



January 2023

THE BIG ISLAND HAMGRAM

The newsletter of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club



UPDATE: Important info about January club gathering

After lengthy reconnaissance, President Les Hittner K0BAD has found a site for our January get-together, but the meeting will be on Sunday, instead of the usual Saturday. All are invited to meet at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, at Kamana Senior Center at 127 Kamana St. in Hilo.

A Zoom linkup remained uncertain at Hamgram press time. Please check BIARC Listserv prior to Sunday's meeting for updated information.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**By Outgoing Board
Member Leslie Hittner**

The January Executive Board meeting will be my last – and only because the new board has not yet named its officers. Once the new Board President has been named, I will step aside, and that person will take over the meeting. As you might expect that officer decision will be the first



**A BIARC
Christmas**

Paul WH7BR brought freshly roasted turkey and the fixin's.

Alan KH6ATU caught, prepared and shared salmon from Alaska.

Photos by Joe WH6FZH

Good food, good friends and good fun.

Members enjoy first Christmas party in two years on Dec. 10 in Keaau .



K0BAD

A Time to Step Down

agenda item – after the minutes and Treasurer's Reports have been read and approved.

A Place to Meet

The very first agenda item for the New Board will be our permanent meeting place. It seems that an organization has rented the meeting room for every Saturday of the next three months. It is probably a good revenue source – which we are not. I

have contacted Roann S. Okamura, the EAD Operations Director at the Kamana Center here in Hilo. She was very receptive but the facility in Hilo is extremely busy. She will talk with upper management, and I am to get back with her on Tuesday, January 03. At this point, I would be happy to be able to get our meeting there just in January. I also got the impression that she was going to speak with the Keaau Recreation Center Director about our situation.

A Place For Storage

BIARC is running out of places to store what it has. Whether that is old club records or club equipment, it is critical that the Executive Board maintain control and be responsible for this BIARC property. It is far too easy for club "stuff" to become member "stuff" when there is no chain of control.

Over the last two

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Aloha 'oe, AH6AE

"It is with great sadness that I report that BIARC Board member Jim Sugg, AH6AE, passed away Saturday night," BIARC President Les Hittner, K0BAD, announced on the Monday morning net January 9.

Jim, who had flown to Phoenix, Ariz., for consultation with medical experts, was surrounded by family and friends when he died.

Fellow Hawaii Island hams have been paying tribute to Jim on the air and online, noting the large and positive role he played in the various facets of radio life, and the many folks he helped along the way.

His friends in BIARC remember AH6AE as a reliable, level-headed, smart and dedicated member of the BIARC board.

And Jim was equally respected and valued among hams along the North Hilo and Hamakua coasts, where a network of community-service oriented operators stays busy all the way into South and North Kohala.

Rick Bowen, AH6RK: "Jim AH6AE passed so quickly that it has taken us all by surprise. Only last Wednesday Jim talked to Ceri about how he had decided to post updates on the reflector, so he really expected to be coming back. We took a minute together in silence to remember Jim and perhaps think of any message that any of us might have given him if we had known beforehand how imminent was his death."

Ceridwen Sanders, AH6CS: "Rick and I have been distressed watching him go downhill over the last



AH6AE, SK

year but we got mail from him last Wednesday after they got to Phoenix: "We made it to Phoenix. It wasn't easy, the flight was excruciating for me due to my condition, which has been deteriorating. But we're here, and I'm feeling a bit better.

"Had first appointment with a main doctor, and I feel really good about being here. We decided to stay and return on Jan. 29, so we have time to get to the bottom of this and hopefully start some treatment. Especially want to avoid the need to travel back and forth, and we need to move aggressively," Jim emailed his ham friends back home.

"We had high hopes," said Ceri. "We miss him."

Ken KL7VE: "Farewell to Jim AH6AE as he embarks on the great adventure."

Ceri AH6CS coordinates the online communications group, BigIslandRADIO@groups.io, where she shared updates posted by Jim's wife, Teri Sugg, on the "CaringBridge URL for Jim Sugg."

(<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jimsugg/journal/view/id/63b390e0ffcb8d481c85ab87>)

A message from Teri Sugg

Aloha, friends,

We are so grateful for the flood of loving messages and prayers. We feel held and supported in this difficult time.

It is hard to tell you this: all the tests and signs point to the fact that Jim's brain functions are in the process of slowly shutting down.

First it was the outer areas that support higher brain function, and then there have been undeniable signs that the more automatic responses are diminishing and his brain stem is also affected. He is not coming back. Meanwhile the probable cancer is growing and can't be treated while he is in this condition. It was probably this cancer that caused the cardiac arrest in the first place. I feel that he is only here, still alive, to provide comfort to us, doing his best to take care of us, as always. He would not want to stay in this state.

