



June 2021 Newsletter

Next up on Zoom
(get link on BIARC ListServe)

Saturday, June 12
Noon: BIARC Board meeting
2 p.m.: Membership gathering

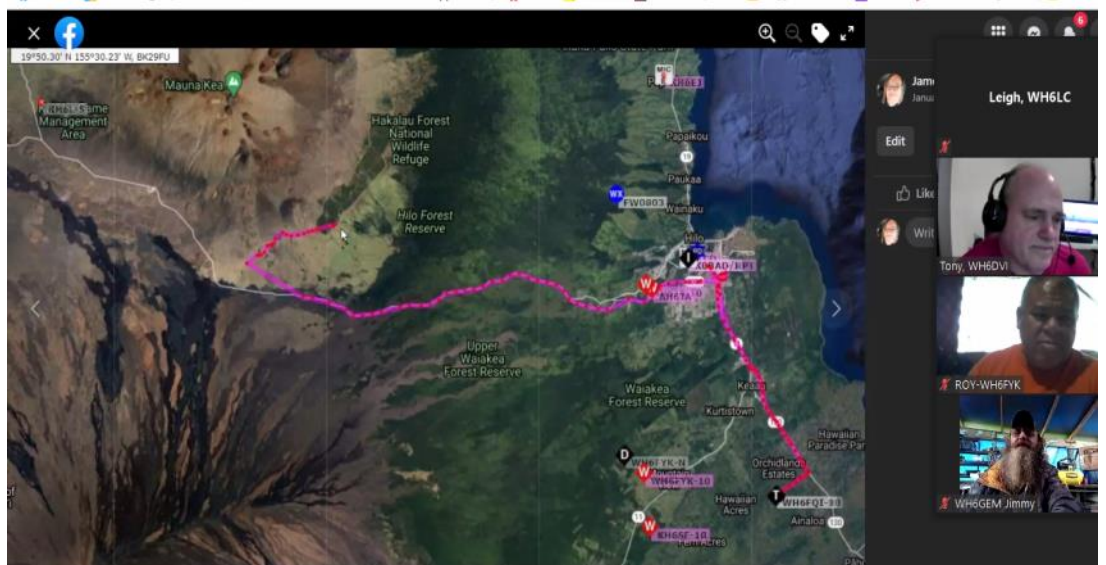
Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Club picks high-elevation Field Day site off Mana Road

The 2021 BIARC Field Day will be held 7,000 feet above sea level, off Mana Road, June 26-27. This year's chairman, Roy Kunishige, WH6FYK, staged an ARRL Winter Field Day event there earlier this year and speaks highly of the site's location and physical makeup.

There's a big area for parking and equipment setup. Vehicles with better-than-average clearance are recommended, however.

Roy says BIARC will be operating a Class A station (non-amplified



2021 Field Day Chair Roy Kunishige, WH6FYK, says pu'u setting offers lots of room for parking, set-up and operating fun.

Continued on next page



Field Day June 26-27, 2021

From previous page

and therefore qualified for bonus points) and a GOTA (Get On The Air) station manned by Vice President Jim Huntley, WH6FQI. The Class A station will operate under our club call sign, KH6EJ, and the GOTA station will use Jim's call sign.

More BIARC event details on Pages 3-4

[A history of the annual ARRL Field Day:](#)

Event is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2059 UTC Sunday. Those who prefer operating from home will have many ways to help the club accrue points in this annual ARRL educational and competitive event.

[What is the GOTA station?](#)

It is an opportunity for any Technician or Novice licensees, newly licensed amateurs, other generally inactive licensees, and non-licensed persons to experience first-hand the fun of amateur radio by allowing them to get on the air.



BIARC Field Day Chairman Roy Kunishige, WH6FYK, presents plans for June 26-27 event.

Laupahoe Point also going radioactive for Field Day

For Field Day this year, Jeremy (AH6V) and others have secured a permit for the big pavilion down at Laupahoe Point. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come down and visit. For those of you who have an accumulation of unneeded treasures (a.k.a junk) come down at 10AM Saturday, June 26. You can park and simply open your trunk or tailgate

and display your valuable wares. Cell coverage is limited down there, but you can monitor 146.520. The Laupahoe Point Allstar repeater works fine down there (442.550 + 110.9). Now for the fine print: This hamfest is not sponsored by any group, club, or organization. However, it is open to all interested hams.

73's.
Mel KH6EKD



Above: A scene from the 2019 BIARC Field Day in Hilo.

What is ARRL Field Day? Produced by ARRL, the national association for amateur radio (the Amateur Radio Relay League; <http://www.arrl.org>), it is the single-most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public.

For many clubs, ARRL Field

Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar. The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less-than-optimal conditions. We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities. But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters.



