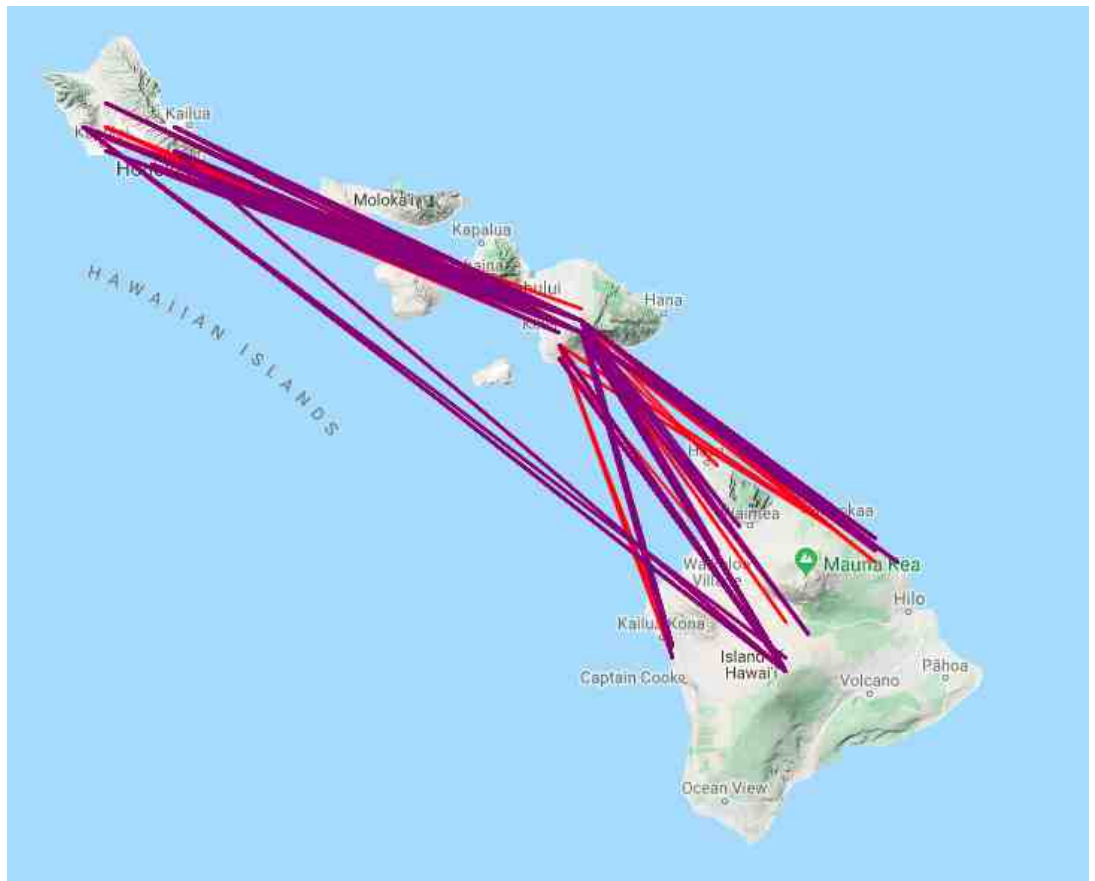
Hawaiian Islands Grid Madness 2019 SUMMARY and RESULTS

This annual simplex event is sponsored by Aulani Hui Amateur Repeater Club.

Coordinators say: "Once again, Hawaii amateur radio operators observed the third Sunday of September (the 15th) by doing Grid Madness. Mahalo to all who devoted a good part of their day to radio fun."

This year, they send a special thank you to:

- WH6Fxx's and WH6Gxx's and other "new hams" brave enough to give it a go, and
- Those who generously helped others with rides, programming radios, loaning equipment, understanding the rules,



operating during the event, submitting logs. You sent in lots of data, comments and some photos; that's how we know what happened.