Jessica and Robbie are with me, and a close friend is coming to be here with us as well. We have decided to set him free tomorrow, Saturday afternoon, January 7th.

After spending the morning with him, and of course, playing some of his favorite music, we will hold him close and be connected with him and his love while the ventilator is removed and he will be released. It will probably be between 1pm and 2pm MST or possibly a little later. His love will live on in us, all of us.

The next day we will have the first of a few celebrations of Jim's life, here, in our hotel room.

There will be more, in Hawai'i, California and wherever his friends gather. I'll be in touch. At the moment, I'm not sure when and where.

*Much love to you all,
Teri,
Jan. 6*

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

From Page 1

months, the Executive Board has decided to add equipment drawings to incentivize members to attend club events in person rather than over Zoom.

This means that the Board will be acquiring prize material. Some of this is already being collected – from the shacks of deceased Amateur Radio Operators on the Island.

Unless we get permission to keep our Lending Library at our meeting place, BIARC needs a place to store it between meetings.

Simply put – BIARC needs a place to store its stuff.

If YOU have an unused out-building or know of one that BIARC could use that is affordable (if not free) please let a BIARC Executive Board member know.

A Challenge for BIARC

Let us lower the average age of BIARC membership over the next two years by introducing high school students to the Amateur Radio Service. Let's schedule Amateur Radio licensing classes for young people. Let's figure out what attracts them and use that to publicize our hobby. Keep in mind – what attracts them most likely will not be what attracted us. Good luck to the New Executive Board.

Leslie Hittner, K0BAD

International Space Station

Three of the four new astronauts on February's planned launch of the SpaceX Crew-6 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) are amateur radio operators.

Pilot Warren "Woody" Hoburg, KB3HTZ; Commander Stephen Bowen, KI5BKB, and Mission Specialist Sultan Al Neyadi, KI5VTV, will join Mission Specialist Andrey Fedyaev on board the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, Endeavour.

The spacecraft will be atop a Falcon 9 rocket and, while a launch date has not been selected, the earliest date would be mid-February 2023.

All crew members have learned about [Amateur Radio on the International Space Station](#)

(ARISS), received guidance on studying and testing, and learned how to operate the ARISS radios and the basics of on-the-air protocol from ARISS team members at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

The crew will be able to participate in ARISS, using the ham radio station on the ISS to contact schools and other educational institutions.

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA, the ISS National Lab, [ARRL](#) The National Association for Amateur Radio®, and AMSAT.



The four crew members that comprise the SpaceX Crew-6 mission pose for a photo during a training session on the crew access arm at the Kennedy Space Center's Launch Pad 39A in Florida. From left are, Mission Specialist Andrey Fedyaev, Pilot Warren "Woody" Hoburg, Mission Specialist Sultan Al Nedayi, and Commander Stephen Bowen. Photo Courtesy of SpaceX.

New book teaches technical *AND* non-technical hams how to build HF station

Chrissy Rockwell, WI1N, announces her new book on how to set up an HF station.

In a letter to the BIARC Executive Board, she said "I am a fellow ham and wanted to share with you that I recently published a book called "How to Set Up a High Frequency (HF) Radio Station <<https://www.amazon.com/How-High-Frequency-Radio-Station/dp/0979485045/>> "

to help technical and nontechnical hams build an HF station.

"If you know any new hams that want a reference on how to set up an HF station from start to finish, including how to crimp, how to prepare wires, weatherproofing, installing connectors, bonding to house ground, etc., please share with them the above link.

"I hope it will prove useful to prospective and veteran hams that are interested in getting into HF."



Marconi conducted experiments in radio engineering, long-distance communications, radio direction finding, and many others.

Year-long international contest honors Marconi

On January 1, 2023, an international year-long amateur radio contest to honor Guglielmo Marconi began, and is appropriately titled, "Marconi was here!"

The main objective of the contest is to historically commemorate some of the most important and significant Italian cities where Marconi performed scientific experiments.

Marconi conducted experiments in radio engineering, long-distance communications, radio direction finding, and many others.

Overall, the experiments were crucial to the technical and scientific advancement and progress of wireless communications.

Each month is dedicated to a specific Italian city connected to the story of Marconi and is paired to a different special call sign. The "MARCONI WAS HERE!" award is an international amateur radio award organized by A.R.I. [Fidenza Radio Club](#) in collaboration with [A.R.I. Associazione Radioamatori Italiani](#) and the [Marconi Museum](#). Further details about the special call signs, special certificates, and all of the rules are available on the official website www.arifidenza.it.

In Brief...

Amateur radio contesting great Fred Laun (Alfred A. Laun, III), K3ZO, of Temple Hills, Maryland, passed away on January 3, 2023. He was a member of the ARRL Maxim Society and Life Member, and a member of the [Potomac Valley Radio Club](#). Laun was also a Director for The Yasme Foundation, an organization that supports awards and grants that recognize and advance the achievements made by radio amateurs.



