



BIG ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Newsletter – February 2013

President's Message February 2013

Aloha , Our vacation got off to a rocky start when we reached Dallas on Christmas day. We no sooner arrived when the ice and snow did too. After boarding our plane for Jacksonville we were told that the plane had to be de-iced along with a million other planes. We sat at the gate for 7 hours when our turn finally came. After going out to the tarmac we were second in line when the pilot informed us that we had to go back to the gate as the crew couldn't work any more hours. They we unsuccessful in getting another crew so they ended up canceling the flight around midnight. Richard and I rented a car and ended up driving to Lake City, Florida to my daughters. The luggage, of course, went on to Jacksonville the next morning. My daughter and her husband drove over and retrieved our luggage. We were very lucky in that we had taken out insurance and the trip interruption clause covered the expense of our rental car, hotels and gas. After spending a week with my daughter we headed south, stopping in Tampa to see some cousins and then to the Ft. Meyers area to see friends where we used to live. On our way south we stopped in Alachua for a coffee break at McDonalds and met Shannon Boal K4GLM and his wife Debra KI4CVS. He is a radio technician for the Alachua County Sheriff's office where he repairs the 2 way radios. The way they knew we were hams was because we were wearing our BIARC shirts.

We arrived in Ft. Lauderdale on January 4 and boarded the ms Amsterdam the next morning. On Monday as we were sailing between Cuba and Haiti the water was quite rough and Richard and I both had to resort to taking meclizine for sea sickness. Within a half hour we were feeling fine with no more problems. Our first stop was Cartagena, Columbia, the next day through the Panama Canal where we saw the work being done on the new locks, and then on to Manta, Ecuador. We have

just completed three days in Peru ports (two in Lima and one in Pisco). We are now at sea for 4 days on our way to Easter Island. We have both been surprised at the poor living conditions in all of these ports. Lima did have some really nice areas too. It made us appreciate where we live and what we have.

There are nine passengers from the state of Hawaii, 2 Ewa Beach and 2 Honolulu on Oahu with 2 from Kona, a woman from Hilo and us from Keaau. I would say that over 90% of the passengers will be staying on the ship for the entire world cruise. Many have taken it before with some as many as 10 times.

Have been thinking about you all. Have a Happy Valentine's Day. 73 and 88 Barbara NH7FY and Richard AH7G



We are informed by Milt AH6I that within the next few weeks the Boy Scouts will have available the patch shown above to be worn on the uniform of licensed ham radio operators.



The coveted Morse Code Interpreter patch will also be available to those who qualify!

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1938

Hilo, HI 96721

www.biarc.net

Officers

President	Barbara Darling NH7FY	982-9126
Vice Pres.	Doug Wilson KH7DQ	985-7540
Treasurer	Milt Nodacker AH6I	965-6471
Secretary	Leigh Critchlow WH6DZX	930-7330

Two Year Directors

John Buck KH7T	885-9718
Tracy Desa WH6DYR	345-9717
Glenn Kadota WH6DVB	967-7126
Mary Brewer WH6DYW	985-9595
John Bush KH6DLK/V63JB	935-5500
Rick Gardner WH6LU	968-7524

One Year Directors

Richard Darling AH7G	982-9126
Steven Jacquier WH6DPM	907-350-2122
Paul Ducasse WH7BR	985-9222
Darryl Koon AH6TQ	968-7106

Standing Committees

Service/Awards	vacant	
Education	Milt Nodacker	AH6I
Emergency	Paul Ducasse	WH7BR
Equipment	Milt Nodacker	AH6I
Health&Welfare	Barbara Darling	NH7FY
Membership	Richard Darling	AH7G
Hospitality	Beau Mills	NH7WV
Newsletter	Curt Knight	AH6RE
Programs	Doug Wilson	KH7DQ
Repeater	Bob Schneider	AH6J
Webmaster	Curt Knight	AH6RE

Special Committees

Improvement	Vacant	
Field Day	Robert Oliver (969-9993)	NH6AH
Hamfest	Bob Schneider	AH6J
co-chair	Doug Wilson	KH7DQ
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 the Pizza Hut near the KTA in Puainako Shopping Center.