BIARC Field Day:

June 26-27, 2021

Meeting Location:

Vehicles will meet at the Minit Stop #86 (Ginger Patch) Gas station & Convenience store at the corner of East Puainako and Hawaii Belt Road in Hilo. [Across the street from the Puainako KTA]

Time: 7:00 AM Saturday morning.

7:30 AM Caravan leaves for Maunakea Field Day site.

Event location: Remote site on Maunakea, off of Mana Road.

Directions to site:

From the Saddle Road drive up the Maunakea Access Road just over 2 miles. Turn Right on Mana Road and drive just over 5 miles to the site. GPS Location: 19.7337 Lat., -155.3837 Long.

We expect to arrive and set up operations at around 9:00 AM. Some stations may stay and operate overnight, weather permitting.

From previous page



Operating Details:

No grid power or facilities will be present at the location.

Bring your own power, water, food, and equipment.

Potluck dishes are welcome.

If you wish to coordinate on frequency and band usage, contact Roy, WH6FYK at Roy.kunishige@gmail.com or contact him on the Kulani Cone Repeater.

ARRL rules allow for operations from your home or other location, and contacts may be attributed to the BIARC Club score.



Emcomms comes in many formats, with lots of ways to help the public

At the club's monthly Zoom gathering on May 8, Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI, focused on the multifaceted subject of emergency communications and ways amateur radio operators and others can help their communities in times of disaster and other stress related to loss of traditional forms of communicating.

We learned about a bunch of organizations, governmental and nongovernmental, and plans and structures for action and reaction on national, state and county levels.

Using the parable of the conflicting "truths" learned by several blind men touching various parts of an elephant, he noted that we have seen this story play out over and over when it comes to many things in life, including emergency communications.

"Everybody can contribute," he stressed, even if one is unable to participate formally in one of the more-regimented entities. There's lots of free training out there that can help anyone to be better prepared, even if you don't opt to officially sign up for a specific entity. These educational opportunities include CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training under the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency, and the NIMS (National Incident Management System) online courses.

Tony encouraged us to look into the many groups, such as ARES, and to read up on the various emergency management plans that have been

The Parable of the Blind Men & the Elephant (Amateur Radio Service & EmComm)



A folk tale from India that teaches intercultural awareness by illustrating how different perspectives lead to distinct points of view.



Each blind man feels a different part of the elephant's body, but only one part:

- the side
- the trunk
- the tusk
- the tail.

Misunderstanding:



- They then describe the elephant based on their limited experience. Their descriptions of the elephant are different from each other.
- In some versions they come to suspect that the other person is dishonest and they come to blows.



The moral of the story is that humans have a tendency to claim absolute truth based on their limited, subjective experience as they ignore other people's limited, subjective experiences which may be equally true.



Organizational Viewpoint

We have seen this story play out when it comes to the "elephant" of emergency communications.

Why Does it Matter?

- Emergency communications is a significant justification to the FCC that allows us to keep the wide range of frequency privileges that we enjoy.
- To make things work, it is important we maintain good relationships between the various groups.

adopted by government entities.

He used the case of the "derecho" that devastated a section of Iowa and portions of adjoining states.

ARES is all-inclusive, Tony pointed out. Every-



BIARC Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI.

one can participate. This is good, because for a variety of reasons, many of us will not be willing, or able, to dedicate the time and effort needed to meet the requirements some served agencies may have. As a case-in-point, he told the story of a real-life event involving Iowa ARES SEC Lelia Garner, WA0UIG.

"Her story was presented at a recent ARES meeting," said Tony. "It provides perspective, and demonstrates how we can all provide valuable service to our community."

With only 30-45 minutes of warning, the area was hit by a "derecho," a widespread, long-lived straight-line wind-storm with fast-moving thunderstorms. A derecho can keep increasing in strength after onset, and may exceed hurricane-force winds, with tornadoes, heavy rains and flash floods. The damage from the Iowa event was \$11 billion.

All cell phone, public safety communication systems and amateur repeaters were down. Power, landline, internet, radio and TV were gone.

It took a week to get an Emergency Operations Center activated locally, as the

Volunteers & Professionals:



There has been an increasing number of challenges keeping volunteers from working together with public safety staff in emergency situations and disaster communications.

Challenges:

• Disruptions due to changes in technologies:

- Served agencies go high tech.
- Increased use of computers and databases.
 - Computer Aided Dispatch.
- A variety of enhanced digital communications options. [P25 phase II]
 - WEB EOC.

Challenges:

• Served agencies have put up barriers:

- Extensive training is required.
- Background checks.
- Credentials and certifications.

