



December
2020
Newsletter

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Meet on Zoom

Saturday, Dec. 12:
Noon BIARC Board
meeting, then a
membership
program at 2 p.m.
Details on BIARC
ListServe, and in
story, below.

And the 'State of the Club' is good!

In his “State of the Club” report at the November general membership meeting, President William Polhemus, NH6ET, described the Big Island Amateur Radio Club as “very strong” despite an unusual year.

He noted the many out-of-pocket monetary contributions by members and dedication of time and talent which allow BIARC to thrive. It constantly amazes him how much the club accomplishes on a “shoestring budget.”

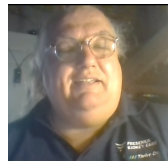
Throughout the meeting, William and the other officers and committee chairs reported on the year’s activities and sought feedback from members about what was, what is and what might be. After all, “this is your club,” he addressed the on-screen faces lined up and lit up via Zoom.

This flexible Internet service has been a boon during this year of social distancing, allowing the club to keep meeting and providing some good long-distance tutorials and programs from afar. Secretary Les Hittner, KOBAD, has a professional Zoom contract and lets BIARC use it at no charge, said William.

In his financial health report,



William Polhemus,
NH6ET



Jim Huntley,
WH6FQI



Les Hittner,
KOBAD



Tony Kitchen,
WH6DVI



Jim Sugg,
AH6AE



Paul Ducasse, WH7BR

Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI, noted that the club has 97 paid-up members. “We’ve overall done quite well this year,” said Tony.

Continued on next page

Happy
Holidays:
See you on
Zoom
Dec. 12

Everyone is invited to join in the annual BIARC Christmas party.

“It will be a purely social event, with both the sharing of Christmas stories as well as any other stories, and also a show-and-tell, where anyone can show their shack, or show off a project, or simply say ‘hi,’” says President William, NH6ET.

'State of the Club'

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Vice President Jim Huntley, WH6FQI, also chairs the Programs Committee. He thanked club members for their kokua this year and said “we want your input” relating to future program topics. Jim also pointed out how access to Zoom has helped provide off-island expertise in various aspects of amateur radio.

Paul Ducasse, WH7BR, chair of the “ad hoc nominating committee,” presented nominees for the three open board positions. With no additional nominations forthcoming, the quorum in attendance unanimously elected the three: William, Les and Jim Sugg, AH6AE.

William again encouraged BIARC members to give feedback to any of the board members at any time. The board handles the operations inherent to an organization, but always seeks to know where the members “want us to go as a club.”



Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS



Alan Okinaka, KH6ATU



Tom English, WH6EBS



Roy Kunishige, WH6FYK



Mark Watanabe, WH6FSA



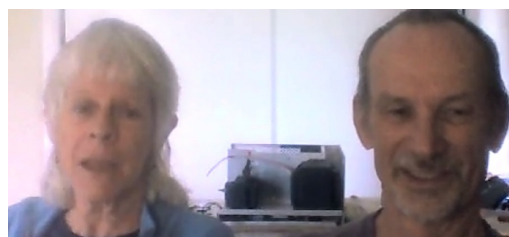
Mel Uchida, KH6EKD



John Bush, KH6DLK



David Miller, KH6CZ



Lynn Froseth, WH6ETX, and Stan Froseth, AH6KO

60-meter rule making -- RM-11785

The ARRL filed RM-11785 in November last year asking for rulemaking for the new 60-meter allocation of 5351.5-5366.5 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service (a sixth channel agreed to by the international WRC-15 conference). This was one of the positive results for the worldwide Amateur Radio service. It usually takes the FCC time to finalized rules for new Amateur allocations especially if other US radio services are affected.

The ARRL raised the desire to allow use of VFOs instead of a 2.8 kHz channel. The primary reason for this would be to allow narrow band digital stations to share the allocation. It would be of significance for FT8 and other new digital modes.

At the same time the league asked that the entire US 60-meter band retain the 100-watt power limit rather than follow the 15-watt limit agreed at the WRC-15 conference.

"At WRC-15, a non-channelized allocation was recommended worldwide with a power limit of 15 watts. We petitioned for a non-channelized allocation last year plus keeping the existing shared channels. We also requested to keep the 100-watt ERP limit instead of dropping to 15 watts. There is no information on when the

Continued on next page

73 aloha to Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, SK Pacific Division Zoom meeting Dec. 12

Greetings, Pacific Division members. By now I'm sure you've all heard of the untimely passing of our Pacific Division Director, Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT. He was my friend and colleague and I miss him greatly. He worked tirelessly for the division and for the ARRL.