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.

ARES Emergency Net

Meets Saturday evening at 1900 HST on the 146.76 repeater. Backup is 146.76 simplex. All are welcome to check in.

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.

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-	Pepe'ekeo KH6EJ (may be linked)
146.92-	Ka'u PD KH6EJ
146.94-	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
147.02+	Haleakala Maui RACES KH6HPZ (103.5)
147.04+	Mauna Loa RACES KH6HPZ
147.16+	Kona (Hualalai) WH6DEW (100)
147.32+	Waimea Hospital NH7HI (100)
147.38+	Waimea East KH7T experimental
442.35+	Ka'anapali Maui (136.5)
442.5+	Kea'au KH6EJ
443.40+	Ocean View KH7MS (77.0)
443.40+	Kona KH7MS (100.0)
443.65+	Ocean View Hub
444.225+	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
444.45+	Parker Ranch KH6EJ (88.5)
444.9+	Hilo WH6FM WIN system (100)
444.775+	Hilo WH6FM XO system (123)

Your Electric Bill

Mike Last NH7JT

Last month we were instructed how to determine at what rate we are demanding power from HELCO. Let's now put this information to some useful purpose.

We are billed for how much energy we use over the course of a month's time. Very rarely would a billing month fall in line with an actual calendar month. The majority of billing would be over the course of two months; part of month "A" and part of month "B". The number of days in the billing cycle varies between 28 and 33 days.

We are not billed depending on the rate at which we use power, as large energy users are...commercial, industrial and institutional accounts. What individuals are invoiced for is the amount of energy we consumed, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). The kWh is simply power times time. If we use 1,000 watts continuously for one hour, we have consumed 1,000 watt-hours, or simply 1 kilowatt-hour. Obviously our load is never that steady or constant, it's continuously fluctuating. The electric meter sorts this all out, and at any time gives a reading of how many kWh were recorded since the meter was installed. To track how you are doing with respect to consumption (and consequently cost), we can read the meter on a particular day, and do a second reading a few days later. The difference will indicate the amount of kWh that was consumed during that time. But that's only half the story, since most folks are interested in how much they used in dollars and cents, not in kilowatt-hours.

So how does the utility calculate our residential bills? In order to perform a projected cost, we need to know both how many kilowatt-hours were consumed (see paragraph above), and what the rate at which this energy is billed, plus any other factors that go into the billing.

The HELCO rates are adjusted on a monthly basis, usually the first day of the month, and since our bill encompasses portions of two months, each billing month's usage must be calculated based on the number of billing days in each calendar month. Sounds complicated but it's not really. If you want to know exactly how this is done, have your bill handy and give me a call.

I've been told that to get the kWh rate we just divide the bill amount by the kWh shown. Sounds nice, but it's incorrect! Here are the per kilowatt hour rates for January 2013, effective January 1st.

For the first 300 kWh: 37.3611 cents each
For all kWh from 301 to 1000: 40.7129 cents each

For all kWh over 1000: 41.8121 cents

But what about the other factors that are added to the rates? When you ask someone what the cost of gasoline is; do they say \$2.85 per gallon of regular; plus so much extra for State Tax, and so much more for Federal Tax? No! They gave an overall price with everything added in. That's what the rates indicated above show...the total costs, which for your information consists of non-fuel energy, base fuel energy, demand side management adjustment, integrated resource planning, solar saver adjustment, revenue balancing adjustment, energy cost adjustment, public benefit fund adjustment, and purchase power adjustment. See why I only give a total rate value?

Keep in mind that these are the HELCO rates for residential users. If you have temporary service, the rates are higher. After you multiply the kilowatt-hours used by the rates shown, you then add \$10.50. This is the account charge (or meter charge.) It usually does not change. After all this, you have a good feel for how much your electricity will cost for January. (Remember, the actual billing will generally incorporate two different monthly rates.)

