



## **Big Island Amateur Radio Club**

# **Newsletter - February 2011**

### **Big Island Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting of January 8, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by club president Tom Thornton AH6ZZ. Twelve of 14 board members were present.

The treasurer, Lloyd Cabral KH6LC, reported a balance of \$2,691 in the bank, plus \$100 in cash to be deposited, with one unpaid bill of \$20.

There was a brief discussion of the custody of various items of club property. The MFJ 259 SWR meter will go to Paul Agamata WH6FM. He also has custody of the Motorola service meter that he donated. Milt Nodacker AH6I has custody of the club's presentation equipment (screen and computer-linkable projector) previously donated to the club.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Field Day:**

Peter Yoes KH6HI does not want to chair Field Day 2011, and suggested that a team of three or four "medium energy" individuals could form a committee to share chair responsibilities.

## Repeater Committee:

- 1) Paul Agamata WH6FM, chair since Ron Phillips AH6HN hopefully-brief departure for California, reported that there are no special issues. However, the status of the Kalani Cone-Ka'u link is uncertain because it appears that nobody has been using it.
- 2) John Buck KH7T reported that most using are coming through with full quieting. Therefore, most of the links appear to be functioning well. However, some users are not breaking squelch well. He suggested that the net controllers for the 8 AM MWF net, although not a BIARC function, advise when signals are not coming through. Paul Agamata WH6FM noted that the net should be used to train for emergency operations, and that having good audio quality is a part of that training.
- 3) Rick Gardner WH6LU noted a need to delay speech after keying a repeater. John Buck KH7T was less concerned about such a delay, noting that speaking without delay would only result in loss of the first couple of seconds of speech.
- 4) Barbara Darling NH7FY suggested that someone write a newsletter article addressing repeater etiquette. Paul Ducasse WH7BR, Paul Agamata WH6FM, and Bob Schneider AH6J jointly agreed to write the article.
- 5) Paul Agamata WH6FM reported that there is a project underway [since done on 1/15] to replace the Mauna Loa 146.82 repeater with a Motorola Quantar repeater (with P25 digital voice capability) that he is donating, plus add a 5 GHz microwave link between Mauna Loa and his office at Suisan in Hilo. The Mauna Loa VHF repeater will be [is now] a stand-alone that can be linked via tone into BIWARN, the island's linked repeater system. To avoid depleting the power supply of the photovoltaic-powered Hualalai repeater, Hilo area ragchewers are encouraged to use the stand-alone Mauna Loa rather than the BIWARN-linked Kulani and

Pepeekeo repeaters. Should morning VHF net controllers routinely mention this request? Mauna Loa is still used as the UHF link site to connect Kulani with the Girl Scout camp at the west end of the saddle.

- 6) There was a discussion concerning the status and membership of the Repeater Committee. Although the committee does report to BIARC, it is actually a multiclub committee representing the entire island. Paul Agamata WH6FM, John Buck KH7T, Ron Phillips AH6HN, Harvey Motomura AH6JA, and Paul Lieb KH6HME all represent BIARC. Van Malan NH7IT and Dewey Proietti NH6M represent the Kona Amateur Radio Society. John Buck KH7T represents the Waimea/North Kohala areas. All of the repeater equipment on the east side of the island belongs to BIARC. Paul Agamata said that he would put together a Repeater Committee meeting and report back to BIARC next month.

Website: Curt Knight AH6RE was not present; Barbara Darling reported that the site has been updated.

Newsletter: Articles are welcome, and need to be in by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Health and Welfare: Barbara Darling NH7FY reported that Ron Phillips AH6HN was to see the doctor in California on Monday 1/10 [no further info], and was hoping to be back on the Big Island soon.

QSL Bureau: Barbara Darling NH7FY reported that there were 1,768 cards received in December, bringing the year's total to 18,325, half as many as in 2009. A total of 72,299 cards have been received since March, 2008.