Let's get started! Top Scoring Stations and Club

• **First Place HT Station: Kent, KH6CJJ (Maui).**

Kent completed 90 contacts with five Watts and a rubber duck antenna. He drove to six strategically selected locations in central Maui to activate eight grids with his HT. Kent selected two of his stops to take advantage of this year's "boundary



WH6ETX with clipboard and Baofeng in BK29hi.

rule," allowing contacts from two grids at the same place (more on this below). All the contacts were with other Maui rovers or base stations.

After this great effort, Kent said "Wonderful event

- gets better each year."

• **First Place Base Station: John, K6GSS (Maui).** After a strong 2nd place finish in the 2018 Base class, John is back on top this year. Using his station in BL10ss with some impressive antennas (2m 4 el Yagi, 70cm 8

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el quagi) he made 72 contacts. Due to John's lower elevation, most of those were with other Maui stations, plus a fine 2m direct contact with Steve KH6WG on leeward Oahu (116 miles).

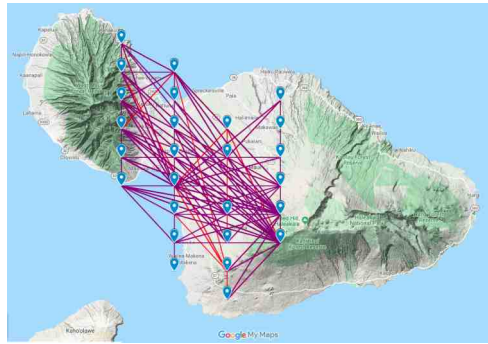
John also employed Steve as a relay station to make a couple more Oahu contacts, and completed the island trifecta with relay contacts to the Big Island via Tom NH6Y. His comment refers to the "boundary rule:"

Every time a rover stopped near a grid line, it meant 4 contacts, wow. [72] Qs and 2 relays more than double last year.

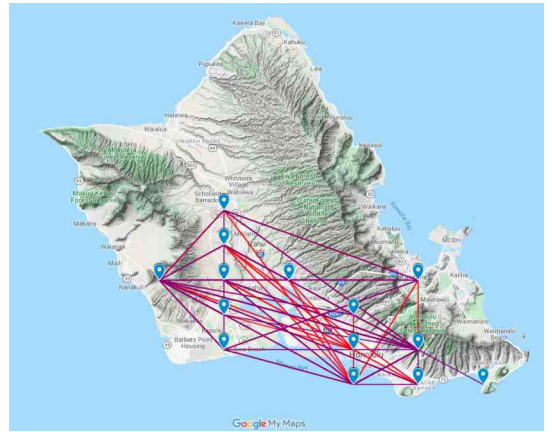
• **First Place Mobile: Tom, NH6Y (Maui).**

With 14 stations, Mobile is the smallest class this year. But as always, high scores. Very high scores: Tom completed 187 contacts in 43 grids.

This he accomplished by driving up



This year's action on Maui, above, and Oahu, at right.



Haleakala to the boundary of BL10uq and BL10ur, staying there for the duration. The "boundary rule" surely helped to increase his number of contacts. But consider the 43 grids, and 10 of those grids were more than 100 miles away! NH6Y has been a great supporter of Grid Madness in the Maui Amateur Radio Club, and participating for five years running.

Tom's remarks: "The spot I found might be the best spot in the state for this contest. If you look at google earth, find the summit of Haleakala and look for the road to the top of Red Hill. There is a road off this, just before the top, to the south, that leads to the telescopes. Just before the cattle guard and gate to the telescopes there is an access road for the

microwave dishes, repeaters and the skyline trail. Just after that (green on google earth) is another cattle guard and a locked gate. I was able to park on there with no complaints from the park police or the security for the telescopes. It is about 50 feet from the grid boundary. The only problem was that I did not hear down into central Maui very well. That might have been partly due to my antenna which is a Comet GP-9. It might have been better to use an antenna with a slightly broader (vertically speaking) pattern. I would have heard Maui better if I could have gotten just a little higher, either exactly on the summit, in the telescope area or

out near the microwave dishes. Great contest but we haven't been successful in getting very much new participation here on Maui."