The reason why you can't just divide the bill by the kWh, is due to the customer charge. This amount (\$10.50) is a constant, and not dependent on the usage.

Just to be sure you've got the math correct;- let's calculate a bill for 666 kWhrs.

300 times 0.373611 = \$112.08

366 times 0.407129 = 149.01

Customer charge = 10.50

Total amount for 666 kWh = \$271.59

The end result is, the more you use, the higher the bill. (And the rate increases as well.)

So, what can we do to lower our electric bill?

Very simply it comes to three, and only three ways-

1. Reduce the time that a load operates;
2. Reduce the size of a load;
3. Change to a more efficient load.

Period!!

A quick explanation of each-

1. If lights are not needed, turn them off.
2. Replace a 100 watt bulb with a 60 watt one.
3. Remove an incandescent bulb and replace with a fluorescent lamp.

Bottom line: Yes, we pay a lot of money for our electricity; but aside from the \$10.50 customer charge, all the rest of the cost is for energy we **demand**ed from the utility.

Questions, comments?

Call 929-8422

de Mike NH7JT 73

VE Testing Session License Prep Class

The next VE Testing Session will be 21 February 2013 at 6:30 pm. at LDS Church, 1373 Kilauea Ave in Hilo (next to 7-Eleven).

This is for all license classes.

A General license prep class will begin 14 March, same time and location.

For information contact Milt Nodacker, AH6I, 965-6471 or
nodacker@gmail.com



ARRL Kids Day at KH6LC

While conditions actually didn't seem that good, we enjoyed a great Kids Day event at KH6LC. We were quite surprised to learn that the 7 young operators, using 3 stations on 20, 15 and 10 meters, made more contacts than ever before.



Kaylie and Carl KH7BB

324 contacts
46 states
11 countries

I'll have pictures of this year's event on the KH6LC website once I've collected them.

Thanks to all who helped make 2013 a great Kids Day event!!!

73 & Aloha,
Lloyd KH6LC
www.KH6LC.com



KH6LC and WH7XM



Ten-Ten International Net has two nets called every day except Sunday at 1800Z or 8AM HST on 28.380MHz and 28.800MHz. If you can hear them, check in. There are about 80 chapter nets that are called weekly, such as the local Aloha chapter on Monday evenings at 6:30 HST on 28.490MHz or alternately 28.487 in case of interference on the prime frequency. Call in and help keep 10 meters alive.

The 10-10 winter phone QSO Party will be held the first full weekend of February, this year February 2 and 3. It's a good opportunity to collect the contacts needed for membership. The mobile QSO Party will be held the 24 hours of the third Saturday in March, this year March 16. Fixed stations are encouraged to participate to give out points. You don't have to be a big gun to participate in these events.

More information: www.ten-ten.org .

Special Meeting Announcement

Aloha - At our last General Membership meeting held on Saturday, January 12, 2013, it was moved, seconded and approved that we have a special executive board meeting with the Repeater Committee to discuss some concerns that were raised in the informal meeting that preceded the General Membership meeting. This special meeting has been scheduled for:

Date: February 2, 2013

Place: Keaau Community Center

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Although this is a special board meeting, I'm sending this email to the membership, as many of you have expressed an interest in some of the repeater issues that were discussed. Several board members are away so I would like to encourage those board members that are here to attend this meeting so we have a quorum. Also, I encourage all members of the Repeater Committee to also attend as your input will be important to the discussion. If we don't have a quorum this will be an information and discussion meeting as was the case last Saturday. Attached is a list of some of the subjects that the membership raised at our meeting that will be discussed at this special meeting.