It is under these difficult circumstances that I have become Division Director to fill out Jim's term. I promise to do my best to live up to Jim's legacy and serve all of you as your representative on the ARRL Board. Please feel free to contact me any time with suggestions, issues, and even complaints. I'm always available to help.

I'd like to take advantage of this division mailing list to periodically update you on goings on in the division and other things that may be of interest to members. If you have any content to include, please let me know. This is an important time for Amateur Radio as we try our best to stay relevant and attract a new generation into our hobby. There are



*Kristen McIntyre,
K6WX
ARRL Pacific
Division*

challenges as we navigate the pandemic.

The outlines of emergency communications are changing as agencies roll out their own infrastructure. We also have many pending regulatory issues where we are taking the fight to the FCC, like the recent loss of 3.5 GHz, which we are not giving up on, and the \$50 licensing fee.

At this time of the year we have traditionally had a division meeting in Livermore, CA. With the current COVID-19 restrictions, and the short notice I've had to prepare, it seems inevitable that we have to move it online. This also gives us an opportunity to have more people across

the division attend. I will set up a Zoom meeting for Saturday, December 12. We will start it a little later in the day than has been the case before, to give members in the Pacific Section a chance to attend. The meeting will start at 10 30 AM PST, 8 30 AM HST.

I hope this works for you. The meeting will be recorded, so you can review it if you miss it. I will try to post it somewhere you can all find it and will send a link.

I will update you on League goings-on and what might happen at the next Board meeting.

But this is really your meeting. Bring your questions and ideas.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83856069087?pwd=UnJZZGNZREtPc3Z2bIVqVUtYaXhaUT09>

Meeting ID: 838
5606 9087

Passcode: uGLtX4

See you all soon.

*Kristen McIntyre,
K6WX*

*ARRL Pacific Division
Director
k6wx@arrl.org*

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FCC will act on RM-11785. No R&O has been issued yet."

With the growing use of 60 meters in Hawaii because of 40-meter propagation issues, Hawaii has a unique requirement to depend on this band for EmComm and interisland communications.

If you have an opinion about Hawaii retaining the 100-watt limit, make your voice heard by filing a comment to RM-11785. The link to submit comments is https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/filings?proceedings_name=RM-11785&sort=date_disseminated,DESC

If you think about it please email me a copy of your comment. I'd like to submit an ARRL Pacific Section comment representing opinions of our members.

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



The President's Corner

William Polhemus,
NH6ET

So, who was the first?

Who was the first?

I was recently presented an interesting question by Sheldon Remington, KH6SR: Who made the first amateur radio transmission from Hawaii, and when exactly did they do it?

Sheldon, whom many of you may know as the penultimate expert on DXing NDBs, also has an interest in radio history. Sheldon related that he has reason to believe we may just have missed the opportunity to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the birth of our hobby in our state.

Sheldon's interest was struck when he read a blurb on page 95 in the October 2020 QST Magazine, which referenced an editorial that had been published 100 years ago, in the October 1920 QST Magazine. That 1920 editorial celebrated the one year anniversary as having passed since amateur radio operators had been permitted to resume operations after WWI. Noted in that editorial was that a ham had been heard in the Territory of Hawaii.

This was significant an event as to warrant mention in the 1920 editorial to such an extent that it was carried over into the blurb 100 years later. Was this possibly the first confirmed QSO from Hawaii?

Was it a QSO at all? Or, did they just overhear the transmission? If so, how did they know it was Hawaii? After all, there were no licensed amateur radio operators in Hawaii until 1921. And, it's not like QRZ.com search results loaded very fast in those days.

Perhaps the original 1920 editorial text could shed some light on this. The ARRL's digital archive only goes back to January, 2012, so I wasn't able to help Sheldon answer the question on my own.

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AREDN Mesh Networks seminar open to all on Saturday, December 5

On Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to noon HST the Hawaii IEEE Communications Society Chapter is hosting a seminar Introducing the technologies behind AREDN MESH and the possibilities and capabilities to serve counties and state for backup emergency communications.

It will cover the concept, design, and implementation of an AREDN MESH network in Hawaii, explain where things started, what are some of the constraints and obstacles with the design, how far it has come so far across the state, and how the future looks for this system to play a role in EmComm.

