



March 2024

THE BIG ISLAND HAMGRAM

The newsletter of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tech Talk Tips

Hello fellow BIARC members.

Today I wanted to share a few pieces of tech that I look forward to reviewing and possibly helping you folks understand.



Thomas Avila,
WH6GWL

*Continued on
next page*

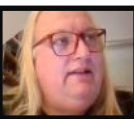


At the February gathering, Bob Schneider, AH6J, addressed the ever-present threat of falling for hams who climb up high to do radioactive tinkering. He cited and circulated an article about a Hawaii Island roofing contractor who was knocked off a roof by an electrical shock and then impaled. This life-threatening accident occurred in California.

February meeting draws far-flung participation



Joe, AH6T,
Oahu



Jim (from
WH6FQI to
N1FQI)
Connecticut

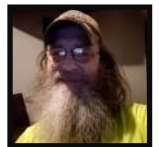
At the February 18 BIARC meeting at Kamana Senior Center, BIARC Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI, outlined the club's committee assignments for 2024. He encourages members to review the committees and pick a spot where they can help.

"There's something for everyone," he said. "Just find your niche."

"We need members to step up and be part of these committees," he said. (See BIARC board and committee listing on Page 5.)

Bob Schneider, AH6J, focused on the ever-present threat of falling for hams who climb up high to do radioactive tinkering.

Continued on next page



Jimmy,
WH6GEM,
Arkansas



Mike, NH7JT,
Ka'u



WH6LQ photo

It was a 3-in-1 deal for Bill Stahn, at left, as he zipped from zero license to certified Amateur Extra on Feb. 20. His call sign is AH6WG. At right, VE Doug Wilson, KH7DQ, offers congrats to the new ham.

From zero to Amateur Extra in one sitting

"Big congratulations to Bill Stahn for earning his Amateur Extra license by passing all three exams in ONE testing session, held in Jim Tatar's (WH6EMN) garage on Feb. 20.

"He aced the Technician exam, only got one answer wrong on the General exam, and missed only six questions (88% correct) on the Amateur Extra exam.

"Volunteer examiners Doug Wilson (KH7DQ), Jim Tatar (WH6EMN) and Linda Quarberg (WH6LQ) bore witness to his extraordinary achievement!"

Doug Wilson, KH7DQ



In foreground, Tony WH6DVI, at right; William NH6ET, center; and Thomas WH6GWL, at left.



Mark Watanabe, WH6FSA, displays and discusses new club banner for use in community outreach activities, including our volunteer school science event team participation.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

From previous page

I know I've mentioned the Flipper Zero and the HackRF Portapack, but a couple more interesting things have come to light that I thought you too might enjoy.

The Liligo T-deck.(starting at \$43.00) These Blackberry styled devices use the LORA standard and utilize the MESHTASTIC software to provide mesh connected communication and even encrypted text messaging. By using a few mesh nodes you should be able to easily have a text based network for only the cost of the equipment, with no recurring monthly fees.

The Quansheng UV-K5 (starting at \$25.00) I know most have heard of the Baofeng UV-5R, well this new generation of Chinese radios are well suited for tinkering. With the right firmware loaded you can set up another form of radio to radio text communication. All without a hotspot or internet gateway.

The DIGIRIG (starting at \$59.97) if you have an interest in digital communications but can't quite afford a super high end radio that has an included soundcard for communication, might I suggest looking into the mighty digirig. With the right cables you can even use it to program all of your radios!

On a somber note, today one of ham radio's greats, Mr. Bob Heil (K9EID) has gone silent key. If his name doesn't ring a bell then I suggest that you open your browser and please take a look at his impact on ham radio, especially the work he's done on improving the sound of most radios outputs. Along with his tutorials on building antennas, and filters, He will be missed. **(See story on Page 12)**

I hope to bring you folks a new snippet in the corner of the newsletter every month.

Please look out for the survey we will be sending out on the possibility of changing what day we meet each month. If the survey goes well, I hope to ask more of what you might want to learn about as well as possible guest speakers.

WH6GWL, Thomas

73

February meeting report

From previous page

He cited and circulated a recent Hawaii Tribune-Herald article about a Hawaii Island roofing contractor who was knocked off a roof by an electrical shock and then impaled. This life-threatening accident occurred during a visit to California.

Bob urged everyone to "always think safety" and "be aware of your surroundings." "All it takes is one accident to wreck the rest of your life," Bob advised. "Take some precautions."

Tony Kitchen also discussed AllStarLink technology – what it is, and what it isn't.

AllStar is a "package of open source software" that's entirely in the public domain. It's free software that can run on inexpensive computer devices such as Raspberry Pi.

"The AllStar link and associated software does not have to depend on the public internet. It can be designed to work entirely over RF links, and continue to work even if the internet is experiencing a meltdown," Tony explained.