More Challenges:

• Greater Complexity:

- Insurance and regulatory requirements.
- Technical and interoperability requirements.
- It can be difficult to figure out how we can work together.

US Government Challenges:

DHS & FEMA:

- Enticed local, county, state, and territorial governments to embrace new training and procedures. [NIMS, ICS]
- Amateur radio groups need to embrace these changes in order to stay compatible.
- We must speak the same language, and understand the same concepts, to operate effectively together.

Solutions:

These challenges have not been easy to overcome. It has taken some time.

Looking around the country...

- Many jurisdictions have met these challenges and found ways to work together.

- We can use successful examples in other jurisdictions as a guide to help here in Hawaii.

Perspective:

ARES is all inclusive, everyone can participate.

For a variety of reasons many of us will not be willing or able to dedicate the time and effort needed to meet the requirements some served agencies may have.

What follows is a summary of a real life event from Iowa ARES SEC Lelia Garner, WA0UIG.

Continued on next page

event hit several states. There were no served agencies to communicate with: no Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc. There was no contact with public safety entities. HF antennas were down; Trees were down. Structures were ripped apart. Garner's Iowa community didn't know how widespread the damage was. Others in neighboring communities were better off, but didn't know how bad the situation was just outside their simplex range.

What happened next? Individual operators self-activated, monitored, communicated with each other as best they could, helped each other and folks in their community, and set up and ran a simplex net which lasted for many days. Garner reported that the hams didn't pass formal message traffic, use forms, or act as a part of any formal group. They helped each other with basic needs and set up generators to help refrigerate perishable medicine and food.

Frequencies were used for moral support, health and welfare messages and just keeping the community in touch and updated on the latest situations.

Lessons for us, Tony asked? Emergency situations may play out over a long period of time. All stations that still have power to transmit have a role to play. We may have no served agency or group to work with. Perhaps we are focusing too much on forms, protocols, titles and positions.

What is most important?

Tony pointed out that we have no idea how a disaster will play out. Perhaps we can work on: Upgrading our capabilities, helping others upgrade theirs; building good relationships; building trust and knowing each other's capabilities.

"Being kind may be more important than being right," Tony suggested. "Plan for the future: National groups have provided us with examples to follow when working within other groups. It's important we remain positive. Conflicts, negativity, and disagreements will discourage volunteerism and cause groups to not want to engage with us."

How can we be ready?



• VOAD:

ARC, Catholic Charities, LDS Social Services, Lions Club, Project Vision, Habitat for Humanities, Salvation Army, Aloha United Way-211, ...

Partners:

- ARES, FEMA, Hi EMA, Hawaii Civil Defense Agency

What is the ARRL? The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 170,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members. For more information visit: www.arrl.org.

TECH TALK: Fixing an amplifier

By Hank Kaul, KH6HAK

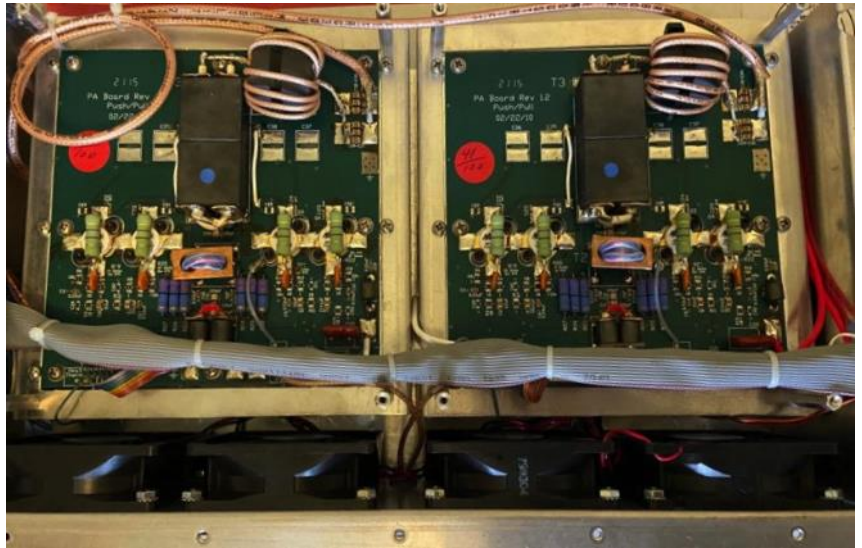
The joy of having a new HF Linear Amplifier was short-lived. During a recent Sporadic-E opening of six meters to Japan I was bringing the amp up to power on the hex beam when it suddenly went dead. Now the Ameritron ALS-1306 is well built with SWR sensors that will trip and shut down the amp, but this was different. It did not reset. It would not power up, with only a brief voltage flicker from one side of the dual power supply. Fearing I had a power supply fault, I called Ameritron tech support.