First Place Club: Maui Amateur Radio Club.

Ten Maui Ops contributed to the MARC effort this year, compared to five last year. MARC affiliates were a balanced group, with major contributions from Mobile, HT and Base stations.

Mahalo again to MARC for encouraging radio activity!

Maps

• First, the inter-island grid connections: Three islands again this year, no interest from Kauai and Molokai. But action between Oahu, Maui and the Big Island was better than ever.

On Oahu,

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stations in nine different grids completed contacts across the water.

Steve KH6WG (BL01wj) had solid connections with the stations on Mauna Loa - Tony WH6DVI, Richard WH6FLH, Jim WH6FQI and Joe WH6FZH (BK29fm).

In turn the Mauna Loa crew used an easy path to Maui stations on Haleakala - TomNH6Y, Robert KH7FX and Brad NH7M (BL10ur and BL10uq).

Looking closely at the Big Island, you can see a bunch of paths from the Hamakua coast to Maui.

Responsible for that activity: Rick AH6RK, Mel KH6EKD, John KH6JB, Darrell KH6RDO, Kyra WH6FSD. All made contacts with NH6Y!

A final inter-island path of note. Those lines from the east side of the Big Island to Maui are Peter AH6SN in his car, on a grid boundary. No one to talk to on Kona side - no problem

- he completed contacts with Trip WH6FAM and Tom NH6Y. Peter was active in the first Grid Madness in 2014 ... thanks, Peter!

• Next, the Oahu paths: Oahu stations activated 14 grids. Of special note this year, Jason WH6GBX made 15 contacts while activating BL11cj (Kaneohe). Thanks for lighting up the windward side, Jason, and welcome to Grid Madness!

Bernard KH6MOI contacted WH6GED (no log, one contact) in BL11dg (Koko Head area). Bernard was the only station to score this grid! Just an example of a typical Grid Madness one-time-deal.

• Now, the Big Island paths: Of the three active islands, the Big Island is always the least predictable. There was a high level of grid activation (41, count 'em) this year.

The Mauna Loa team (4 guys in 2 cars) started down the mountain early enough to activate some unusual grids - you can see their tracks on the map. Again, the new group on the Hamakua coast added another eight grids.

There's a string of

For lots more statistics, interactive maps, contest results, logs, photos and commentary, please go to the Aulani Hui Amateur Repeater Club Grid Madness link at: gridmadness.blogspot.com

four grids with no paths along Highway 11 near Volcano. That's Lynn WH6ETX and Stan AH6KO driving along, stopping to call, hearing no one, and making contact with each other. (The Google mapping method does not draw a line for contacts in the same grid.)

The two big clusters just northwest of cape Kumukahi are Irene NH7PE, Bev KH7LM and Gordon NH7HO. Lower Puna is on the air!

Finally, notice the grid marker in the water off Kawaihae. that's the center of BL20bb, where Norm NH7UA made 2 contacts in his sixth consecutive Grid Madness!

• And, the Valley Isle . . . The Maui guys put some serious thought into their Sunday.

Okay, first question - what happened to

BL10ts? (It's the un-activated grid right there in the middle of the mesh.) Here's how the MARC hams achieved the (otherwise) great coverage of central Maui.

Mobiles - Trip WH6FAM activated eight grids in the west area (BL10t* and u*), including three boundary locations. Brad N7BMD drove to four grids in the area north of Haleakala (BL10t* and BL10u*). Riley NH7O activated 13 grids in the south and west area (BL10r* and s*) including five boundaries. Tom NH6Y came up on the boundary pair BL10ur and BL10us for the top Mobile score. Robert KH7FX sent in a neat hand-written log from BL10uq on Haleakala. Arch AH6U made a fine

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contribution as the only station in BL10tu.