Old Business: None

New Business and Announcements:

- 1) Tom Thornton AH6ZZ announced that he has

received a letter from the Ko'olau Amateur Radio Club regarding the scheduled August, 2011 Hawaii QSO Party, apparently mostly asking for promotional support. Tom said that he will coordinate for BIARC, with assistance from Rick Gardner WH6LU.

- 2) Milt Nodacker AH6I announced that the East Hawaii stake of the Latter Day Saints will be holding a preparedness fair at the stake office on Kilauea in Hilo, south of the Hilo Shopping Center, on Saturday February 19 from 9-12. This year, the fair will deal with "realistic provident" (i.e. frugal) living as well as with emergency preparedness. Milt is handling the amateur radio exhibit. Testing is scheduled for 1 p.m.

The board meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

### **Regular BIARC Club Meeting of January 8, 2011**

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:17 p.m. by club president Tom Thornton AH6ZZ. Twenty hams signed the attendance roster. The club went immediately into the scheduled program, a presentation about emergency preparedness presented by Janet Mills NH7AK. Janet is one of the coordinators for the LDS preparedness fair, and presented some of the lessons that the LDS has learned from experience about emergency preparedness. She also mentioned that preparedness supplies (food) will be available for order at the fair, to anyone, from the LDS preparedness store.

One of the most important lessons is that there needs to be TWO kinds of 72-hour emergency kits, one for the home and one for the car. The reason is that disasters often happen when people are away from their homes, and are unable to return to their homes due to the disaster itself. Actually, the 72-hour kit needs to include provisions sufficient to last for seven days, as the aftermath of Katrina showed. Two other lessons from Katrina: include mosquito coils and plastic garbage bags in your kit.

Car kits should include such items as practical shoes for

women, tee shirts to replace wet clothing, plastic emergency blankets and ponchos (both available inexpensively from Walmart), first aid kit, near term supplies of any prescription medications, baby wipes for general sanitation, deodorant/toothpaste/toothbrush, toilet paper, cigarette lighter, books/cards to combat boredom.

As part of the food and water, Janet suggested high calorie food bars that have expiration dates at least five years in the future.

John Buck KH7T mentioned the need to keep radio batteries charged. Milt Nodacker AH6I mentioned the need for a car charger that can recharge radio batteries from car batteries, plus alkaline cells that can be used with HTs.

Janet also mentioned the need to keep certain items next to one's bed for immediate use during the middle of the night, The obvious items (flashlights and shoes) were immediately mentioned. Having sat nuclear alert for the Air Force and having had to respond to middle-of-the-night practice alerts, I would have included pants on the list.

Janet then showed a 20-minute DVD prepared and distributed (without copyright, so that the DVDs can be reproduced and distributed freely) by Hawaii County Civil Defense regarding local hazards. What follows are some of the highlights:

The Big Island can expect to experience a magnitude 7.0 earthquake every 36 years, and an 8.0 every 155 years, The strongest in recorded history was the 7.9 (estimated) Ka'u earthquake of 1868, which did produce a local tsunami.

Tsunamis have caused more fatalities on the Big Island than earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods combined. Areas less than 25 feet above sea level, especially coastal plains, are vulnerable. Tsunamis can cross oceans as small waves traveling more than 500 miles per hour. They become large and damaging as they slow down, allowing the wave to concentrate itself into a massive surge. Evacuation zones have been established, well-marked with signage.

The Big Island has been struck by one hurricane, the August 9, 1871 Kohala cyclone that destroyed 150 homes. The combined effects of storm surge and tide produced a surge of 15 feet or more, flooding coastal areas and resulting in the greatest

loss of life, More routine floods occur on the Big Island an average of once every two years, often miles downstream from the heavy rain.

#### Business Meeting:

At 3:15, the meeting proceeded without a break into business. Only those items not previously included in the Board meeting minutes are included here. After introductions, it was announced that the Board would next meet just before the March meeting.

