



Big Island Amateur Radio Club Newsletter – January 2010

President's Message

Happy New Year to all Big Island Amateur Radio Club (BIARC) Members, Family, and Friends. Can you believe 2010 is here already? Just seems like it was the start of the new millennium a couple of months ago. Surprising how time flies when you're enjoying Ham radio! My best wishes go out to all of you and your families for a prosperous and fun filled 2010 in Ham radio.

The BIARC 2010 year can't get started without thanking outgoing 2009 BIARC President Barbara Darling (NH7FY) for all her excellent work during the 2009 club year and her sustained work for the club over the many years. A special thank you also goes out to 2009 Treasurer Curt Knight (AH6RE) and Secretary Arman Wiggins (WH6BVZ) for all their hard work behind the scenes to do all the various tasks which keep the club going! Thanks to Kile Golden (WH7FB) for coordinating all the refreshments at our 2009 meetings. Thank you Peter Yoes (KH7HI) for coordinating Field Day. Mahalo to Fred Honnold (KH7Y), Bob Schneider (AH7J), Ron Phillips (AH6HN), Harvey Motomura (AH7JA), John Buck (KH7T), Rick Ward (WH6FC), Chris Stewart (AH6GG), and others who worked on BIARC's portion of the BIWARN VHF radio repeater system. And, finally thanks to all of the BIARC directors and every BIARC member who helped out in any way during 2009.

2010 is going to be a fun and exciting year for the BIARC club and all of it's members. Starting on January 3, 2010 Lloyd Cabral (KH6LC) and other club members will be making their radio stations available to kids to communicate via VHF and HF radio for ARRL's annual Kid's Day event. In February BIARC has been asked by Hawaii County Civil Defense to give an introduction to emergency communications for the CERT team member training that will be taking place. If you're interested in instructing see Section Manager Bob Schneider (AH6J). Also, we have received a request from Tiara Mills (WH7DJ) to assist her put on an Emergency Preparedness Course at Keaau High School. Of course in June we have the ARRL Field Day and we are looking into holding it at a new venue this year, possibly at the Campus of Kamehameha School or an equally interesting location. BIARC has been asked to provide radio communications for the first annual Volcano Forest Run which will take place on Saturday August 12, 2010 in and around Volcano Village. Of course annual events like the Big Island International Swap Meet in Waimea and the BIARC Christmas party are always fun. These and other events held throughout the year will make 2010 a great year to be a BIARC member.

There are a number of projects that will be going on this year. The number one project is to finish the repeater link to the Ocean View area. This will mean the entire Island of Hawaii is linked by VHF repeaters! You'll be able to travel anywhere on the Island and get in touch with other Hams! Another equally important project is to update the Clubs by-laws. It just needs a little tweaking to bring our club into the 21st Century. Finally there is the ongoing upkeep and maintenance on the BIWARN repeater system. This is an important and necessary job. Even if you don't have the technical skills to work on the actual repeater systems, there are many other jobs such as weed whacking, minor building repairs, antenna/coax adjustments, and others where you can volunteer your time. Talk to our repeater coordinator Ron Phillips (AH6HN) and ask how you can help.

Every Ham Radio Operator has a unique and wonderful story of how they got into ham radio. Mine is no exception. The abbreviated version (just so you know a little about your new BIARC president) is I spent just under 30 years in law enforcement with various agencies including the National Park

Service, the U.S. Customs Service, and the Fresno County CA Sheriffs Department. In my daily routines I used VHF handheld and mobile radios as part of my job. In my later management jobs in the National Park Service I was responsible for supervising law enforcement, fire, rescue, radio dispatch, and park wide radio systems. When I retired in 2005 I was looking for various volunteer work and hobbies. Since I enjoyed using radios in my professional career it seemed a natural for me to be an amateur radio operator in my retired life.