Moderator: Steven Minakami, NH6XL (Honolulu ARES/RACES, Honolulu DEM, IEEE Hawaii Section Chair, Hawaii Chapter Communications Society Chair)

Presenters: Orville "Orv" Beach, W6BI (Ventura County ACS, AREDN MESH-Ventura & Los Angeles Counties) Gescio "Jesse" Alpuro, WH6AV (Maui ARES, Hawaii AREDN MESH Group)

This will be a ZOOM meeting for IEEE members, the Hawaii AllStar Repeater Group, the Hawaii Emergency Amateur Radio Network, Inc., Hawaii Amateur Radio Clubs, Hawaii ARES, and Hawaii ARRL members.

Join Zoom meeting:

<https://>

hawaii.zoom.us/j/94802704253

Meeting ID: 948 0270 4253

Passcode: 521069

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

The President's Corner

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This is an interesting question, and potentially a significant milestone to celebrate. So, I bring this to you, dear members of BIARC, and other readers of this newsletter. Can we determine who made the first amateur radio QSO from Hawaii, and when they did it?

Do any of you still have your October 1920 copy of QST Magazine? There is happy hunting to be had even if you left it on the bus.

Sheldon shared some interesting factoids with me, and I'll share them with you. I hope he doesn't mind. I have found references to other breadcrumbs which could be helpful too.

It appears that Wah Chan Chock was the first amateur radio operator to be actually licensed in Hawaii. Though, Wah Chan Chock didn't receive his license until 1921, at least a year later than the transmission mentioned in the 1920 QST Magazine editorial. However, he is known to have built his first radio as early as 1915. Did Wah Chan Chock make the first QSO, before he was licensed? Perhaps if we can find "Hams in your air," an article in The Sales Builder (Vol. 13, No. 4, April 1940) we will know for sure. The confirmation we desire might be on about page 12. But, as my dear friend Andrew Owens, KE0OET, will tell you, first to be licensed does not mean first to be on the air...It is believed that the first non-navy radio broadcast in Hawaii occurred in about October 1920.

Marion Mulrony and T.C. Hall set up a transmitter in the Electric Shop in downtown Honolulu, and transmitted at least an hour of voice and music. It was a small audience though. Only one receiver is known to have been available in the area. It was at the home of Tong Phong in Pacific Heights. The Phong family is said to have sat listening to the entire transmission, deeply engrossed in the wonder and magic that is radio.

Mulrony went on to build KGU, the first commercial broadcast station in Hawaii,

which he built for the Advertiser.

KGU is said to have beaten the Star-Bulletin's KDXY to the Hawaii airwaves by a matter of only about 15 minutes on May 11, 1922. Was perhaps Mulrony the first ham in Hawaii as well? He was obviously a technically adept fellow. A friend of Alexander Graham Bell, he is certainly a likely suspect, simply if only through 'running with the wrong crowd.'

On January 18, 1922, Clifford J. Dow, call sign 6ZAC, is believed to have received the first amateur radio message actually destined for Hawaii from the mainland. He received the message in Wailuku, which had been sent by A.H. Babcock, call sign 6ZAF in Berkeley California. Dow had already been receiving DX signals for a year or two before the QSO with Babcock. However, this is believed to have been the first known instance of a DX signal calling Hawaii directly. Does this mean that the amateur radio transmission referenced in the 1920 QST magazine editorial was not a QSO with the mainland? Perhaps if someone has a copy of "200 meters and down" by Clinton B DeSoto we can learn more about 6ZAC and his radio activities. Was he perhaps operating in Hawaii even earlier than this?

I'd like to thank and credit Robert C. Schmitt, the former Hawaii State Statistician, for his article Some Firsts in Island Leisure, which is in the Hawaii state archives. An article which I found very helpful in validating these dates. And, thank you to Sheldon Remington, for not letting another significant achievement slip by without commemoration.

On another note; many of you have reached out with messages of support following my recent health scare. I thank you for that. I have been told that there has been an interest in an update on my condition.

I am doing OK. I am still operating at a greatly reduced physical capacity, which I have been told will persist for some time. But, I'll take this life as the blessing that it is. Thank you again for your well wishes.

William – NH6ET

BIARC Board Meeting

November 14, 2020

A. Begin Meeting

1. William Polhemus called the meeting to order at 12:01.
2. The following board members were in attendance: Leslie Hittner, Tony Kitchen, Mel Uchida, William Polhemus, and Paul Ducasse
3. The Secretary's Minutes for the board meeting of 10/10/2020 were approved as read. William **moved** and Tony **seconded** to approved the minutes as published by email. Motion **passed**.
4. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Tony.

Fund totals:

Repeater Fund:	\$ 931.97
Emergency Reserves:	\$1,000.00
<u>General Fund:</u>	<u>\$1,653.92</u>
Total Funds:	\$3,585.89

James Huntley joined the meeting

William **moved** and Mel **seconded** to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Motion **passed** with a unanimous vote.