HTs - As noted above, Kent KH6CJJ traveled the west side (BL10r* and s*) for eight grids (two boundary locations) and the top HT score. Bill WH6FVZ activated BL10us and BL10tr in his second Grid Madness.

Base - John K6GSS operated from BL10ss for the top Base score. Bill KH6UU worked his second Grid Madness from BL10uv. Anita AH6CU and Joe AH6CU operated from BL10su.

Notes, comments and pictures from around the islands Starting with The Big Island

- While the Kona coast was mostly quiet this year, the windward side was very active. Kudos to the BigIslandRADIO group and BIARC! Here's what Big Island ops had to say: AH6SN (Peter, Mobile, BK29ao, an):

"I briefly participated in Grid Madness...I made NO contacts on the Big Island - our topology doesn't lend itself to it. So the Kona Locals don't participate much. However, I was

able to contact Maui several times. I straddled BK29ao and BK29an - mobile using my IC7000. I had exchanges with Tom NH6Y - great signal from Haleakala on both 446 & 146.52 KH6RDO (Darrel, Mobile, BK29kv, ku, kt, kq, lq): Since Mauna Kea was out & Jim guys was up Mauna Loa I figured trying out Hamakua & get Mel guys out Laupahoehoe involved, since I saw no or low activity from that area these past years.

For this, I went

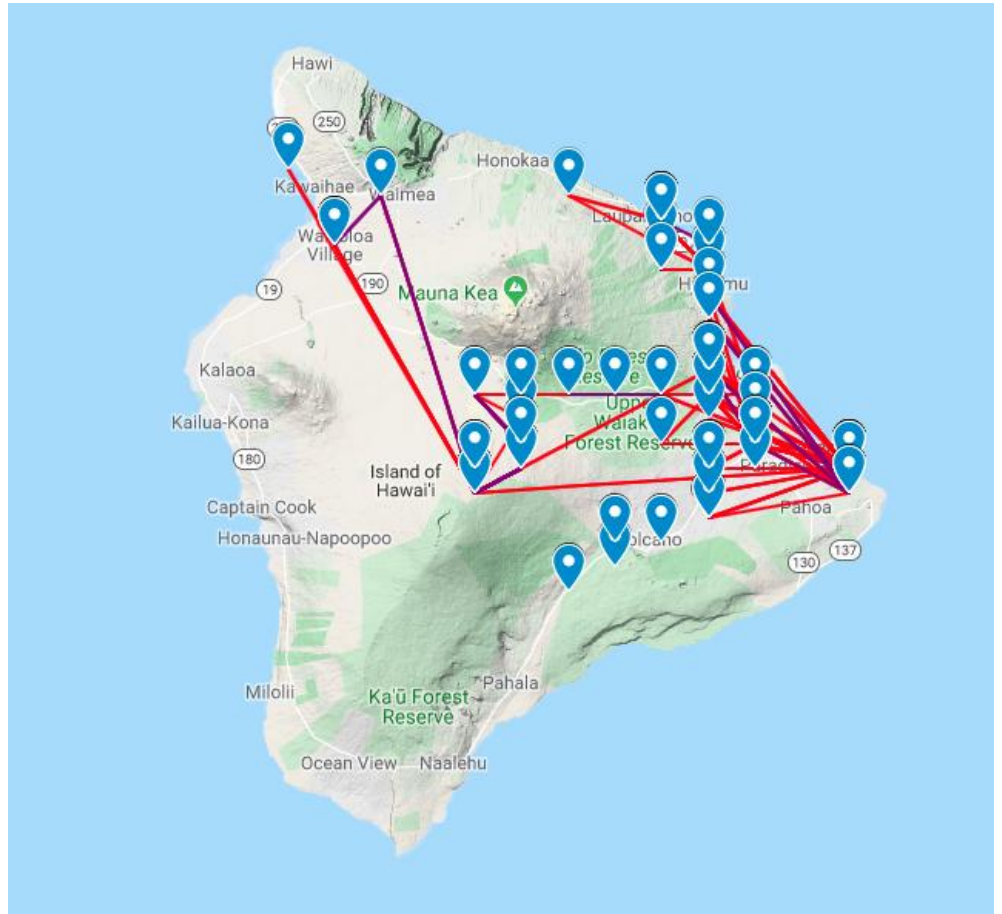
up Honomu, just above the town. You don't want to go too far back up to Akaka Falls cuz you will lose Puna. I was very surprised that I was able to hit Mel up Laupahoehoe. I was expecting Jeremy, AH6V up Ninole but not Mel some others in Laupahoehoe.