73 & Aloha
Doug
kh7dq

Items that are to be discussed at a special meeting of the Executive Committee and Repeater Committee as requested by the membership at their General Membership meeting held on January 12, 2013:

- 1) Identify the interference problems with the 146.76 repeater. Develop and implement solutions, including changing the frequency, that eliminates the intermittent noise.
- 2) Distribute to at least 3 BIARC members the codes that turn the repeaters on/off and develop protocols for how and under what circumstances the codes are to be used.
- 3) Locate the 146.68 portable repeater and develop guidelines for its use as a standalone repeater for emergencies and other special uses.
- 4) Re-establish a working group made up of representatives from each active ham club on the island to discuss issues of mutual interest. For example, the clubs could agree to drop a particular repeater link that is not needed for a marathon or other special event.
- 5) Other related topics as appropriate.



Matt WH7XM and Ruth (thanks KH7BB)



Dogs competed with radio for attention at Kids Day

**BIARC general membership meeting
2 p.m. Jan. 12, 2013
Keaau Community Center**

Vice President Doug Wilson, KH7DQ, convened the BIARC general membership meeting at 2 p.m. He noted that he is standing in for President Barbara Darling, NH7FY, who is enjoying a well-deserved vacation on a cruise to New Zealand with husband Richard, AH7G, a BIARC director. The Darlings will return home on March 14, so Doug is also handling the meetings in February and March.

One by one, those in attendance introduced themselves, giving their call signs. There were 26 club members and two guests.

The guest speaker, Denise Laitinen, state coordinator of Firewise Communities Hawaii, discussed this national program that is a partnership between public and private sectors. She created and ran Hawaii's program as the pilot for the entire U.S. and recently celebrated the Hawaii organization's 10th anniversary.

She showed slides of wildfires which have destroyed — and spared — homes and other structures across the state. Why some burned, and others escape unscathed, is not a mystery but a scenario of cause-and-effect. Pretty much the same variables come into play each time.

"Protect your house from fire by being 'lean, clean and green,'" she recommends. "Look at your house as fuel," and follow simple, proven rules for making it difficult for flames to reach your home. Whacking back weeds and overgrown brush, removing piles of green waste and getting rid of flammable clutter are necessary steps. Strategically and aesthetically placed surrounds of gravel, rock, stone, tile and grass are a big deterrent to fire. And so is maintaining a nonflammable roof. And, if preventive measures fail and the fire engine needs to respond, it's important to maintain a 12-foot-wide driveway with 15 feet of vertical clearance for emergency vehicles to get in and out. Also vital: two means of ingress and egress into subdivisions. Narrow and/or overgrown roads just don't do, and sometimes prevent fire engine access.

"Firewise is everybody's kuleana," she said. The huge geographical area that is the Big Island, and the small and spread-out firefighting force charged with protecting its many residents, makes it imperative that each homeowner take responsibility for making his or her own residence "firewise."

Denise distributed brochures with user-friendly info and tips. For lots more information, visit the website www.firewise.org. She is available to speak to groups

both small and large, and also offers more extensive training.

A bit of background information: The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise Communities program encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters and others in the effort to protect people and property from wildfire risks.

The program is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the US Department of the Interior, and the National Association of State Foresters.

To save lives and property from wildfire, NFPA's Firewise Communities program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses. We all have a role to play in protecting ourselves and each other from the risk of wildfire. NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training and education. Visit NFPA's website at www.nfpa.org for more information.

Following a break to enjoy an ice cream buffet provided by Janet, NH7AK, and Beau Mills, NH7WV, of the BIARC Refreshment Committee, the vice president opened the business meeting:

— Secretary's minutes: Paul Lakin, WH6DYX, moved to approve and Beau seconded the motion, with membership unanimously okaying minutes of November meeting as published in the December newsletter. There were no minutes for December, as the annual Christmas party was held instead of a formal meeting.

— Treasurer Milt Nodacker, AH6I, reported that the club has a bank balance of \$4,168.46. Of that, \$750 came in 2013, with two checks outstanding. Paid-up members to date: 30 full, 9 family and 5 associate members. There has been \$90 in recent repeater donations. Club members are encouraged to contribute to the repeater fund, because we all benefit from its use and major maintenance work is planned this year. Treasurer's report (moved, Glenn Kadota, WH6DVB; seconded, Rick Gardner, WH6LU) was unanimously approved.