According to www.allstarlink.org, AllStarLink has 32,040 users and 31,949 nodes. It is "a network of Amateur Radio repeaters, remote base stations and hot spots accessible to each other via Voice over Internet Protocol."

Among other volunteer responsibilities, Tony also is the ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL Pacific Section.

Tony noted that the VOAD repeater on Mauna Kea will be removed on March 11, with the final net to be on March 2.

He said the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency plans to install an antenna at another, already established, site on Mauna Kea.

William Polhemus, NH6ET, our BIARC station custodian and chair of the Voice Repeater Committee, discussed the long and involved process of rebuilding the island's network of linked repeaters and planning for extension of the network beyond Hawaii Island.

Aloha 'Oe to VOAD repeater

The VOAD repeater will be removed from Maunakea on March 11. We held the last regularly scheduled Hawaii VOAD net on Saturday, March 2, from noon until 1 p.m. All licensed amateurs were invited to participate.

The history of changing land management priorities on Maunakea has been in the news for many years.

Act 255, https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/archives/measure_indiv_Archives.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=2024&year=2022, passed by the Legislature and signed into law by then-Gov. David Ige in 2022, established the 11-member Maunakea Oversight Authority, which includes representatives from Native Hawaiian cultural interests, UH, the state, Hawaii County and specific fields with direct interests in the mountain. The legislation established and funded the Maunakea Stewardship Oversight Authority <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/maunakea-authority/>. (MKSOA)

A multiyear transitional process is ongoing. General Information about Maunakea is available at the Center for Maunakea Stewardship

<https://hilo.hawaii.edu/maunakea/> website.

Our POCs at both Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency <https://hawaii-county-civil-defense-agency-hawaiicountygis.hub.arcgis.com/> and the IfA, Maunakea Observatories

<https://about.ifa.hawaii.edu/facility/mauna-kea->



Planning for the installation of an amateur radio repeater for Emergency Communications is ongoing. This repeater will be located at the top of Maunakea, in the area shown above. It will be owned and managed by the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency.

observatories/ have assured us that the installation of an amateur radio repeater for Emergency Communications is ongoing. This repeater will be located at the top of Maunakea. It will be owned and managed by Hawaii County Civil Defense. We will provide additional information when it becomes available.

Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI
Communications Working Group
Hawaii VOAD
<https://hawaiistatevoad.org>

Update: Hilo Medical Center Health Net Operations Center

Jim Tatar, WH6EMN, offers an update on efforts to make sure island medical facilities are set up with emcomms equipment and protocols to keep them linked and connected with each other and emergency responders and necessary governmental entities during times of emergency. It's an ongoing project several years in the making and involves a dedicated band of ham volunteers.

The project began at Hilo Medical Center, and is in varying degrees of completion at other island facilities.

"With the coming Hilo Hospital renovation came the news to move the radio equipment. This was good news since we had to have been in the worst spot possible and constantly running into new difficulties," said Jim.

"Now we're outside by the helipad, with a real table that the equipment stays on all the time thanks to our safety officer, Ha Chi. On Ha Chi's recommendation of a military type radio antenna, our 10-80 end-fed HF antenna is now located on top of the chain link fence surrounding the helipad and has given us better reception than we ever had on the hospital roof.

"We have successfully taken part in the monthly statewide Health Net involving a majority of Neighbor Island and some Oahu hospitals. And looking forward to many more.



Jim WH6EMN photos

Volunteers have more work to do, but Jim offers these pics of developments at Hilo Medical Center: "Our radio table, thru the window plate I fabricated, the 20-80 end-fed antenna mounted on the Heli Pad fence. Also: more of the end-fed mounted on fence w/ 12" spacing for vertical takeoff. Also: Outside w/ vertical antenna on roof."

"We have some of the hospital staff on the radio club and more plan to join to ensure additional support," he said. "We also have communication with the Kulani VHF repeater 146.760 and the back-up UHF repeater 442.150. from this location. It's expected the radio equipment will stay here until after the hospital renovation is complete," he explained.

"As some of you know, our club call sign is KH6HN," said Jim. "There is more to do, such as



relocating an antenna mast for 60 meters and adding communications to both Ka'u Hospital and getting new equipment to Honokaa. We'll keep you posted on the improvements."

So, stay tuned for more news and photos of what's going on, in Hilo and at these other facilities.



BIARC T-shirt with vintage logo will be available soon

Jim Tatar, WH6EMN, is coordinating a T-shirt opportunity for BIARC members wanting to expand their wardrobes.

He'll bring examples to the March 10 meeting. Pricing is under negotiation with the T-shirt maker.

The design is an old club logo from a 2005 newsletter.