Fred Laun, K3ZO, SK | 1937 - 2023 [Robert Wilson, N6TV, photo]

"Fred's service to Yasme and other amateur organizations, spanning decades, was unsurpassed, as were his contributions to amateur radio, for which he cared deeply," said Yasme Foundation President Ward Silver, N0AX, in a press release. "Well-known and respected around the globe, we know Fred's many friends world-wide will honor his memory, both on and off the air." Read a 2015 [interview](#) (PDF) with Laun, conducted by John Dorr, K1AR, for the *National Contest Journal* (NCJ).

Congressman introduces bill to eliminate private land use restrictions on Amateur Radio

Congressman Bill Johnson (OH-6) introduced a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives (**H.R.9670**) on Thursday, December 22, 2022, to eliminate private land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator from operating and installing amateur station antennas on property subject to the control of the Amateur Radio Operator.

The exponential growth of communities subject to private land use restrictions that prohibit both the operation of Amateur Radio and the installation of amateur station antennas has significantly restricted the growth of the Amateur Radio Service. These restrictions are pervasive in private common interest residential communities such as single-family subdivisions, condominiums, co-operatives, gated communities, master-planned communities, planned unit developments, and communities governed by community associations. The restrictions have particularly impacted the ability



of Amateur Radio to fulfill its statutorily mandated duty of serving as a voluntary noncommercial emergency communications service.

Congress in 1996 directed the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promulgate regulations (Public Law 104-104, title II, section 207, 110 Stat. 114; 47 U.S.C. 303 note) that have preempted all private land use restrictions applicable to exterior communications facilities that impair the ability of citizens to receive television broadcast signals, direct broadcast satellite services, or multichannel multipoint distribution services, or to transmit and receive wireless internet services. ARRL attempts to obtain similar relief for Amateur Radio were rejected by the FCC with

a statement such relief would have to come from Congress.

ARRL Legislative Advocacy Committee Chairman John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, noted that Congress, in 1994 by Joint Resolution, S.J.Res.90/H.J.Res.199, declared that regulations at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage the effective operation of Amateur Radio from residences as a public benefit. He continued by stating that "H.R.9670, the *Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act*, is intended to fulfill that mandate and preserve the ability of Amateur Radio Operators to continue to serve as a key component of American critical communications infrastructure."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Mr. Stratton both extended on behalf of the ARRL, its Members, and the Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Rep. Johnson in his tireless efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

Volunteers On The Air

As announced in the January 2023 issue of QST, ARRL is holding the year-long operating event, Volunteers On The Air (VOTA), honoring all ARRL volunteers.

In similar fashion to the 2014 ARRL Centennial QSO Party and the 2018 International Grid Chase, this event will be exclusively driven by contacts uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW).



Highlights of the event include:

Earning points for contacting W1AW portable stations: There will be week-long activations of portable W1AW/# stations in all 50 states, and in several US possessions/territories, which will generate on-air activity to earn points. Each state will be activated twice. The schedule of when each state will be activated will be updated as changes and additions occur. See the Points Table at www.arrl.org/volunteers-on-the-air for the full list of points.

Contacting ARRL volunteers or members on the air: ARRL Officers, Directors, Section Managers (and their appointees), staff, and even domestic and DX members, can be contacted for points.

Using LoTW (<http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>) as the contacts data source, the Volunteers On The Air event features W1AW activations from all 50 states (twice) and several territories during 2023. Weeks will begin on a Wednesday and end on a Tuesday. Some weeks will be shown as off weeks to avoid other major operating events.

Participants will work W1AW portable stations and ARRL volunteers to earn contact points.

Participants do not need to upload to, or participate in, LoTW. Uploads to LoTW by W1AW portable stations and by the volunteers will feed the points scoring system.

A leaderboard will be activated after the event ramps up, and certificates will be available during and after the event concludes. Once the year is completed, an annual summary will be released.

If you review the state activations list and notice your state is not yet indicating a host, and you have interest in activating your state, consider reaching out to your Division Director to express your club's interest.

For information and continued updates, visit the VOTA website at www.arrl.org/vota.

Announcements

Abstract submission is now open for the 6th Annual HamSCI Workshop to be held March 17 - 18, 2023, in person at The University of Scranton and virtually on Zoom. The workshop is very student and citizen scientist friendly and all amateur radio operators are invited to attend. The abstract submission form and more details are available at <https://hamsci.org/hamsci2023>. Abstracts are due February 1, 2023. The theme of the 2023 HamSCI Workshop is "Forging Amateur-Professional Bonds." The primary objective is to bring together the amateur radio community and professional scientists. While HamSCI's main focus is ionospheric and radio science, presentations are welcome from all related parts of the "Coupled Geospace System," including the sun, solar wind, magnetosphere, neutral atmosphere, and more. For more information, contact Dr. Nathaniel A. Frissell, Ph.D., W2NAF, at nathaniel.frissell@scranton.edu.