B. Committee Reports

1. **Digital Systems:** Huntley (Chair) - Work continues to improve the reliability of the Winlink node at Roy's (WH6FYK) QTH including replacing the external sound card which is now mounted in its own enclosure. They ran a brief test of the Beta version of VARA and then returned the node to the approved version.
2. **Education and Outreach:** Hittner (Chair) Written Report (attached) - Virtual classes are continuing and the second class is now in session. So far, two people from the first class have passed their virtual exams. The BIARC Lending Library has grown by the addition of the 2021 ARRL Handbook. Les would like to turn on the Lending Library in January by allowing people to check out books at his carport. The Committee asks for \$30 to fund the purchase of a container and checkout log for the Lending Library.

William **moved** and Paul **seconded** that up to \$40 be allocated to Les for the purchase of items needed to establish storage for the Lending Library. Motion **passed** by a unanimous vote.

William stated that a club member has requested that some sort of in-person testing be implemented by the club for people without the needed technology and asked that the committee consider that request. Comments included bringing people into a facility that has the needed technology. Les offered to

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contact UHH to see if the open hall in the Pharmacy Building could be used to conduct in-person testing while maintaining outdoor and social distancing requirements.

3. **Operating Activities:** Kunishige (Chair) – No Report
4. **Program:** Huntley (Chair) December ideas are lacking. Christmas Party is usually in December along with new board members. How do we have some sort of a Holiday Event by Zoom?
5. **Public Service Communications:** Kitchen (Chair) Report attached – Big Island VOAD would like to have BIARC nominate someone to a board position.

William **moved** and Tony **seconded** that we authorize the Public Service Communications Committee to act on behalf of the Board without requiring Board approval to install a nominee to the VOAD Board. Motion **passed**.

William **moved** and Paul **seconded** that we ask this and future boards to review the necessity of participation on the Big Island VOAD Board on an annual basis at the board meeting before the Semi-Annual Membership meeting in November. Les proposed an **amendment** to the motion that simplified the wording as follows: "...at the November Board meeting." William and Paul agreed with the proposed amendment. The motion as amended reads: I move that we ask this and future boards to review the necessity of participation on the Big Island VOAD Board on an annual basis at the November Board meeting." The motion as amended **passed**.

William's wrench: Local County agencies – specifically Fire and Police - are undergoing changes of leadership. Suggested BIARC hams could assist with these transitions. As a result, the Fire Department would like to explore a mutually beneficial MOU with BIARC so that BIARC could assist with the planning disaster preparation including staging emergency equipment at strategic locations, command posts, etc. The departments cannot hire commercial vendors for this sort of preparation. This could be a route for BIARC – and other volunteer organizations – to also arrange for antenna installations in important emergency locations. BIARC members could also volunteer to actually set up existing cross-band and mobile repeaters that department members do not have the knowledge to do.

William will begin attending State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Meetings as a technical representative for the County. As a result, William may have important news and updates for the committee.

Deputy Chief is Robert Perrira and Assistant Chief is Ian Smith. A new Fire Chief has not yet been named.

William **moved** and Les **seconded** that this matter be referred to the Public Service Communications Committee and that the committee work through William directly as it moves forward. Motion **passed**.

6. **Voice Repeaters:** Polhemus (Chair) No report. William announced that Talk group 31153 was temporarily added to the Mauna Loa repeater to accommodate the Hawaii County Siren Net. William also clarified that linking to BIARC repeaters needs to be coordinated by the Repeater Committee.
7. **Ad Hoc Elections Committee:** Paul (Chair) – Three open positions and three nominees:

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William Polhemus (NH6ET), Leslie Hittner (K0BAD), Jim Sugg (AH6AE)

Bob Schneider joined the meeting.

Les observed that a motion for unanimous consent to approve the slate of officers presented by the board does not require a secret vote.

C. Old Business:

1. **MOU With Hawaii Department of Water Supply.** Les **moved** and William **seconded** that the Public Service Communications Committee send a copy of the DWS MOU to William and that he submit it to the DWS on behalf of the club. The motion **passed**.
2. **Annual Membership Meeting Agenda.** William **moved** and Tony **seconded** to adopt the agenda as presented by the Secretary. The Motion **passed**.

D. New Business:

1. **Certificate listing KSBE as Additional Insured.** William suggested that we may not need to do so because of site and entry route changes. Tony has already submitted it, but it was for the old site/entrance. We may need to submit our certificate to HCCDA for the current location in the future.