"I'll have a shirt at the meeting this month to look at. You'll be able to order the logo separately from the name & call sign," said Jim. The logo is about 6" x 12".

"I checked with Bob, AH6J, and he said it is not copyrighted," Jim noted. "We did not include the ARRL emblem which is on the newsletter logo for copyright reasons."



You'll be able to order the logo separately from the name & call sign. The logo is about 6" x 12".



Maenchen keeps section manager job

From ARRL Newsletter:

In the ARRL Pacific Section, Alan Maenchen, AD6E,



AD6E, SM

100 votes. Maenchen, of Wailuku, Hawaii, was appointed as section manager of the Pacific Section on Nov. 1, to fulfill the term of office after Joe Speroni, AH0A, stepped down.

From Alan:

I appreciate all the support. This was not a hard fought campaign, and I'm pleased to report that Kevin and I will be working together as we move forward.

I hope to attend the Honolulu HamFest March 2 sponsored

by EARC. More info here: https://linktr.ee/earc_hi

was re-elected in a close race by receiving 113 votes. Kevin Bogan, AH6QO, of Honolulu, received

The ARRL Foundation provides grants. From the web site:

The ARRL Foundation is now accepting grant applications from amateur radio organizations for eligible amateur radio-related projects and initiatives, particularly those focused on educating, licensing, and supporting amateur radio activities, to grow amateur radio's future, youth-based projects and initiatives are especially encouraged.

Grant proposals are accepted three times a year in February, June, and October. Let me know if you have an idea where a grant would help.

ARRL Pacific Section
Section Manager:
Alan P Maenchen, AD6E
ad6e@arrrl.org



THE QRZ BOX

Share a Photo

HAMCAM

The QRZ BOX reset at 11:01 am. (21:01 GMT/UTC)

Weather & Dangers:

HI Weather

KH6HHG WXR

Hurricane Center

Zoom Earth

E. Pacific Loop

Kilauea

Mauna Loa

Vog

Air Qlty

Earthquakes

Cyclone

Propagation:

Propagation 101

Solar Cycle

VOACAP

Reverse Bcns

ET8 Reporter

Trans.EQ MAP

Geo/Map

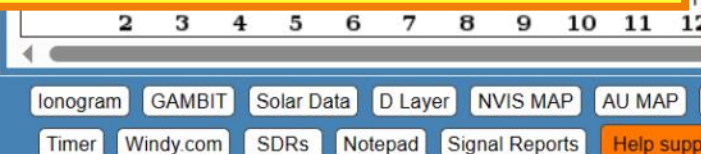
Happy Birthday, Kona Bob!

Hams on the Wednesday morning BIARC Net on Feb. 28 joined KH6HAK in wishing Kona Bob, AH6GT, a Happy Birthday and a heartfelt "mahalo" for all he does for Hawaii's amateur radio community from his QTH in Holualoa.

Among his various areas of volunteer service, AH6GT hosts the popular all-purpose website 40meter.net, an interactive resource offering a multitude of services.

Log on and check out logs for all Hawaii nets, meteorologic and geologic news, club activities, a chat room and assorted tips and instructions.

And that's just scratching the surface. There's something on this website for just about anybody in any niche in this radioactive hobby.



~ 2024 BIARC Roster ~

Executive Board officers and committee chairs

President

Thomas Avila, WH6GWL

Vice President

Les Hittner, K0BAD

Secretary

Joseph Rosenbaum, WH6JOE

Treasurer

Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI

At-Large directors

Mark Watanabe, WH6FSA, and
David Miller, KH6CZ

KH6EJ station custodian

William Polhemus, NH6ET

Public Service/ Communications Committee

Chair Les Hittner, K0BAD

Operating Activities Committee

Chair John Bush, KH6DLK

Education and Outreach Committee

Chair David Miller, KH6CZ

Programs Committee

Chair Les Hittner, K0BAD

Digital Systems Committee

Chair Shawn Farley, WH6GXZ

Voice Repeaters Committee

Chair William Polhemus, NH6ET

Meeting Refreshments Committee

Chair Robert Schneider, AH6J

BIARC Hamgram

Editor Leigh Critchlow, WH6LC

Club website: <https://biarc.net>

[HawaiiARES]

Winlink practice

A new Winlink practice started Feb. 19. Please check your Winlink account for instructions.

If you are not a member of this net and are interested in joining the Winlink practice, please send me a Winlink message (NH7IT). or email to nh7it@arrl.net.

To learn more about Winlink, check out <https://wavetalkers.com/resources/digital/winlink.php>

– Van NH7IT ASM-Pac

BIARC monthly meeting info

The club now gets together on the second Sunday of the month at Kamana Senior Center at 127 Kamana St. in Hilo.