The Original Big Island of Hawaii

International Swap Meet / Ham Fest

The Big Island of Hawaii International Swap meet will be Saturday January 28, 2023, at the Waimea Community Center, next to the ball field off Mamalahoa Highway in Waimea (Kamuela).

There will be a \$10.00 donation per table per seller.

There will be a \$5.00 donation per attendee at time of registration.

One raffle ticket included with registration. Additional tickets \$1.00.

Schedule:

8:00 am - breakfast at Hawaiian Style Cafe

9:00 am - vendor setup

9:30 am - Doors open to public. Be sure to get your raffle tickets for the "Big ticket item"

12:30 pm – AMSAT Presentation

2:00 pm - Event ends

The BIARC Winter Field Day, originally scheduled for January 28, has been called off so folks can attend this popular event in Waimea. Plans for a "caravan" from Hilo/Puna up to Waimea that day will be discussed at the Sunday, January 15, monthly BIARC get-together.

Guest Speaker this year:

Our guest speaker is Craig Bledsoe, KL7H. He will be giving a situation report and demonstration of AMSAT. In addition, he will talk about his work in restoring tube radios which are donated to scouts.

Information:

There will be surprise giveaways throughout the day.

Please note: This is a non-commercial event that promotes the trading of equipment and information between hams and the general public and to promote the open exchange of exploring Ham radio as a hobby.

Talk in 146.940 Maui Repeater, 147.32 Waimea, and 443.650 (100 Hz tone) Kona

This is an event sponsored by the Kohala Hamakua Radio Club (KHRC).

This is an Island wide event, be sure to tell all your radio friends.

For more information contact: Steve Milner – wh6n@arrl.net

New General Question Pool Released for Ham Radio Licensing Effective July 1, 2023

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' ([NCVEC](#)) Question Pool Committee ([QPC](#)) has released the [2023 - 2027 General Class FCC Element 3 Syllabus and Question Pool](#) to the public. The new General Question Pool is effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2019 - 2023 version. Its 432 questions were modified slightly to improve wording and to replace distractors; 51 new questions were generated, and 73 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 22 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool down from 454. The level of difficulty of questions is more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The [pool](#) is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF. The single graphic required for the new General Question Pool is available within the documents, or separately as PDF and JPG file formats.

"The newly revised pool must be used for General-class license exams starting July 1, 2023," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who is a



ARRLVEC
Volunteer Examiner Coordinator®

member of the NCVEC Question Pool Committee. "New test designs will be available to [ARRL Volunteer Examiners](#) on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new General exam booklet designs around mid-June."

General class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 9th edition of [The General Class License Manual](#), and/or the 6th edition of [ARRL's General Q & A](#) are encouraged to test by, or before, June 30, 2023. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May, for exams taken on, or after, July 1, 2023.

Amateur Radio Operators and National Weather Service Mark SKYWARN Alliance

Saturday December 3, 2022 was SKYWARN[®] Recognition Day (SRD), an event that recognizes SKYWARN volunteers for their contribution to public safety. SRD was observed by several National Weather Service (NWS) locations across the United States. Amateur radio volunteers set up temporary operations from forecasting headquarters to make contacts with other stations to demonstrate their readiness to operate in emergency conditions and to act as observers for the NWS. As of the last count there were over 4,700 SKYWARN spotters taking part in SRD.

Near Los Angeles, California, at the NWS office located in Oxnard, volunteers set up six stations on different radio frequencies and operated through the day under simulated emergency conditions. Several members of the general public visited the NWS office during the exercise.

ARRL Headquarters, participating as WX1AW, was activated by ARRL Emergency Management Assistant Ken Bailey, K1FUG, during SRD. WX1AW was active on 40 - 10 meters using SSB and FT8 modes and monitored local VHF and UHF repeaters.



SKYWARN event coordinator Rick Tate, KQ6NO, operates from the Ventura County, California Sheriff's Emergency Operations trailer. Photo courtesy of Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR.

Radio amateurs participating as SKYWARN volunteers assist the NWS with real-time observations of adverse weather conditions that pose an imminent threat to life and property. Those alerts may include tornadoes, waterspouts, damaging hail, blizzard conditions, sleet, strong winds, heavy rainfalls and flooding, dust storms, damage assessment, and other significant anomalies. NWS personnel can utilize information from ham radio operators to issue alerts or assess threat levels to areas that may be affected by abnormal conditions.

The 2022 NWS Spotter of the Year Award was given to Bryan Loper, WX5CSS, of Atlanta, Texas. The award noted that Loper is very active with the amateur radio network and weather community within the Ark-La-Tex region, and is always reliable in providing weather reports. Loper is also an ARRL member.