John in tech support asked what my driver radio was, and if I had engaged the tuner in the radio. (I did NOT have the tuner active!) He said I had blown the final Power Amp transistors, and suggested it was some kind of input fault or over-drive situation. Again... I was well within the power specifications with only about 50 watts of drive. But transistors fail sometimes, especially when pushed at the higher frequencies like 50 MHz. John suggested I ship the amp back to the factory for repairs, but I told him I was experienced and wished to fix it myself. He had me register at the support portal and would send me information. If you have screwdriver, solder iron, and multimeter skills you could do this, too.

Since 1986 the new solid-state TV transmitters I worked on were all MOSFET power amplifiers, and I am familiar with the circuits and have replaced lots of these transistors. In my foresight, I had a spare pair of the MRF150 power transistors for this amp. It uses a total of eight PA transistors, four on each of two power amp boards. This is what the underbelly of the ALS-1306 looks like, with the two power amp boards.

The power transistors are the little white ceramic buttons (The CBers call them 'Pills'... cuz that's what they look like) underneath the green resistor that bridges them. That resistor must be lifted to replace the 'pill'. The easiest way to remove the old 'pill' is to slice the connection tabs with an Xacto knife and then you can unbolt the transistor body easily. New transistor tabs may be soldered right on top of the old ones, if you don't want to clean off the printed circuit board end.

A bit of testing showed me that all four transistors on the rear PA board were shorted. It only takes one microscopic silicon fault for a transistor to fail, and in a circuit like this they run four transistors in parallel. So one failure takes out all four devices like toppling dominoes. And I only



The power transistors are the little white ceramic buttons (The CBers call them 'Pills'... cuz that's what they look like) underneath the green resistor that bridges them. That resistor must be lifted to replace the 'pill'.

had two spares!

Off to eBay where I found a Hong Kong supplier at \$24 each, with UPS expedited shipping available to get them here in days instead of months. For \$100 worth of parts and \$28 shipping to do-it-myself I saved the hassle of shipping the amp back and outrageous expense of factory repairs.

Now the trick of running four transistors in parallel like this circuit does, is to exactly match the voltage sensitivity and gain of all transistors so they all pull equally. But even though they are all the same type number, individual transistors are all slightly different. So there is a 'set up procedure' when installing new transistors, to set the bias voltage on each transistor gate so that they all pull equal current with no drive. Once the transistors are physically replaced, one has to open the power supply line wires to the board and insert an ammeter inline. Set all the bias pots for the transistors to zero, power on, and then bring each bias pot up so each transistor pulls exactly 250 mA. With all four transistors pulling equally,



we are now set. Now... reconnect all the wires and screw everything back together.

I will feel better now, knowing I personally set up all the PA transistors and they are tuned to perfection. But stuff happens, and I have another set of spare transistors. Four of 'em this time.

And now I have experience, too. Screwdriver, soldering, and multimeter skills... you could do it too.

K6K: King Kamehameha Celebration Special Event Amateur Radio Station

**Friday, June 11, 2021
06:00am HST (16:00 UTC) to 10:00pm HST**

Amateur Radio operators will activate special-event station K6K to celebrate King Kamehameha the Great and Hawai'i's rich history. K6K special event station will give hams a chance to add Hawaii to their logs to earn WAS or DCXX awards.

After hearing about the cancellation of all King Kamehameha Celebration parade events statewide, Michael Miller - KH6ML, a community emergency coordinator, spoke with amateur radio operators and a few people with the Commission to see if there was a level of interest to make the event happen.

This station is authorized by the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission as an official event. The event will give volunteer Hawaii Operators the chance to test their communications equipment and skills and be ready to assist when the cell phone and Internet fail.

Successful radio contacts are eligible to receive a special and inscribed certificate bearing the full-color rendition of K6K: King Kamehameha Celebration.

The Kamehameha Day Holiday was proclaimed by King Kamehameha I's grandson, Lot Kapuāiwa - King Kamehameha V, in 1871, followed by an inaugural celebration of events on June 11, 1872. Years later, in 1939, the Commission was formed under the Hawai'i Terri-



Mahalo and congratulations for making radio contact with K6K and celebrating King Kamehameha the Great and Hawai'i's rich history.

CONFIRMING QSO WITH:

DATE:

UTC:

Mhz:

MODE:

RST:

torial Legislature.

The FCC allows special-event stations to recognize and promote activities, services, or events of a historical or uniquely appealing nature. A special call sign is issued for a limited duration to identify the station. K6K was requested and granted. During this time, stations from around the islands and the world will try and make contact.