The Executive Board meets at noon, with the

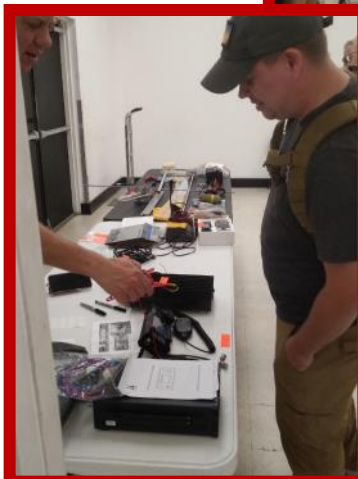
membership gathering following at 2 p.m.

Zoom access is provided.

The link will be shared on the BIARC Listserve forum prior to the meeting.

Honolulu HamFest

The 2024 Emergency Amateur Radio Club of Hawai'i Honolulu HamFest was enjoyed by hams from across the state on Saturday morning, March 2, at the former Fleet Reserve Association; now the National Guard Association Center, in Honolulu. Mel Uchida, KH6EKD, shared these photos of the EARC swap meet and says a good time was had by all.



KH6EKD photos

Big Island Amateur Radio Club
Public Service Communications Committee
Membership Report – February 18, 2024

BIARC Public Service Communications Committee

The **Public Service Communications Committee** is organized under the BIARC Executive Board and is charged with public support of the Club's **Goals and Objectives**:

Engage and Collaborate with the Amateur Radio community.

Present Amateur Radio to the community at large in a positive light.

Pursue activities and agreements that lead to educational and collaborative success.

BIARC PSCC and the Hawaii Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster

- BIARC belongs to HVOAD. The Chair of the PSCC is appointed by the BIARC Board to act as the Club's Representative to HVOAD, attend regularly scheduled meetings, and vote annually in the election of HVOAD officers.
- Since the occurrence of the Maui Brush Fire Disaster in August, the BIARC Representative has attended Maui Recovery video meetings as scheduled in support of Maui and Lahaina recovery efforts.
- In parallel with the Maui Brush Fire Disaster meetings, the PSCC also belongs to and attends the meetings of the HVOAD Emergency Communications Working Group.
- The BIARC PSCC also participates in the monthly opening of the emergency VOAD Repeater under the authority of the Governor of the State of Hawaii. A formal Net is operated out of Honolulu.

2 daytime school science events set

Aloha everyone,

Here is the info on our next 2 Science Day events:

Hilo Union Elementary School 4th-6th Graders

Date: Friday, March 8, 2024

Time: 11:45am - 1:45pm

Setup Start Time: 10:45am

Location: 5th & 6th Grade Classroom Area

Tables: will be provided

Parking: Please unload and then park across in the St Joseph Church parking lot along the back fence.

Keaau Elementary School

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2024

Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Setup Start Time: 9:00am

Location: Cafeteria

Tables: will be provided

Thank you,

Jadee Takayesu, Educational Outreach Coordinator

hawaii sciencemuseum.org

Hawaii Science and Technology Museum

P.O. Box 7195 Hilo, HI 96720

The Hawaii Science and Technology Museum is an educational non-profit, federally recognized 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education on the Island of Hawaii.



John, KH6DLK, at science night at Kaumana Elementary.



Jim, WH6EMN, talks to a student at science night at Kaumana Elementary.



Mark, WH6FSA, shows new banner at February BIARC meeting.

BIARC PSCC and the Hawaii Science and Technology Museum

The PSCC continues to engage with the **Hawaii Science and Technology Museum** to participate in interactive events with Elementary and High School children in East Hawaii. The Hawaii Science and Technology Museum is an educational non-profit, federally recognized 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education on the Island of Hawaii.

The PSCC participated with four schools in 2023 and will continue with and event at the Hilo Union Elementary school in March 2024 and with a planned event at the Keaau Elementary school in April.

The BIARC " has consisted of Jim Tatar, Joe Rosenbaum, Mark Watanabe and David Miller. John Bush has recently brought digital radio to the mix while many of our members have donated "on air" time with students.

The new BIARC ft991a receiver has been introduced into our program this year. Also, a club banner was designed, purchased, and introduced into our program. More planning is in process for future events.

The PSCC program has been received well at all the events this year and interested students' information has been collected for their introduction to ham radio through Doug Wilson's training programs.

PSCC Event Program:

Set up radio equipment and run a net for third-party participants (students) under one of the BIARC members licensed call signs, interacting with volunteer operators in the field via the Club's Repeater.

Distribute handheld radios to demonstrate communications capabilities to students.

Sign up parents, teachers, and students for Amateur Radio training.

David Miller

BIARC Public Service Communications Committee

BIARC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

BEGIN MEETING:

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm on Sunday, February 18th by Board President Thomas Avila. Venue was the Kamana Senior Center in Hilo.