Club vice-president Milt Nodacker AH6I announced that there was a DXpedition in the Spratly Islands, using callsign DX0DX. He was starting a General upgrade class at the LDS church in Orchidland on January 12, with testing at the preparedness fair February 19. He is considering passing out a questionnaire to assist him in scheduling programs for BIARC meetings. The February program will be by Jim Sky KH6SKY about radio astronomy.

#### Old Business:

The motion was made by Barbara Darling NH7FY and seconded by John Buck KH7T that the club pay Ralph Fontaine (formerly AH6RF) the final \$1,000 owed to him for repeaters he purchased for the club. The motion passed.

#### New Business:

Lloyd Cabral KH6LC was commended by acclamation for his support of and participation in ARRLs annual Kids' Day in early January. Three kids participated at his ham shack, using both radio and Internet to talk with other kids.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Broyles KH7SO, secretary

# Big Island Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1938  
Hilo, HI 96721

[www.biarc.net](http://www.biarc.net)

## Officers

President	Tom Thornton AH6ZZ	754-7412
Vice President	Milt Nodacker AH6I	965-6471
Treasurer	Lloyd Cabral KH6LC	966-7782
Secretary	David Broyles KH7SO	854-0362

## Two Year Directors

Beau Mills NH7WV	968-1271
Richard Fetchen KH6WE	982-7426
Paul Agamata WH6FM	
Elizabeth Yoes WH7CU	965-5429
Chuck Epperson AH6SC	966-4698
Rick Gardner WH6LU	

## One Year Directors

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

## Standing Committees

Service/Awards	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
Education	Vacant	
Emergency Coord.	Paul Ducasse	WH7BR
Equipment	Lloyd Cabral	KH6LC
Health&Welfare	Barbara Darling	NH7FY
Hospitality	Barbara Darling	NH7FY
Newsletter	Curt Knight	AH6RE
Programs	Milt Nodacker	AH6I
Repeater	Paul Agamata	WH6FM
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 in each transmission for the link to be established. The number in parentheses is the tone access frequency.

<b>145.29-</b>	HOVE-Ka'u WH6FC (100)
146.66-	HOVE (100)
146.68-	Kea'au limited area KH6EJ
<b>146.76-</b>	Kulani KH6EJ
<b>146.82-</b>	Mauna Loa ARES KH6EJ
146.88-	Pepe'ekeo KH6EJ (may be linked)
<b>146.92-</b>	Ka'u PD KH6EJ
<b>146.94-</b>	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
147.02+	Haleakala Maui RACES AH6JA
147.04+	Mauna Loa RACES AH6JA
<b>147.16+</b>	Kona (Hualalai) WH6DEW (100)
<b>147.32+</b>	Waimea Hospital NH7HI (100)
<b>147.38+</b>	Waimea East KH7T experimental
<b>442.35+</b>	Ka'anapali Maui (136.5)
<b>442.5+</b>	Kea'au KH6EJ
443.40+	Ocean View KH7MS (77.0)
443.40+	Kona KH7MS (100.0)
443.65+	Ocean View Hub
<b>444.225+</b>	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
<b>444.45+</b>	Parker Ranch KH6EJ (88.5)
444.9+	Hilo WH6FM WIN system (100)
444.775+	Hilo WH6FM XO system (123)

## **February Meeting Program**

The program for the February meeting features Joe Owen, KO4RR with an account of his SO5X DXpedition to Western Sahara.

### **VE Testing Schedule**

An exam for all levels of FCC Amateur Radio license will be conducted Wednesday, February 9, 2011. The location and time will be TUTU's House, in the small conference room, at 5:30PM. The examiners will be Bob Schneider, Dale Cox, and John Buck. See alternate time below.

There is a meeting of the (Kohala Hamakua Radio Club in the same location at 7:00PM. If for some reason one of the three examiners above cannot be available, the exam will be rescheduled for approximately 8:00PM after the meeting when another examiner can join us.