TO VIEW A SHORT CLIP OF 2020 lei draping and short history (https://fb.watch/4rB_6oMA7H/)

Operating Rules:

This is not a contest. The idea is to allow as many operators as possible to reach the contact station operators and learn about King Kamehameha the Great and why he is celebrated in Hawai'i.

All radio operators must operate their stations strictly in accordance with their countries' or FCC regulations. Any authorized amateur radio frequency may be used.

Stations should listen for K6K calling "CQ K6K." The main modes will be SSB, FM, FT-8, and Winlink. Other modes may be added. QSLs:

eQSLs are available via LOTW. NO Paper QSLs. CERTIFICATES: Are self-printed (by you) for contacts with our Special Event Station. If you contact our Special Event Station, look up your call sign on the following link and print your own certificate: Link to follow. Please allow 30 days for all logs to be processed.

For more than 100 years, Amateur Radio has allowed people from all walks of life to experiment with electronics and communications techniques, as well as provide a free public service to their communities during a disaster or emergency, all without needing a cell phone or the Internet. 750,000 amateur radio licensees in the US, and an estimated 3 million worldwide. Throughout COVID-19, hams around the world have continued to be on the air practicing their skills, in part as a way to help stay connected.

For more info: <https://sites.google.com/view/k6khawaii> Or email k6khai@gmail.com

**MAHALO NUI LOA,
Michael Miller KH6ML**

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

BIARC Executive Board Meeting

May 08, 2021

A. Begin Meeting

1. Call to order by President William Polhemus at 1201 HST
2. Quorum Call
Board Members: Robert Schneider, Leslie Hittner, William Polhemus, Tony Kitchen, Jim Sugg, James Huntley joined at 1222 HST.
Non-Board Club Members: Jimmy (WH6GEM), Roy (WH6FYK), Glenn (AH6EI), and one other.
3. Secretary's Report and Minutes (04/10/2021)
William **moved** and Tony **seconded** to approve the Minutes of the April Board meeting as published. Motion **passed** with no objections.
4. Treasurer's Reports
William **moved** and Jim **seconded** to approve the Treasurer's Reports subject to audit. The Motion **passed** with no objections.

B. Committee Reports

1. Digital Systems – No Written Report and no action items
2. Education & Outreach Committee – Written Report and no action items
3. Operating Activities – No Written Report and no action items
4. Public Service Communications Committee – Written Report and no action items. William added that the Fire Department will soon be establishing a non-fire-fighting volunteer corp. More information to come. James Huntley joined the meeting
5. Voice Repeaters – No Written Report and one action item:
Leslie **moved** and Tony **seconded** to approve the Lanipuna water tank as the project to be included in the Department of Water Supply Memorandum of Understanding. The motion **passed** with no objections.

C. Old Business

1. Mercer Insurance Equipment Update
No action was taken at this time.
2. Hawaii VOAD Representative
After a brief review of the responsibilities of this position, **Tony** moved and **Leslie** seconded to appoint David Miller, KH6CZ, as the BIARC VOAD Representative with the following responsibilities:

- i. Submits nominations for VOAD Directors.
- ii. Casts votes for Directors on behalf of BIARC.
- iii. Coordinates BIARC volunteers involved with Hawaii VOAD.
- iv. Reports on his activities to the BIARC Board via the Public Service Communications Committee.

The motion **passed** with no objections.

D. New Business

1. EMCOMM Project Funding Grant Opportunities
Leslie described a possible funding opportunity available to amateur radio clubs from ARDC. Tony **moved** and William **seconded** to refer this to the Board Secretary, Leslie Hittner and that he report back to the Board at the June Board meeting. The motion **passed** with no objections.

E. Other Business

There was no additional business.

F. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by William at 12:45 HST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie D. Hittner
Leslie D. Hittner, Secretary

Attachments:

2021-05-06 BIARC Operating Statement
2021-05-08 Education and Outreach Report
PSCC Report 2021-05-07 (Amended)
Treasurer Email Report

Barbara in early May, during prep of photo collage for Richard's celebration of life.

Photo by Paul Sizelove, N9CCT



Services held for Richard Darling, AH7G, SK

"I just had to let you know that it was a GREAT day for Richard," Barbara Darling, NH7FY, reported on May 20, the day after services were held for her husband, AH7G, at their home church in Hilo and then at the Veteran's Cemetery.

And Richard was definitely there in spirit: In the many loving comments, reminiscences and memorable photos from his life, and — at one point in the busy, emotional day — there was ICE CREAM for all.

Education and Outreach Committee Meeting Agenda

May 8, 2021

The Committee did not meet this month.

1. BIARC Lending Library

Doug has agreed to make a cart for the lending library. I sent him the dimensions of the plastic tote that holds the library this month.