Quorum:

- Board members: Thomas Avila, Les Hittner, Tony Kitchen, Joseph Rosenbaum, William Polhemus, David Miller and Mark Watanabe.

Secretary's Report and Minutes:

- William moved and Tony seconded to approve the January 2024 Executive Board Minutes and Report as submitted and previously approved by email. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Les moved and William seconded to approve the Treasurer's report, subject to audit. Motion passed.
- William moved and Les seconded to accept the proposed 2024 budget. Motion passed.
- Tony reported that our equipment insurance policy plan provided through Mercer is no longer being offered. Our equipment policy will expire on April 1st. BIARC has no record of ever filing a claim for equipment loss or damage during the many years that we have paid for this policy. Our options are to not carry equipment protection or find another provider. Our two-million-dollar blanket liability insurance policy, also provided through Mercer, expires on June 1st. We can renew the liability policy with Mercer if we wish. This liability policy is not ideal as the company will not agree to the language on the Certificate of Insurance that the County of Hawaii demands to obtain special use permits at County facilities. Tony will look into other plans and report back to the Executive Board next month.

Committee reports:

Public Service Communications Report:

- See attached addendum

Operating activities:

- Winter Field Day (winterfeldday.org) was a success.
- Update on quarterly workshops: William will host the workshops at his home for a small group of no more than five club members. Projects will include fixing broken radios using professional equipment such as service monitors, spectrum analyzers, etc.
- William moved and Les seconded to allow Shawn(WH6GXZ) to use the club's Yaesu 991A transceiver and Atas 120 antenna system for the POTA(parksontheair.com) activation at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on Sunday, March 3rd.
- There are a few other activities to be planned this year. The ARRL Field Day in June, CQWW SSB contest in October and possibly a mobile foxhunt encompassing South Hilo, if there is enough interest.

Programs:

- This month's program will be the new Board President, Thomas Avila introducing himself to the membership.
- The March program will have Roy(KH6KU) doing a presentation on how to properly setup and operate the club's Yaesu 991A transceiver and Atas 120 antenna system.

Digital Systems:

- William moved and Les seconded to accept Shawn Farley(WH6GXZ) as the Digital Systems chairperson. Motion passed. A few ongoing projects, such as the Peepekeo access point for the mesh network will be referred to Shawn.

Continued on next page

BIARC Executive Board meeting

From previous page

Voice Repeaters:

- William conducted testing with the gateway for members who are either convalescing in the hospital or traveling to be able to access the Kulani Cone repeater. The best combination was an All Star node and William will donate equipment for that use.
- There is a need to get a work party together for the microwave installations at the Kulani Cone and Pepeekeo repeater sites.

Education and Outreach:

- Les has continued to donate and print out the Biarc tri-folds.

Old Business:

- The ad-hoc committee to search for a permanent storage location have yet to locate any place within the club's budget, so the search continues.
- There is an update on the search for a new, permanent location that would allow us to return to Saturday monthly meetings. The Hawaii Fire Department relayed some concerns about using the training room in station 3 on HaiHai st. in Hilo. One concern was if the whole fire company had to go out on a call, then there would be around 30 unchaperoned civilians there. Since William, Les and Tony are credentialed members of the Fire Department's Auxiliary Communication team, this shouldn't present a problem. The other concern was about parking. Since there is no crosswalk between the Municipal golf course and the fire station, William proposed asking the Dept. of Highways to paint a crosswalk at the intersection.

New Business:

- Tony moved to appoint Les Hittner chairperson of the Public Service Communications committee and David Miller as chairperson of the Education and Outreach committee. Motion passed unanimously with Les voting present.
- David can't setup Jim Huntley's donated Winlink station at his QTH so he will refer that to the Digital Systems committee.

Bob Schneider(AH6J) entered at 12:57 pm.

Shawn Farley entered at 1:12 pm.

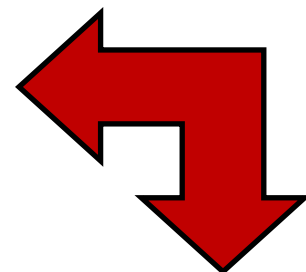
Hank(KH6HAK) entered at 1:42 pm.

There being no further business Thomas motioned and Tony seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 pm. Motion passed with William dissenting. The next meeting will be on March 10th at the Kamana Senior Center in Hilo. The board meeting will start at noon and the club activity will be at 2:00 pm.



*Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Rosenbaum,
Secretary*

**POTA
at
HVNP**



Roy said he "had a lot of fun" and made 48 contacts: 36 contacts on 12 meters, and 12 contacts on 17 meters: "My set up I was running in my truck was an Icom IC-7100, Tarheel 100HP screwdriver antenna controlled by an Ameritron SDC-104 controller, custom built RM Italy 500W amplifier, all run off of LiFo4 batteries."