As fate would have it, I met Solomon Singer (NH7ZE) who was providing radio coverage at an aid station during the 2005/06 Volcano Wilderness Run in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Here was an impressive young Ham radio operator of 16 years of age who had his Amateur Extra Radio License. Solomon told me about BIARC, VHF repeaters, ARRL, Yaesu radios, DX'ing, CW, and much more during the race. The very next month I was attending the BIARC meeting with the then President Bill Carlson (KH7E). I was hooked after that and soon received my Technician radio license (WH7BR). A year or so later I earned my General license and I just received my Amateur Extra radio license effective December 03, 2009. My interests in ham radio are wide including VHF/UHF communications, radio repeater systems, HF SSB communications especially 20 meters, IRLP, PSK-31, RTTY, and even a little CW.

I am excited to be your 2010 Big Island Amateur Radio Club President. I know with your interest in ham radio and participation in BIARC functions, 2010 will be a year to remember. Please participate in every meeting, event, and outing you can. Especially if it involves using ham radios like on Field Day. If you have any great ideas for the club or hear of any events that club members can participate in this year please let me know. Have a great 2010 in ham radio. Remember, BIARC is your club.



Big Island Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1938
Hilo, HI 96721

www.biarc.net

Officers

President	Paul Ducasse WH7BR	985-9222
Vice President	Tom Thornton AH6ZZ	754-7412
Treasurer	Curt Knight AH6RE	966-8304
Secretary	David Broyles KH7SO	854-0362

One Year Directors

Beau Mills NH7WV	988-1271
Richard Fetchen KH6WE	982-7426
Kile Golden WH7FB	982-6782
Elizabeth Yoes WH7CU	965-5429
Chuck Epperson AH6SC	966-4698

Two Year Directors

Richard Darling AH7G	982-9126
Ron Phillips AH6HN	982-6513
Rick Frazier AH7H	985-9169
Bob Schneider AH6J	966-8146
Lloyd Cabral KH6LC	966-7782
Peter Yoes KH7HI	965-5429

Standing Committees

Service/Awards	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
Education	Harvey Motomura	AH6JA
Emergency Coord.	Vacant	
Equipment	Vacant	
Health&Welfare	Barbara Darling	NH7FY
Hospitality	Kile Golden	WH7FB
Newsletter	Curt Knight	AH6RE
Programs	Tom Thornton	AH6ZZ
Repeater	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
Webmaster	Curt Knight	AH6RE

Special Committees

Christmas Party	Committee	
Improvement	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
Field Day	Peter Yoes	KH7HI
Hamfest	Bob Schneider	AH6J
co-chair	John Buck	KH7T
QSL Bureau	Barbara Darling	NH7FY

Meetings and Get-Togethers

Membership meetings – Second 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, November).

Friday Lunches – A group meets for lunch every Friday at 11:30 at Hokulani's Steak House in the mall at Kea'au near the Post Office.

East Hawai'i Net

The East Hawai'i Net meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 8AM HST on the 146.76 MHz repeater.

BIWARN accessible Repeaters

Repeaters in bold font are BIWARN/MCDA linked. When operating over a link, remember to leave extra time each transmission for the link to be established. Number in parentheses is the tone access frequency.

145.29-	HOVE-Ka'u WH6FC (100)
146.66-	HOVE (100)
146.68-	Kea'au limited area KH6EJ
146.76-	Kulani KH6EJ
146.82-	Mauna Loa ARES KH6EJ
146.88-	Pepeekeo KH6EJ (may be linked)
146.92-	Ka'u PD KH6EJ
146.94-	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
147.02+	Haleakala Maui RACES AH6JA
147.04+	Mauna Loa RACES AH6JA
147.16+	Kona (Hualalai) WH6DEW
147.32+	Waimea Hospital NH7HI (100)
147.38+	Waimea East KH7T experimental
442.35+	Kaanapali Maui (136.5)
442.5+	Kea'au KH6EJ
443.65+	Ocean View Hub
444.225+	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
444.45+	Parker Ranch KH6EJ (88.5)



