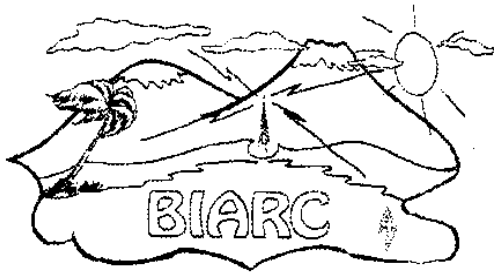


## President's Message

A new year beginning for BIARC and big changes taking place in the amateur radio world. FCC has dropped Morse code testing for all amateur license classes. We may see an influx of hams taking the General class test which hopefully will increase our membership rolls. We'll let Bob AH6J, our ARRL Section Manager, address the changes. It should be a very exciting year. We already have 9 months covered for programming so if you have any ideas for other programs get in touch with Vice President Arman Wiggins WH6BVZ at 963-6846. January's meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> will have Troy Kindred of Civil Defense as our speaker. Now is your chance to ask those questions you've been wanting answered on disaster preparedness etc. We will also have our budget for 2007 presented for your approval at our business meeting. Please try to get your 2007 membership dues in as soon as possible.

The BIARC Christmas Party/Turkey dinner was a huge success. Thanks again to Gloria Whiteley for a great job in organizing. Also thanks to Ed Breen NH6HT for cooking one of the turkeys. There were 43 guests who signed the roster which included three entertainers and two guests from California. Our entertainers were the Christmas Aunties (Joan Wheeler,

*continued on page 4*



## Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Logo by Don Bartron, NH6WW

### Officers

President	Barbara Darling, NH7FY	982-9126
Vice President	Ammond Wiggins, WH6BVZ	963-6846
Treasurer	Ed Breen, NH6HT	982-6513
Secretary	Ken Cutting, KH7ZJ	938-5881

### One Year Directors

Richard Darling, AH7G	982-9126
Don Bartron, NH6WW	935-1258
Doris Carlson, KH6ER	966-4676
Fred Benardella, KH6FI	968-1331
Ron Phillips, AH6HN	982-6513
Solomon Singer, NH7ZE	935-5563
Rick Frazier, AH7H	985-9169
Jeremy Punsalan, KH7CN	959-8510

### Two Year Directors

Richard Fetcher, K3QHP	982-7426
Fred Honnold, W6YM	
Beau Mills, NH7WV	968-1271
Bob Schneider, AH6J	966-8146
Curtis Knight, AH6RE	966-8304
Syd Singer, WH6VO	935-5563

### Standing Committees

Service/Awards	Harry Nishiyama	KH6FKG
Co-Chair	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
Education	Harvey Motomura	AH6JA
Emergency Coord.	H. Nishiyama	KH6FKG
Equip. Inventory	Wilbur Carlson	KH7E
Health & Welfare	Doris Carlson	KH6ER
Hospitality	Gloria Whiteley	Associate
Newsletter Editor	Sean Stueber	NH7SA
Programs	Barbara Darling	NH7FY
Repeater	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
Webmaster	Rick Frazier	AH7H

### Special Committees

Christmas Party	Gloria Whiteley	Associate
Club Improvement	H. Nishiyama	KH6FKG
Co-Chair	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
Field Day	Robert Oliver	NH6AH
Hamfest	Bob Schneider	AH6J
Co-Chair	John Buck	KH7I
QSL Cards In/Out	Richard Darling	AH7G
Volcano Rim Run	Sean Stueber	NH7SA

## MEETINGS & GET-TOGETHERS

### Membership Meetings -

2nd Saturday of each month at 2PM at The Kea'au Community Center.

### Board Meetings -

Will be held every other month 1 hour prior to the General Membership Meeting at the same location as the General Meeting (January, March, May, July, September and November)

### Friday Lunches -

Every Friday at the Queens Court Restaurant in the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. Meet in lobby between 11:00 - 11:15 a.m. Or we will see you inside in the far left corner.

### East Hawaii Net -

The East Hawaii Net meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8AM, local time, on 146.76 mhz. Sign on and check us out.

**Take a look at our  
newly updated  
website at  
[www.biarc.net](http://www.biarc.net)**

## NEXT MEETING

### Saturday, January 13th

Our regular monthly meeting will be held at the Keau Community Center on January 13th at 2PM. Our program will be on Disaster Preparedness and will be presented by Troy Kindred, Head of Civil Defense. For new members, the center is located behind the Keau Police Station and new clinic.