**WH6GWL
and
WH6GXZ
photos**

Parks On The Air activated March 3 at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park



WH6GXZ:
The radio
on the park
bench is
Frank's
(KH6FA).
FT-818
provides
6W
LDG Z817
tuner
With a
SO-
TABEAM
Band Hop-
per II -
Two-band
(20m,
40m) port-
able di-
pole
Mahalo,
Frank, for
giving us a
chance to
try out a
QRP radio.

Shawn WH6GXZ, event coordinator: "Aloha all, the POTA was fun. I learned a lot, made only two contacts but listened to a lot of bands and pile-ups."

"Tried out Frank's KH6FA homemade amp/tuner on the 818. We blew the fuse on the amp."

"The amp brought a 6 W radio to 50 W."



"Paul came by a few times and hung out. Lots of radio talk."

"Glenn came around as well and played with the 818."

"We're planning the next POTA at Pohoiki Isaac Hale on a Sunday in early April. We'll talk about it at the upcoming meeting."

"One last thought: Unfortunately, we couldn't use the club radio because the power cord was missing. After a conversation between us HAMS ... think we need an inventory check list."

"Hoping to use the club radio for the next POTA."

**Hams on hand for the big event
included: WH6GXZ, WH6GWL,
KH6KU, KH6FA, WH7BR, AH6EI.**

Update on Maunakea Amateur Radio Repeater & Emergency Communication Pathways

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the VOAD net on the Maunakea repeater on Saturday, March 2. I also had a meeting on Friday, March 1, with Hawaii County Civil Defense. The following is a general update:

- Civil Defense Agency work continues for the installation of their repeater at the summit.

- The VOAD repeater is currently scheduled to be removed on March 11th.

- The VOAD repeater is functional and in its standby state. If there were a governor-declared emergency, involving the need for emergency communications, VOAD may activate it based on the current Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and the Standard Operating Guidelines. (SOG) [Until the power is cut and the equipment is removed.]

- In regards to the new repeater being deployed by Hawaii County Civil Defense:

- We do not have a firm date as to when it will be operational, but efforts are being made to make it happen ASAP.

- Once it is online the amateur radio community will continue to play an important role when it is activated.

- I believe that the general intent is to maintain an "All inclusive" approach, with similar standard operating guidelines.

On the broader topic of emergency communications pathways, I believe that it is helpful to remind everyone of the following:

- The ACS structure remains.

When requested by HC CDA, operations may occur on 40 meters at 7.190 MHz and other frequencies.

- The Hub and Spoke (Simplex) community-based model of communications is encouraged.

ARES tries to encourage everyone to work together to document the hubs, and relay stations that are likely to stand up during an incident and engage in training and exercises. However, it is up to Amateur Radio operators in each community to make it happen.



- The Winlink network remains a viable option, through VHF, UHF, and HF RMS gateways as well as via P2P. Stations are encouraged to continue to practice and maintain this capability.

- In an emergency where regular communications are unavailable, we are prepared to monitor the Winlink tactical Call of HCCDA as a communication path to pass traffic to Civil Defense.

- There are ongoing efforts involving VOAD, ARES, BIARC, and other amateur stations and groups to deploy another linked repeater system for emergency communications.

- The intention is to keep this as a separate repeater system, with the ability to dynamically link in various ways as needed to support EmComm training and a variety of incidents.

- There is significant support for this initiative, including donations, equipment, and potential sites.

- A lot of research and planning has been completed. This includes RF studies, and exploring relationships with owners at some of the station sites.

- The intent is to have RF links to repeaters around Hawaii island and links to Maui and Oahu. Links to

Kauai have not yet been explored.

- Plans are being fleshed out and moving forward. We hope to include a broad coalition of participants in the discussions and planning soon.

- The Hawaii VOAD Communications-Sub Radio Working Group intends to organize this effort by developing Memorandums of Understanding, and Operating Guidelines that bring together groups of operators, expertise, equipment, and funding to coordinate and build out a shared system.

The objective is to maintain multiple potential pathways for emergency communications through an all-inclusive approach. If it is viable and reliable, it is an option. If anyone is interested in learning more, has ideas or suggestions, or would like to contribute in some other way, please reach out and let me know.

73,
Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI
ARRL, Pacific Section
ARES Assistant Section
Emergency Coordinator

BIG ISLAND MONTHLY SIREN NET March 1, 2024

I was not able to fully listen in on the Siren Net due to constant technical battles, but I can see from the report it was a good one! Big mahalo goes out to Darrell KH6RDO (DEC) for logging like a pro and fearless Joe WH6JOE (NCS) for running the show.