I was also surprised that NH6Y was coming in from Maui. Would like to find out where on Haleakala he was. He was coming in on VHF & UHF solid. When I moved to Pepeekeo dual grid, he was

still coming in although I was not able to hit him from there.

Another interesting thing was NH7PE, Irene down Waawaa. I was figuring I could hit her from Honomu since I was able to hit Bev, KH7LM down Hawaiian Beaches, solid from Honomu but could not hit Irene. Once I moved to Pepeekeo, she was coming in.

Another surprise was WH6EMN. I think Jim is up Puainako someplace & I hit him from Honomu. Anyway, thanks



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again for running the contest. We see you next year."

WH6FQI (Jim, Mobile, BK29fm, fq): "Thanks for running this great event!"

WH6LC (Leigh, HT+Base, BK29kn): "Thanks for doing this. GM brings a lot of fun to a lot of people."

AH6J (Bob, HT+Base, BK29lo): "I used two rigs. There were a lot more stations."

NH7PE (Irene, Base, BK29nm): "Wow! Had a ball! So much fun! Thank you so much for doing this, I got started late.

"I heard a number of people who didn't hear me including NH6Y on Maui! Then my battery died at 4:10 HST! So charged for a while & got the end of the contest! Learned more about my radio! Had a great time!! Congrats on a great contest!

WH6ETX (Lynn, HT, BK29hi, ij, ik, jk, kl, km, kn, kn, lo): "Every year is a little different..."

AH6KO (Stan, HT, BK29hi, ij, ik, jk, kl, km, kn, kn, lo): "Nine grids activated while driving with Lynn WH6ETX from

Ocean View to Keaau.

"Lucky we had each other to talk to - it was lonely out there! Finally we heard the familiar voice of Bev KH7LM, and we knew we were almost home.

WH6DVI (Tony, HT, BK29fm, fq, gq, hq, kq, kp, jo, lp, ln): "Really Fun. Harder than I thought it would be. I'm sure I messed up some log entries, mostly at the beginning."

WH6EHJ (Howard, Base, BL20da): "My first time & it was a good experience. Thanks for your effort & prep."

AH6RK (Rick, Base, BL20ha): "Thanks for organizing this event...well worthwhile and fun."

WH6FSD (Kyra, Base, BK29jx, jw): "I got on to simply be a contact for others who were officially playing, as I was located at the intersection of two grids..."

"When NH6Y in Maui and I connected he was at two grids as well and I got so confused as he gave me his contact #s... I'm just learning..."

KH6JB (John, Base, BK29kr, kq, gp): "It was a great contest! Glad I could participate. Thanks for all your hard work!"

KH7LM (Bev, Base, BK29nn): "Mahalo to Gordon NH7HO (for being such a good sport) as he did not know he was going to be set up to participate with Grid Madness whether he liked it or not. This was his first contest (I'm still giggling for putting him on the spot) and to Stan AH6KO for making this a great day to remember!"

Comments or questions about Grid Madness?

Send an email to AH6KO@arrl.net.

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>]