2. BIARC Website

Members of the committee have been watching and using the new BIARC website. Many of the features are really exciting. For instance, I recently changed cellphone providers – and changed to a Hawaii cellphone number. I was able to update my club profile on the site without bothering Tony. I also updated other personal information.

Tony has added an Events Calendar on the new website.

The Events Calendar on the new BIARC website will allow the Board and other members to publish information and links about all activities, including classes, meetings, nets, drills, exercises, or other events that would be of interest to the Amateur Radio community. We can give anyone we wish access to add and update events. To add events, authorized members must log in to the "backend" of the website, using their username and password (Right now that is limited to committee members, as we evaluate and become proficient in the features of this new site.) Tony can set up accounts that only allow the user to add events to the Calendar, or edit the events they have added. The information entered is *logged* into a database hosted on the BIARC website. It is then published and displayed in a variety of formats. Please follow the instructions in the attached document. (Adobe PDF)

Tony has a pdf document that gives detailed Event Calendar instructions for authorized users – once we "turn on" this website.

3. BIARC Classes and Testing Sessions

I am wondering how the changes in the FCC application process may have impacted WH6GEM's license upgrade application. Did Jimmy get caught in the middle of a "processing change"?

4. BIARC Newsletter and Other Publicity Opportunities

Nothing to report.

Public Service Communications Committee Update

May 7, 2021

Upcoming Exercises Drills/Exercises:

Makani Pahii Exercise. <i>Scenario:</i> Category 4 Hurricane affecting all islands. <i>Purpose:</i> To demonstrate the ability of amateur radio operators to provide accurate and timely message handling.	June 19th
Simulated Emergency Test. <i>Scenario:</i> Tsunami.	October 2nd
Great Hawaiian Shakeout. <i>Scenario:</i> Earthquake. Send DYFI reports to USGS	October 14th

Hawaii ARES:

The Hawaii ARES has activated a new means for ARES members to communicate. Hawaii ARES Members should have received the initial message from the group with the subject of "You have been added to the HawaiiARES@groups.io group." If you have not received this [message](#) try the following:

- Check your Spam or Junk email folder. You may need to mark it as not Spam, or otherwise indicate to your email system that you wish to receive email from this group.
- Log in to your profile on HawaiiARES.net. Check the email address listed on your profile and update it as necessary. If you are unable to log in there are options for password recovery.
- Go to the groups.io website and use the search option to search for the HawaiiARES group. Click on the group and click the "Apply for membership in this group" button.

The latest ARES biweekly training exercise from NH7IT (nh7it@arrl.net) took place the week of May 3rd. It involved sending a radiogram formatted message via Winlink to KA9IKK, the Houston local net traffic manager.

ARES efforts continue to prepare amateur radio operators to assist the Red Cross in emergency communications. Visit the National Groups' page at <https://arc-emcomm-training.groups.io/g/main> and click on the messages link to get caught up on the national exercises and discussions. Hawaii ARES may adapt

and modify some of the exercises presented in this group. Look for updates from Clem Jung, KH7HO, or other ARES leaders, and modify the exercise procedure as requested. These updates are generally distributed via groups.io (KHRC: [HawaiiARES](#), [BigIslandRadio](#)) and bjarc@mailman.ohi.net discussion groups. The major exercises and drills are published on the BIARC website.

Hawaii Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster: (HVOAD)

The BIARC PSCC is looking for FCC licensed volunteers to work with HVOAD, and its member organizations. If you would like to become involved, please reach out to David Miller, KH6CZ (davroymill@gmail.com) for more information.

The monthly test net continues on the first Saturday of each month on the Maunakea repeater, from 12 Noon to 1 PM. All amateur radio stations are invited to participate. The repeater will be activated on the frequency of 146.720 MHz, 600 kHz Negative Offset, PL tone 100. This is a directed net. It allows for the testing of the repeater, as well as the mapping of the coverage area. Participating stations can get a better idea of the equipment needed for successful emergency communications on this repeater. This is a repeater of last resort. Activation requires an emergency declaration.

TIPS:

- Check-ins are allowed anytime there is a break in traffic.
- Transmit as you would during an actual emergency situation, using best practices. Use Pro-Words: CHECK-IN, CHECK-OUT, PRIORITY, EMERGENCY, ROUTINE, DIRECT, etc. as appropriate.
- Don't give up. Would you give up during an emergency? Even if you double with someone, it will probably be noticed and brought to the attention of net control.

Big Island Monthly Siren Net:

The Big Island siren net was held on May 3rd, starting at 11:30 AM. Joe Rosenbaum, WH6FZH handled net control. We had 22 Check-ins on the Allstar connected stations. One siren was identified as "not working" and two sirens were identified as having "partial operations". The next monthly siren net will be held Tuesday, June 1st. Please visit the website at <https://nh6tu.org/forms/BigIslandMonthlySirenNet.pdf> for details.