We had 28 check-ins and 35 Siren Status Reports. Four sirens were not working: Ainaloa, HOVE #1 (Leilani Circle), HOVE #2 (Shopping Center), and apparently Ookala let out its last 8-second breath last month. Laupahoehoe Lookout continues to sound for 30 seconds.

Announcement: NH6TU 147.420 PL 100 Simplex Node will be fired up on the next Siren Test Net so Irene NH7PE and others in the area can pass their traffic or just listen in. Much appreciated Dave AH6OD's assistance; it helped remove some rust buildup in my brain since I have not used my AllStar equipment in several years.

Mahalo to everyone that participated, and looking forward to April Fool's Siren Test Net!

And, great news: I just found out KH7MS will be adding an AllStar Repeater in Oceanview!

*73 es aloha,
Bev KH7LM*



U.S. senators introduce bill to eliminate private land use restrictions

On January 30, US Senators Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT) introduced S.3690, the Senate companion bill to H.R.4006, introduced last June. Both bills reflect the Congressional campaign efforts by ARRL to eliminate homeowner association land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator to install and operate amateur station antennas on residential properties they own.

Amateur Radio Operators repeatedly are relied upon to provide essential communications when disaster strikes, but their ability to do so is being impaired by the exponential growth of residential private land use restrictions that hinder their ability to establish stations in their homes with which to train and provide emergency communications when called upon.

In announcing the introduction of S.3690, Senator Wicker said: "Because communication during natural disasters is often hindered, we should be making every attempt to give folks more options. Reliable access can make the difference between life and death in an emergency. Our legislation removes roadblocks for amateur radio operators looking to help their friends, families, and neighbors."

In a similar announcement, Senator Blumenthal stated: "Our measure will help clarify the rules so ham radio



*U.S. Senators
Richard Blumenthal and
Roger Wicker.*

enthusiasts can successfully continue their communications.

"In the face of emergency or crisis, they help provide vital, life-saving information that allow listeners to properly and safely respond, but prohibitive home association rules and confusing approval processes for installing antennas have been an unnecessary impediment. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act resolves these bottlenecks and ensures that radio operators can function successfully."

Audio innovator Bob Heil, K9EID, now a silent key

**Excerpts from a story by
Paul McLane
Radio World, March 3**

Robert “Bob” Heil, K9EID, died on Feb. 28, according to a spokesman for Heil Sound, the company he founded. The long-time resident of Belleville, IL, was 83.

“Bob fought a valiant, year-long battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family,” Heil Sound posted on Facebook.

“Driven by a lifelong passion for sound, Bob’s pioneering work revolutionized how concertgoers experienced live sound.”

Heil was the inventor of the famous Heil Talk Box used memorably by musicians like Joe Walsh, Peter Dinklage, Slash, Richie Sambora and others. He was invited to exhibit his innovations at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He also was an active member of the amateur radio community.

Bob won a number of awards and honors. He was the “International Amateur Radio Operator of the Year” in 1982, an award which had been held by Barry Goldwater the year before. He was later awarded the 1989 “USA Satellite Dealer of the Year” by the Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association in Las Vegas. In 1995, he received the very first “Live Sound Pioneer Award” at the Audio Engineering Society Convention in San Francisco. In 2007, Bob received the Audio Innovator Parnelli Award. In 2014, Bob was awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Music and Technology from the University of Missouri.

An avid engineer, Bob proudly became an amateur radio operator at the age of 13 with the call sign K9EID. He spent much of his teen years designing and building homemade transmitters, amplifiers, and antenna systems, including his elaborate “moon bounce” antenna he used with NASA to transmit a signal to the moon and back. In the early 1980s, Bob left the pro sound industry to focus exclusively on the amateur radio market, first



under the Melco brand, later returning to the Heil Sound brand, and currently under the Heil Ham Radio brand. Bob became a global innovator in the field of amateur radio, manufacturing headsets, microphones, equalizers, and accessories. Bob was very active in amateur radio giving countless presentations at hamfests and ham radio clubs, and a proud supporter of the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) and multiple youth programs for amateur radio.

A proficient theater organ musician at a young age, he began performing in restaurants at age 14. At 15, he became a professional performer on the Wurlitzer theater organ at the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis. During that time, he learned to tune and voice the thousands of pipes in that great Wurlitzer organ. It was the platform that taught Bob how to listen – mentally dissecting discrete tones which became so important throughout his several careers.

In his early 20s, Bob began designing and building various theater pipe organ installations. In the evenings Bob played organ at the Holiday Inn restaurant in St. Louis six nights a week. Heil then opened Ye Olde Music Shop, a successful professional music shop in Marissa, Illinois, which ultimately became Heil Sound.