E. Other Business:

1. Tony still has not updated equipment records with the insurance company and William agreed to send those updated records to Tony.
2. BIARC CD Volunteer lists will be forwarded by William to HCCDA although it is not a high priority for them.
3. There was a VHF Digital modes discussion at HCCDA. We may need to reach out to State CD and Maui CD with respect to packet digipeaters before we designate specific frequencies, etc. Robin Liu and KH6HPZ and Rick Ching may have to be involved in those discussions. Our band plan may become the De Facto standard.

F. Adjourn

There being no further business, William adjourned the meeting at 13:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie D. Hittner

Leslie Hittner, Secretary

Enc: Written Committee Reports
(Public Service Communications, Education and Outreach)

Aloha Chapter of 10-10 International

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>]

Education and Outreach Committee Report November 14, 2020

Doug Wilson: We currently have 17 students remaining (out of 23) in the class that are likely to take the exam, which we will schedule for November 28, 29 or 31. The class includes students from Illinois and Indiana. We also have a student that is legally blind who we will accommodate in a special testing session.

I have 2 from the first class that reported passing their exam but have not heard from the others.

Leslie Hittner: The committee did not meet in October. A copy of the six-part 2021 ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook has been added to the BIARC Share Library (Donated to the club by Leslie Hittner). The library now has a copy of the Handbook from both 2020 and 2021. I would like to purchase a plastic tote box and a checkout log from Office Max to use as a starter for the library (Estimated cost no more than \$30).

Leslie Hittner

From: "Tony Elias" <TonyEliasHi@hotmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 14:08
To: "Bob Schneider" <ah6j@arri.net>; "Mel Uchida" <glenmio@aol.com>; "Paul Decasse" <ducasse@hawaii.rr.com>; "Jim Huntley" <wh6fqi@gmail.com>; "Les Hittner" <k0bad@arri.net>; "William Polhemus" <william.polhemus@ieee.org>
Attach: BIARC MOA DWS-Rev3a.pdf
Subject: October - November 2020 BIARC PSCC Report

The PSCC has continued to work with Big Island Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster. The last meeting with the BIVOAD Communications Committee was held on October 20th, with 5 members present. BIVOAD also held annual elections for their board of directors. As BIARC is a member of BIVOAD, we were invited to nominate one of our members to the 2021 BIVOAD board of directors. Positions still remain open. The BIVOAD has modified membership requirements starting in 2021 to cause members of BIVOAD to also be members of Hawaii State VOAD. The annual fee will be \$50. By paying this fee BIARC would be a full member of both organizations. BIVOAD and BIARC have also been invited by Kevin Bogan, AH6QO to make greater use of the monthly net on the Mauna Kea repeater, by pre-planning sample message traffic between organizations that we would pass during the net, simulating the types of message traffic that might need to be passed during an actual emergency.

The PSCC continues to work with Hawaii ARES. Weekly ARES/ARC Winlink exercises have been held each Thursday. We will participate in the ARES/ARC exercise on the morning of November 14th, using the same procedures used for the October 3rd SET. Tony, WH6DVI will act as net control for the exercise on the Kulani Cone repeater from 9:00 to 11:00.

The proposal for an MOA with the Department of Water supply which Les, K0BAD updated is attached. I recommend that near the end of section 6, we use the term "Additional Insured" rather than co-insured, as that is what our insurance policy calls it.

Les --> If you agree with this minor change, can you make the modification and send the final copy to the Executive Board for their approval?

Tony Kitchen
WH6DVI
Chair, Public Service Communication Committee

SKYWARN Recognition day is December 5

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020 Adjusts for COVID-19

Since 1999, the annual SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) has celebrated the long relationship between the amateur community and the National Weather Service (NWS). SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020 will take place from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on December 5. Amateur radio operators comprise a large percentage of SKYWARN volunteers across the country.

The purpose of the event is to recognize amateurs for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and local NWS offices. The event is cosponsored by ARRL and the NWS. Normally, each year, radio amateurs participate from home stations and from stations at NWS forecast offices with the goal of making contact with as many offices as possible. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, participation from NWS forecast offices is expected to be minimal, so the focus will shift this year to contacting as many trained SKYWARN spotters as possible.

During the event, operators are encouraged to exchange their name, home station, SRD number, and current weather conditions with other participating stations. The event website provides complete operating guidelines.

Radio amateurs may sign up for a SKYWARN Recognition Day number by completing a [participant sign-up form](#). A SKYWARN

[Recognition Day Facebook page](#) has been created and will host a variety of live and recorded segments throughout the day.