All examinees are expected to have studied in preparation for the test. As usual the examination fee is \$15(cash preferred). Two forms of identification are required. One must be photo ID. Please bring pen and pencil. You need your SSN unless you have an FCC issued FRN number. Please bring any previously issued Amateur Radio License or copy of the FCC record or CSCE if you have element credit but the license has not been issued yet.

If you have a recently issued current license the FRN is printed on the front of the license. If the FRN is not on your current license, please get it online from the FCC license database. Also if you do not have a license yet, you can get an FRN online from the FCC. This FRN is used in subsequent dealings with the FCC so you do not have to put the SSN on the paper.

All persons interested in Amateur Radio are welcome to the meeting of the radio club.

Please contact John Buck KH7T 885-9718 if you wish to take the exam or if you have any questions.



A VE testing session is scheduled for Saturday, 19 February, at 1:00 PM at the LDS Church at 1373 Kilauea Avenue in Hilo. For more information contact Milt Nodacker, AH6I, 965-6471.

## **Emergency Preparedness / Self Reliance Fair**

The annual LDS Church Emergency Preparedness / Self Reliance Fair will be held Saturday, 19 February from 9:00 AM to noon (note time change) at the LDS Church at 1373 Kilauea Avenue in Hilo. There will be a presentation about the role of amateur radio in emergency preparedness. -AH6I

### **Susan Meckley W7KFI**

I have had some of the hams asking me if we had any information on Susan Meckley W7KFI. She had sailed her boat from Mexico to Hilo by herself which is quite a feat for a woman 75 years old. She spent some time here in Hilo to do some work on her boat and then went on to Honolulu. We have heard some info regarding her but all third hand. I had an E Mail from her recently and this is what she reported: "I spent some time at Rainbow/Pearl Harbor, then sailed to KH3, but had to return from there due to need for oral surgery...Did not think I would find it further south. Was riding my bike in Honolulu and got hit by a car....spent ten days in ICU at Tripler...and now over a year recuperating from the accident. Almost 100% again, so think in the spring I will depart and head south again. Now 75 years old and am getting tired..mind still wants to cruise on boat, but body is starting to rebel. Got a few published articles, two in QST, but only small "How to" ...less than one column. Small one in January issue. Give my regards and say hello to "Brunch" gang at BIARC. 73 Susan" Good luck with your sailing Susan and hopefully you will find your way back to the Big Island again. - Barbara Darling NH7FY

### **Julia Barnes**

Julia Barnes age 87, wife of Harry Barnes KH6QM (SK), died on December 24, 2010 at the Extended Care Nursing Facility in Hilo. She was an Associate member of BIARC as well as a Worthy

Matron of Hilo Eastern Star Chapter 1 and a member of the Hilo Elks Club. She is survived by daughter Sherry Arkangel of Kea'au and son Ronald Hovey of Nevada, six grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Services have already been held. -NH7FY

### **Requests for Assistance**

Amateur operators are asked to listen for the signal to verify that the recently launched NanoSail-D nanosatellite is operating. This information should be sent to the NanoSail-D dashboard at: <http://nanosaild.engr.scu.edu/dashboard.htm>. The NanoSail-D beacon signal can be found at 437.270 MHz. Check online for orbital information.

I am seeking a 40m PSK31 contact with someone in Hawaii for my last state on that band/mode. I was wondering if someone in BIARC operates 40m PSK31 and hopefully be willing to make a sked on that band. I'm available anytime, even very late here on the east coast. I need the contact and am willing to try it at anytime. 73 de Mike WB2KSK

### **ARRL Kids Day at KH6LC**

ARRL Kids Day was held on January 2, and Lloyd KH6LC opened his home and station again this year.



Big Kids: Joe KO4RR and Ken N6KB



Fathers and daughters: Pete KH7HI and Lucy on 15 meters, Beau NH7WV and Keiko on 20



Kelly KH6KM and Goran SM0DRD at KH6LC for the CQWWCW

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