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### January Birthdays

NH7XG	Adan Rodrigues	2nd
NH7OH	Shirley Golden	3rd
Assoc.	Miyuki Carr	5th
KH6AU	Hiruwo Yamamoto	5th
K6ESL	John McConnell	7th
WH6BGY	June BrownNgaden	14th
KH6LC	Lloyd Cabral	14th
AJ0T	Ronald Ebert	18th
WH6CME	Ray Hicks	22nd

**Happy Birthday to all !!!**

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### REPEATERS

\*=ARES Linked    \*\*=RACES Linked    This is the status as of 1/22/04.

145.29- HOVE - KAU (141.3Hz) WH6FC  
146.72- Mauna Kea (1st Tue noon) AH6J  
146.76- Kulani KH6EJ  
146.82- Mauna Loa (ARES) KH6EJ \*  
146.88- Pepeekeo KH6EJ  
146.92- Kau PD KH6EJ  
146.94- Haleakala Maui (ARES) WH6KO  
147.00+ Glenwood (141.3Hz) AH6GG  
147.02+ Haleakala Maui (RACES) KH6H \*\*  
147.04+ Mauna Loa (RACES) AH6JA \*\*  
147.10+ Waiakea HS AH6GO  
147.16+ Hualalai Kona KH6DEW\*  
147.32+ Waimea Hospital (100 Hz) NH7HI \*  
147.38+ Waimea East KH7T  
443.20+ Hakalau (programable) AH6RF  
146.58s Hakalau (programable) AH6RF

Sue Pirtle and Mrs. Kato) who are members of the Pua Kea Halau of Hawaiian Paradise Park. We were very fortunate to have this “much in demand” hula group entertain us with selections such as the Hawaiian version of The Twelve Days of Christmas, Jingle Bells, Rudolph and The Old Lady Who Swallowed the Fly. Our guests from California were the daughter of Richard Darling AH7G and her husband from Salinas, California (Barbara KC6YFO and Steve KB6GNG Naslund). They enjoyed meeting everyone at the party. Earlier in the day they had visited the Hilo ARC 10 meter contest site at Laupahoehoe. Door prizes were awarded to all in attendance with the grand prize (a 2007 ARRL Handbook) being awarded to Doris Carlson KH6ER. I imagine she will be kind enough to share it with Wilbur. The food must have been excellent as there was not much left over. (I myself would love to have Paul’s cranberry relish recipe). We did have two hot pads left at the hall and we are looking for the owners. Call 982-9126 to claim, please.

A greeting card was received here from Kurt and Margot Vetter from Bavaria, Germany. They asked us to extend well wishes to the club members. They are looking forward to visiting the Big Island again soon.

Dates that you can already mark on your 2007 calendar are: June 23-24 for Field Day and October 13<sup>th</sup> for the International Ham Fest in Waimea.

Remember that our first Board Meeting of the year will be held one hour prior to our regular meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wilbur KH7E for heading our club this past year and to all others who made it a very successful year. We are hoping to have some very interesting programs during 2007, and hopefully some great social activities too. We can always use volunteers to help us succeed.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all, Barbara NH7FY

## **You'd have to be Nuts!**

### **6M for the uninitiated**

**Ted Brattstrom – NH6YK**

I was talking with a potential newcomer to 6M – the Magic Band, and I was reminded how hard it is to find out information about this most unusual of bands. To that end, I'll offer a few comments about what I have learned, with a Hawaii perspective. By NO means is this complete, I'm still learning!

### **The Basics**

The 6 Meter band runs (in the USA) from 50.0 to 54.0 MHz and is the lowest of the VHF bands available to the amateur. It is also one of the two bands with a CW Only segment, from 50.0 to 50.1 MHz! Go figure, the only two bands with CW *exclusive* allocations are given to “no-code” Techs.

### **How to Start – Real Simple Version**

First, get a radio that does 6M! (newer compact HF/VHF/UHF radios give 100W at 6M)

Put up an antenna! (ANYTHING!!! A dipole, a ground plane vertical, a 2M 5/8 mag-mount on your roof (is close enough to a 6M 1/4 wave as not to be important), a 3-4-5 element yagi or quad on a cheapo TV antenna rotator – Even your 40M dipole will load up on 6M! – Try to get it as high as you can.) Just DO It!!!

Plug it all in.