Hamakua Simplex Net:

This simplex net continues to operate weekly on Monday mornings starting at 10:30 HST. It operates on 146.40 and originates on the north side of the island.

Participation varies week to week. As expected, participation is heaviest along the Hamakua Coast over to Kohala. Reports from participating stations are emailed to Ceri Sanders. A report spreadsheet of the week's activity is distributed.

Attached is an older Hawaii Island map showing stations that participate. A spreadsheet sample from the May 3 exercise.

Gauging from actual experience, the performance of individual stations is inconsistent. Some days, stations along Hamakua can be heard while other days not likely due to variances in propagation.

Since switching to a new vertical antenna (Diamond X200A), WH6FSA can now be heard as far north as Papaaloa (KH6EKD).



AREA	NAME	CALLSIGN								
			Steve	Jim	Rick	Eric	Denning	Joe	Mel	
			WH6N	AH6AE	AH6RK	WH6FSG	WH6GDC	WH6FSH	KH6EKD	
Waimea	Steve	WH6N	/		33		45-33			
Honokaa	Jim	AH6AE			59+10	59	59+10	58	45	
Raauilo	Rick	AH6RK	48	59	/	59	59	59	59	
Kalopa Mauka	Eric	WH6FSG		59	/	59	59	59	59	
Raauilo	Denning	WH6GDC	42	59+30	59+55	59+55	/	59+50	59+20	
Raauilo	Joe	WH6FSH	37	59	59	59	59	/	58	
Papaaloa	Mel	KH6EKD		54	59	44	59	45	/	
Papaaloa	Mark	WH6FSA		see	notes					
KEY:	Maui Kohala		Hamakua				North Hilo			

Hawaii County CERT

Bill Hanson of Hawaii County Civil Defense was contacted requesting information on the CERT teams currently available in Hawaii County. BIARC is seeking to identify the CERT teams and team leads so that contact can be initiated with individual teams to determine emergency radio communications capabilities and offer assistance if desired in areas such as licensing, training, and demonstrations, etc. Currently awaiting a response from Hawaii County Civil Defense.

Anecdotal information is that the ham radio capacity and capabilities of CERT teams are widely varied. Teams also have not been meeting regularly during the COVID-19 restrictions on group gatherings. The experience with at least two teams is that only a small percentage of the members are licensed and the licensed members, radio capability and experience are minimal.

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BIARC Public Service Communications Committee
TonyKitchen808@gmail.com

Russian Robinson Club to activate rare Aleutian IOTA islands

The Russian Robinson Club (RRC) has resumed its plans to activate rare Kiska Island (IOTA NA-070) and Adak Island (IOTA NA-039) in Alaska's Aleutian Islands chain in July for Islands On The Air (IOTA) enthusiasts.

Plans to activate these islands in 2020 were called off because of COVID-19 concerns.

The uninhabited Kiska Island (52.06° N, 177.57° E) lies in the North Pacific's treacherous Bering Sea, which RRC calls one of the most intense patches of ocean on Earth and where strong winds, freezing temperatures, and icy water are the norm. The island also features the prominent conical Kiska volcano.

Kiska Island is a National Historic Landmark and part of the Aleutian Islands World War II National Monument and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (AMNWR).

Permission to visit is required



Kiska Island is a National Historic Landmark and part of the Aleutian Islands World War II National Monument and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (AMNWR).

**Photo by
KL7RRC/
DX News**

from both Alaska's Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The KL7RRC team plans to have a minimum of two stations on the air on 40 - 6 meters, SSB, CW, and FT8. Operators will place special emphasis on the difficult trans-polar path to Europe. The 56-foot aluminum sailing vessel Seal will make the 1,000-mile journey along the Aleutians to Kiska with a stop at Dutch Harbor to pick up Tim, NL8F, and the gear sent in advance to his location. The

team will continue sailing west to Adak Island, where some team members will activate Adak Island on June 30-July 3. The SV Seal will pick up the entire crew there, which will have flown in by July 3. Then, they hope to arrive at Kiska and be on the air as KL7RCC on July 7-12, before the return sail to Adak and flights home. Additional KL7RRC activity may take place from Adak July 14-16.

Radio Amateurs of Canada invites participation in the RAC Canada Day Contest

Help Canada celebrate its birthday on the air during the RAC [Canada Day Contest](#) on Thursday, July 1 -- just a few days ahead of Independence Day in the US. Canada Day is the anniversary of Canada's confederation, when the three colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick united into the Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867. The RAC Contest Committee is asking all participants in the 2021 Canada Day Contest to follow guidelines provided by the government and by health officials in their respective areas for any multi-operator categories.