BIARC Biographies – David Robbins K1TTT

Getting started in ham radio... from KANC-4419 to N3ADQ

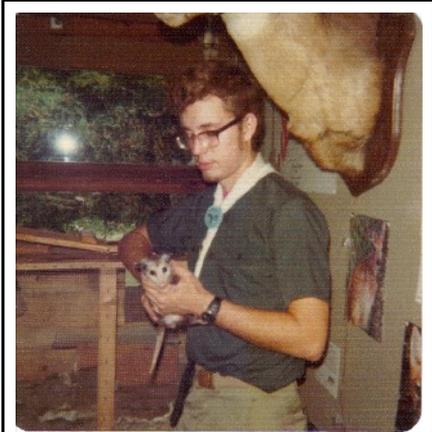
As far back as I can remember I have been interested in radio. First in listening to distant AM broadcast on a bedside radio at night when I was supposed to be asleep. And some playing with a big old console radio with a magic eye at my grandparents. Then my dad built a Heath Kit SW receiver and another Ham Band receiver. I was more interested in the all band SW receiver and would listen for stations like Radio Peking and Radio Moscow to do their English programs, as well as VOA, and a host of other SW broadcast stations. Occasionally I would stray into the Ham bands, but tuning the BFO to get that SSB stuff sounding right was tough, and it kept drifting... or was that the transmitters that were drifting? In any case I played with a little AM broadcast wireless microphone for a while, rewired a boom box to do some things it probably shouldn't have. I built a couple of my own Heath Kits like an Oscilloscope and VTVM, and someone else's

frequency counter kit. Then I got a damaged 11m HT from somewhere and fixed it up... What do you know, I could talk back to some of the locals on there. From that I upgraded to a 23 channel crystal radio, in those days they came complete with a license application. I dutifully filled it out and got KANC-4419. Then later got a mobile 40 channel SSB synthesized rig. Being interested in digital stuff I reverse engineered the PLL control codes and with a 16 switch DIP package could reprogram the radio to step up into the 'FreeBand'. For a while I collected club numbers, at one point I had about 20 of them from various 11m groups. The modified PLL would go just up into the bottom of the 10m band before it unlocked, not that I would go there, it was full of CW.

Ah yes, CW. Learned it once in the Boy Scouts, but didn't know anything about Ham Radio at the time. Learned it again when I first started playing with the Heath Kit receiver, but never got far enough to take a test. I had a curse with learning CW. I would listen to a tape and after the first pass I would have it memorized and would need another one... and there were only so many I could afford, so learning was slow. Finally in 1978 I built a desktop computer from mostly Radio Shack parts as my senior project in college. Long story, but mostly unrelated to radio... If I had only commercialized it then I would have had a race with Bill Gates for the desktop market. But mine only had 2k of RAM and an old TV for a display so probably wasn't up to the competition.

But after graduation I had a month or two of TDY at the Philadelphia Navy Recruiting Office while waiting for my Nuclear Power School class to start.... And I had a computer, and an interest in radio, and nothing else to really do. So I picked up the latest Ham license study guides and tried CW again. This time I programmed the computer to send 5 character random groups, like the books said the tests were. I could make a new tape every day at whatever speed I needed, take it into the recruiting office and practice while sitting around waiting to swear in new recruits... which was about the only thing they used new Ensigns for. The other advantage of the recruiting office was that it was right around the corner from the Federal Court House in Philadelphia where they gave the tests. So after a couple weeks I thought I had my speed up enough to pass the 13wpm

test and went in to give it a try. As soon as the tape started I was lost. It wasn't 5 character groups! By the time I figured out what was going on I had already missed too much to pass the 13wpm test. But I did brute force copy the 5wpm, which seemed dreadfully slow, but got it letter by letter and walked out having passed that and the written parts for the Technician License.