Set the radio for USB (that's Upper Side Band!) and 50.110 MHz and listen. Mostly you will hear static, so put it at a level that maintains the social harmony of the house – or if the radio has a working squelch in SSB, set that. (in total fanatic mode, the use of a baby monitor has been known to work to allow you to monitor in other rooms while you work)

Every time you walk by the radio – call CQ a few times...

*Expect nothing!!!/hope for the best!!!* Eventually, you will hear something. The key word is “eventually”. Like long distance hitch hiking, 6M is good for working on your “zen Master” certificate – you have to be at the right time and place, and it will happen – expect without expectation – be in a state of eternal readiness for satori... (OK, that's a little too mystical – but 6M types are a bit odd!!!)

Know your Grid! Often, instead of the traditional “59” or, in addition to, we exchange Grid Locators – For most of the Big Island, that is BK29. Waimea and north is BL20, South Point is BK28, Keahole Point and Kona Airport is BK19.

When I was teaching at Pearl City HS – I had a nice flat roof for antennas, and an office space for radios – I’d leave the radio on in the back room and teach. One day I started hearing someone talk in the back room, but it sounded like one of the other local hams... After a few moments. I walked over to the room to have a listen – FK8 was coming in like they were next door. Another day it was PY5CC... Great Fun!

### The Calling Frequency – The Hawaii Heresy

There are 2 calling frequencies that you will find mentioned by ARRL and in other books and websites dealing with 6M; 50.110 MHz as the International DX calling frequency, and 50.125 MHz as the Domestic (USA) calling frequency. The concept is that you meet someone on the calling frequency, then move up the band to carry on your QSO. Casual conversations should be off the calling frequency. In times of good propagation, or where there are actually a lot of 6M hams, this works fine. However, in Hawaii, there are not a lot of us, and we are far, far away from anyplace else! So, we chat on 50.110, hoping someone/some DX will hear us and jump into the chat. Then we know an opening is happening and we can spread out as needed. Alas, all too often the two 6M hams in FO or FK work the three 6M hams in KH6 and it’s over, so there isn’t a real need to move frequencies!

If you do move to the mainland, make contact on the calling frequency (DX or Domestic) and then move up the band (listen for an empty space first!), it’s just polite!

If you are in a Band opening, and it’s hot, a useful technique is first listen on 110, then announce on 50.110 something like; “This is NH6YK, I’ll be listening on 50.140.” Then go to 50.140 and call CQ, people will follow.

### Power – Do I need a KW and a 10 element Yagi?

No! – My first 6m setup (IC-502) put out 2W into a Dipole! With that I worked VK, V73, KH6, 3D2 and the like. After awhile I upgraded to 10W (FT-690mk2) and a 4 element Quad. An elmer gave me a small amplifier to take me to about 60W and I had a blast. However, I also made contacts with

my 10W radio and a 2M 5/8 mag-mount while mobile, or a Squalo when parked. When 6M is open, it is Open!!!

However, Location is Important. I recall listening to a ham 15 miles away from me work JA after JA, but I couldn't hear them. Sometimes the propagation really is that specific.

Granted, a KW and 10 Elements will let you open the band a little earlier, and close it a little later than the 100W / 5 element hams ☺ But it might get you into the neighbors TV sets if you have not been careful on the filtering.

### **Mode – AM – FM – CW – SSB**

The basic DXing 6M operator uses SSB and/or CW. When things are hot, and you've worked a bunch on SSB/CW, you might try FM.

Because of the nature of 6M, people have put up beacon stations around the world, and the easiest way to find out if there is an opening, other than calling CQ (which can be very effective) is to listen for the beacons between 50.000 and 50.100. This is where it is handy to know CW! Or at least be able to write it down and de-code it. I remember one evening spending about 15 minutes trying to pick out and decode a beacon station. The signal would fade and come in... finally I had it, 5B4 – long path to Cyprus! Alas, no one was at the radio on that end for me to work.

I'm not a CW guy, so I pretty much use SSB, others are CW types, so they use that mode. However, 6M fans are not exclusive – if you hear someone calling CQ on CW, you can call them back on SSB – sometimes they will switch over to SSB, sometimes you'll have a mixed mode QSO!

### **Paper Chasing – What can you get for your radio time**

DXCC, WAS, VUCC, WAZ, WAJA, JCC... contest awards

Like HF, you can get the standard awards for 100 DX entities, 50 US states, 40 CQ Zones. Then there are the VHF specific awards, like VUCC – working 100 grids. Each award has it's own rules and fees. However, the VHF contests that ARRL sponsors will send you an award if you win in your state! With so few VHF contesters in Hawaii, it's not all that hard!