The Canada Day Contest begins on July 1, 0000 UTC (the evening of Wednesday, June 30, in North American time zones) and continues through 2359 UTC. Bands include 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.). Stations in Canada send signal report plus province or territory. VE0s and stations outside Canada send a signal report and a serial number.

Stations may be worked once on each mode on each of the available bands. Canada's 10 provinces and three territories serve as multipliers for the event.

BIARC 2021 Budget & Operating Statement

	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>Actual- 1/1/2021 To 5/6/2021</u>
Income:		
Dues	\$1,500.00	\$1,345.00
Repeater Fund Donations	\$500.00	\$895.00
On-line Payment Fees*		\$15.22
Total Income	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,255.22</u>
Expenses:		
Club Liability Insurance	\$325.00	\$323.20
Club Equipment Insurance	\$200.00	\$186.85
Donations (PCC)	\$25.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$600.00	\$168.39
Field Day	\$370.00	\$0.00
Printing (Membership Booklet)	\$100.00	\$0.00
Annual Build Project	\$50.00	\$0.00
P. O. Box Fee	\$190.00	\$0.00
VOAD Dues	\$50.00	\$25.00
Office Supplies/Bank Fee/Misc.	\$40.00	\$0.00
Website Costs	\$50.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$703.44</u>
Excess (Deficit)		\$1,551.78
Bank of Hawaii Balance	as of: 5/06/2021	\$3,894.90
Deposit Pending		\$85.00
Namecheap Balance		\$11.96
Paypal Account Balance		\$1,050.81

Fund Balances: (5/06/2021)

Repeater Fund	\$1,826.97
Emergency Reserves	\$1,000.00
General Fund	\$2,215.70
Total Funds	<u>\$5,042.67</u>

* 10% Convenience fee for on-line dues payments minus processing fees.

Announcing: Boats on the Air

The San Francisco Amateur Radio Club (SFARC) was set to activate a sailboat on San Francisco Bay as the inaugural event in Boats on the Air (BOTA) the afternoon of Saturday, June 5.

Inspired by the success of programs such as SOTA, POTA, and IOTA, BOTA will feed into the passions of amateur radio and boating.

The sailing vessel Auriiah is a 37-foot-long Beneateau Oceanis with a home port of Sausalito, California. "The main rule of BOTA is that the boat must be under way during the activation. No anchoring, mooring, or tying to a dock is allowed," said Kent Carter, AJ6NI. "The plan is for us to be moving 100% under sail power during that time. In addition to being a fun activity, it is hoped that BOTA will further emergency preparedness and experimentation with amateur radio."

For more information, or to post your own activation, contact BOTA.

FT8 accounts for nearly two-thirds of HF activity

Since zooming to prominence after its debut in mid-2017, the popular FT8 digital protocol has become the mode of choice for some 60% of HF operators, according to Club Log's latest activity report compiled by Michael Wells, G7VJR.

FT8 is one of the protocols in the WSJT-X suite of free programs. Wells says FT8 activity level sits at nearly 85% on 6 meters. The dramatic FT8 upswing has come at the expense of phone, CW, RTTY, PSK, and other modes. Over the same period, the number of FT8 contacts logged each year per active call sign has continued to climb to about 60% between 2015 and 2021, with the most dramatic increase being nearly 29% in the past year.

The use of all other modes has continued to flutter downward since the advent of FT8, which occupies vastly less spectrum than the more traditional ham radio operating modes.

lhittner@hbc.com

From: Tony Kitchen <tonykitchen808@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 14:12
To: Bob Schneider; James Huntley; Jim Sugg; Leslie Hittner; Paul Ducasse; Tony Kitchen; William Polhemus
Subject: May BIARC Treasurer Report
Attachments: 2021-05-06 BIARC Operating Statement.pdf

Treasurer Report: (As of 5/6/2021)

- We have received 2021 dues payments from a total of 72 members. Dues and donations collected for 2021 total \$2,255.22 to date.
- BIARC paid \$323.20 to Mercer Consumer for our liability insurance policy for the period covering June 2021 to June 2022. No other disbursements were made since the last report.
- There have been no changes to the repeater maintenance and upgrade fund since the last report.

Cash Balances:

Bank of Hawaii Balance	\$3,894.90
Deposit Pending	\$85.00
Namecheap Balance	(Website Host) \$11.96
PayPal Account Balance	\$1,050.81

Fund Balances:

Repeater fund	\$1,826.97
Emergency Reserves	\$1,000.00
General Fund	\$2,215.70
Total Funds	<u>\$5,042.67</u>

Attachment:
 Operating statement as of 5/6/21. (Adobe PDF)
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 Tony Kitchen
 WH6DVI