Dave K1TTT

At that time if you failed an element you had to wait 30 days to try again. I reprogrammed the computer a bit and tried copying some real QSOs over the air. A month later I went back and passed the 13wpm and written tests for Advanced Class. Shortly afterwards I packed up and headed for Florida for Nuclear Power School. After I got to Florida I spent some time bumming around on 11m waiting for the license to show up. Those were the days, I could sit on

Daytona Beach with my 12w PEP SSB signal and chat with my old friends in Pennsylvania and make them wish they were with me. Eventually the Technician, then the Advanced licenses actually caught up with me and I went in to AES which was conveniently just across from the Navy facility and buy my first 2m mobile radio, a Yaesu FT-227r, and HF rig, a Yaesu FT-301. And then of course a new custom van to replace my

grandmother's Pontiac Tempest that had gotten me through school, but wasn't going much farther than Florida. Before long the roof of the van looked like Swiss Cheese with 2m, HF, Scanner, CB, and the regular FM broadcast antennas on it. And that was my only semi-permanent station for years as I moved 6 times in 5 ½ years in the Navy before ending up here in Massachusetts...you can read about that in my book.

David Robbins K1TTT



Dave Robbins' Mother NH7FY



Kids' Day - January 3, 2010

On ARRL Kids' Day, Sunday January 3rd 2010, between 8 AM and 2 PM KH6LC will be open and available to all young people who would like to learn more about Amateur Radio and hopefully get on the air to talk to other young people. Scout troops and other small groups welcome. We have two operating positions which can operate simultaneously so we'll be able to get quite a few people on the air and have lots of fun. Experienced hams will be available to coach the new operators making their first contacts. If interest runs past 2 PM it certainly won't be a problem. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. The station is located in Hawaiian Paradise Park. Please RSVP to: Lloyd Cabral, 966-7782. Find more info at www.arrl.org/kidsday



2010 Officers and Directors



Kile Golden WH7FB - Update

Aloha.....Talked to Kile's wife Peggy for an update on Kile's condition. He was moved from Hilo Hospital today to the Yukio Okutsu VA Home. Room 151 (on the lower level). 1180 Waiuanue Ave., Hilo, HI 96720

He can not talk or swallow yet. She says that it will be okay for people to stop in as long as they realize that they can not hold a conversation with him. His bed has been lowered close to the floor in case he tries to get out of bed. Please keep him in your prayers and for Peggy too. Their son Tim is here from Las Vegas helping her out .

-Barbara NH7FY

**Big Island Amateur Radio Club
Membership Application – 2010**

Name: _____

Call Sign: _____

Please choose one address option:

Address: From FCC Database (if callsign provided above)

Use address below:

Phone _____

Cell _____

Please check one:

Newsletter by mail to address selected above

Newsletter by e-mail (1Mb typical size)

E-mail address: _____

Class of Membership:

Full (\$20) _____

Associate (no ham license) (\$10) _____

Student (\$10) _____

Family (additional member in the same household as full member)

(\$10) _____

Please consider a donation to the repeater fund: \$ _____

Contact me about these club activities:

Emergency Comm. _____

Field Day _____

Repeater committee _____

QSL Bureau operation _____

Volunteer Examiner _____

Public Service _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form with a check to BIARC, PO Box 1938, Hilo,
HI 96721-1938

Treasurer's Final Report for 2009

Income

Donations	
Hamfest	25.00
Memorial Fund	786.00
Refreshments	94.83
Repeater	390.00
Total Donations	1,295.83

Membership Dues

Associate	70.00
Family	170.00
General Membership	1,740.00
Student	20.00
Total Membership Dues	2,000.00

Total Income 3,295.83

Expense

Bank Service Charges	5.00
Dues and Subscriptions	35.00
Field Day	191.91
Insurance	
Equipment Insurance	72.00
Liability Insurance	320.00
Total Insurance	392.00

Christmas Party 102.49

PO Box Rent	96.00
Postage and Delivery	220.93
Printing and Reproduction	146.71
Total Repeater	2,728.30

Returned Check 20.00

Supplies	
Bulletin	15.49
Refreshments	113.65
Total Supplies	129.14

Total Expense 4,067.48

Net Income -771.65

Total Current Assets 1664.49

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