### **Propagation**

The exciting thing about 6M is the varieties of propagation modes that have been discovered, and used. These are the main types used in Hawaii.

- Like HF, when the sunspots are high, F2 long distance propagation occurs. This is primarily seen in the peaks of the solar cycles, when it is possible to communicate over long distances. How long? My best DX was CT3, off the coast of Africa via long path! Others have worked into Europe via long path from Hawaii.
- Es, Sporadic E can occur any time, but is most often seen during the summer over a continent. When several areas of E layer enhancement line up, you can have multi-hop Es and Hawaii has the possibility of working North America!
- TEP, or Trans Equatorial Propagation is when there is an opening across the Geomagnetic equator to the corresponding location. In Hawaii, we get this to the South Pacific and Australia. VK4 / Queensland is the part of Australia with the best location for this.
- Aurora – You wouldn't think there would be a chance of Aurora in Hawaii, However, sometimes there are Linked forms of propagation, and Es might get you into some Au.
- EME – Then, you can bounce your signals off the moon with the new JT software.

In addition to Es season, and high sunspot times, there seem to be enhancements during the equinoxes. Late September / October and Late March / April seem to have some good openings. Good times to listen, afternoon and early evening to about 9-10 pm for some of the Es and TEP. When Sunspots are good, just leave it on and be ready.

In analyzing the 6 years of data I have at hand – 1998-2003, with 1311 hams and a little over 2000 QSOs, – I found that February/March was the best for my station, with QSOs starting around 9am and stopping around midnight. Of course, this is skewed data, since I usually sleep, and I'm often away during the summer season. Morning QSOs favored the east (North America, South America) with noon to 2pm local all over the Pacific rim. After about 6pm, it tends to be toward the west – Oceania and Asia. Africa and Europe, when I've heard / heard of / or worked them has been late – 10pm-midnight, and long



path. I suspect there are openings after midnight, but I've been asleep, and social harmony says the radio ought to be off!

At the moment I have 52 entities worked for 31 confirmed, 29 states worked for 21 confirmed, 19 zones confirmed, 82 grids confirmed from BL11 and 52 grids confirmed from BK29. I suppose I better get some more cards out! Hopefully, as the next cycle picks up, I'll get the rest of the states and more DXCC. It just takes time – and luck.

### **Roy Blackshear KH6BAI Silent Key**

It is deep regret that we note the passing of Roy Blackshear, KH6BAI. Roy was an early member of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club and a Life member of ARRL. He passed away on Tuesday December 26, 2006 after an extended illness. He was the former president of W.H. Shipman Ltd. The family is a major landowner and early settlers in the Hawaiian Islands. Roy graduated from Punahou School and University of Hawaii. He served in the USAF during WW2. BIARC has had several field days at the Shipman estate in Keaau. In the early days Keaau was only the shoreline area but later became what was once known as Olaa and the surrounding area. Roy worked briefly for Hawaiian Telephone and was an avid collector of old telephone technology and radios. He had diverse interests in many areas and was a true gentleman. His father Herbert Shipman was the prime mover in saving the rare Nene Goose from extinction. The Nene Goose is now the state bird of Hawaii. The Shipman family still has a group of geese that live on their Keaau Property. His grandfather was the founder of W.H. Shipman Ltd. Services will be Jan 6 at 10AM at Haili church.

### **Yozo Endo KH6HHD Silent Key**

Yozo Endo KH6HHD a member of BIARC for many years, became a silent key on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the age of 92. Born at sea he was a retired cabinet maker for the former Island Mill Works who handcrafted the governor's desk at the state capitol. He was a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. No services were planned.



Janet NH7AK



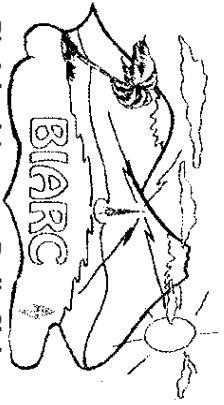
John KH7ZF and Wife



Christmas Aunties (Joan Wheeler, Mrs. Kato and Sue Pirtle)



Joan Wheeler and Sue Pirtle, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer



**Big Island Amateur Radio Club**  
P.O. Box 1938, Hilo, HI 96721