Bob became well-known for designing the concept of modern rock and roll systems we see today. Bob designed touring sound systems for rock and roll bands such as the Grateful Dead, the Who, and many others. Bob’s career was jumpstarted when the Grateful

Dead arrived in St. Louis to play the Fabulous Fox in February 1970 without a sound system. Bob provided his own sound system for the show which was such a success that the band asked Bob and his sound system to join them on the road. That led to Bob designing sound and touring with the Who on their Who’s Next tour in 1971.

His Heil Talk Box is still in use today by musicians of nearly every genre. It was the first commercial high-powered talk box which could reliably be used on high-level rock stages.

His work made such an impact in the rock and roll industry that Heil Sound was invited to become the only manufacturer featured in a display at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2006. Some of Bob’s historically important gear, including the first modular mixing console (the Mavis), his custom quadraphonic mixer (originally used on the Quadrophonia tour), and the very first Heil Talk Box were included in the display. Bob’s work was also featured in the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis, MO.

Bob was a fixture in St. Louis through his “High Tech Heil” educational segments on KMOX radio plus KSDK and KTVI television. He frequently lectured at major electronic and satellite conventions, including CES and NAB shows in Las Vegas, Trebas Institute in Toronto and Blackbird Academy in Nashville. Bob recorded four albums as a musician such as Meet Me in St. Louis and Heil Plays Hammond, and also published five books on music and sound technology including Professional Drawbar Tips for the Hammond Organ, Practical Guide for Concert Sound, The 10 meter FM handbook, Heil Ham Radio Handbook, Practical Guide for Concert Sound – Volume 2, and part of the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Oral History Library.

In the late 1980s, Heil Sound entered the home theater industry.

In the early 2000s, following a request from Bob’s longtime friend Joe Walsh to develop a new vocal microphone, Bob re-entered the pro sound industry and introduced a new line of professional microphones and accessories, which Heil Sound continues to manufacture today.

In his retired years, Bob remained active in the amateur radio community by giving presentations to ham radio clubs all across the world.



UN General Assembly's World Radio Day was celebrated Feb. 13

World Radio Day 2024 was celebrated February 13.

This year's theme was "*A Century Informing, Entertaining and Educating.*"

World Radio Day was first celebrated in 2012, following its declaration by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference.

It was subsequently adopted as an International Day by the United Nations General Assembly. Amateur radio is included in the celebration.

Amateur radio operators have the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of the launch of the USS Midway. On March 9, 2024, from 1700Z - 2359Z, the ship's radio station will operate as N16IW on 7.250, 14.320, and 14.070 MHz, as well as on PSK31, D-STAR, and the [PAPA](#) repeater system. The USS Midway is located in San Diego, California, at the USS Midway Museum. It was launched on March 20, 1945, and decommissioned on April 11, 1992. Commissioned 8 days after the end of World War II, Midway was the largest warship in the world until 1955. A QSL card is available for the special event by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope with your QSL card to USS Midway CV-41 COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. A complete history of the ship can be found at [USS Midway: A Navy Battle 'Aircraft Carrier' with An Armored Flight Deck | The National Interest](#).

IARU World Amateur Radio Day will be April 18

For World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) on April 18, 2024, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has chosen the theme, "**A Century of Connections: Celebrating 100 years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community and Advocacy.**" WARD is the day when IARU Member-Societies show their capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other amateurs worldwide. The IARU was founded in Paris, France, in 1925, and it has worked to promote innovation in amateur radio and to encourage the growth of the Service in communities throughout the world. The IARU will celebrate its centenary in 2025.



IARU has represented amateur services at international and regional regulatory bodies by relying on volunteers from many countries and communities. IARU has been a sector-member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) since 1932, and the work of their volunteers has successfully continued since that date. ARRL is a member of IARU Regions 3 and 2 because it represents the radio amateurs of Guam, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa, which are located in Region 3. The administration of the IARU is performed by ARRL, which serves as the International Secretariat.

The [Young Ladies Radio League \(YLRL\)](#) is hosting an International Women's Day YL Parks on the Air® (POTA) Party from 0000Z - 2359Z on March 8.

[International Women's Day](#) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. This year's theme is Inspire Inclusion.

To celebrate the day, the goal of this special event is to activate any POTA park during the 24-hour event window using any mode and frequency within your license class. Contacts can be submitted to the POTA database. YLRL encourages participants to wear pink, decorate their station, and to share experiences and photos on social media using the hashtag #YL_POTA_Party.



Jherica Goodgame, K15HTA, operates a POTA activation.

The YLRL was founded in 1939 by Ethel Smith, K4LMB (SK), who was the group's first president, and it continues to use her call sign today. She served as the Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL Virginia Section from 1966 - 1969, and later as ARRL Assistant Director for four different Roanoke Division Directors. In 1972, she received the ARRL Roanoke Division Service Award.

The YLRL will [celebrate its 85th year](#) in July 2024.