— Switching hats, BIARC Education Chairman Milt reported that he has just started a new Technician licensing class, with 16 students (many of them CERT members) enrolled. The next testing session, for all levels of amateur radio licenses, will be from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, at the LDS Hilo Hawaii Stake

center at 1373 Kilauea Ave., just a short way in the Puna direction from Hilo Shopping Center. Milt said the next General level class will start March 14. He said he also has a standing invitation to teach in Waimea, and would do so if he had 6-8 solid students signed up.

— Reporting for the BIARC Equipment Committee, Milt said Scott Bosshardt, KH7SB, has returned the club's loaner HF rig, which now is being used by Cory Allen, KN6ZU. Available now are two 2-meter base transceivers. They are FM-only, and would need a power source and antenna.

— Repeater Committee Chairman Bob Schneider, AH6J, had to leave early, but the board will follow up and provide him with details of repeater discussion from informal board/membership conversation session held earlier this afternoon. (See New Business, below, for more information.)

— Website Committee: In a written report to the vice president, website Chairman Curt Knight, AH6RE, (not present) said he still needs photos of some board members to update the website listing of officers and directors.

— QSL Bureau: Chairman Joe Owen, KO4RR, reported 1,600 contacts for December, totalling 27,253 for all of 2012. Since its inception, the bureau has logged 127,713 QSL cards. He also delivered a report on the Jan. 6 Kids' Day ham event held at the home of Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC. The event drew 7 kids from ages 8-15 and 4 adults. In the six-hour stretch from 0800 to 1400, the youngsters made 324 contacts throughout 46 states and 11 countries. The group had three stations going, and Lloyd will post more details of this amazing experience on his website.

— Newsletter Committee: In another written report to Doug, Curt reminded members that the deadline for submittals is the 20th of the current month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Curt also suggested resurrecting the popular old newsletter feature called "BIARC Bios." For this monthly article, Curt would interview a member and then run a story about him/her along with a photo. Vice President Doug called for volunteers to be profiled. Paul Lakin, WH6DYX, recently retired with extra time on his hands, signed on as the first victim.

— Old Business: None.

— New Business:

Rick Gardner, WH6LU, moved that we schedule a special executive board meeting — since there wasn't a quorum for decision-making at the 1 p.m. meeting — prior to the next BIARC meeting to discuss repeater issues. Milt asked if the motion could be amended to include the BIARC Repeater Committee and Rick

agreed.

Glenn Kadota, WH6DVB, seconded the amended motion, which was unanimously approved by the membership. John Buck, KH7T, cautioned, however, that any BIARC Repeater Committee action needs to be coordinated with the other amateur radio clubs. This is because the repeater is not solely a BIARC function, due to a FEMA grant which funded the setup for wide-scale ham use, not just for BIARC, although BIARC was assigned to oversee the repeater. To qualify for the grant, 501(c)7 nonprofit status (which BIARC has) was needed. A multi-club repeater group used to meet fairly regularly, but hasn't for several years.

VP Doug said he will schedule a special executive board/repeater committee meeting to concentrate on repeater issues brought up at the earlier informal board session. He then will report back to the membership.

Here are the items to be discussed at the special meeting of the BIARC Executive Committee and Repeater Committee as requested by the membership:

1) Identify the interference problems with the 146.76 repeater. Develop and implement solutions, including changing the frequency, that eliminates the intermittent noise.

2) Distribute to at least 3 BIARC members the codes that turn the repeaters on/off and develop proto calls for how and under what circumstances the codes are to be used.

3) Locate the 146.68 portable repeater and develop guidelines for its use as a standalone repeater for emergencies and other special uses.

4) Re-establish a working group made up of representatives from each active ham club on the island to discuss issues of mutual interest. For example, the clubs could agree to drop a particular repeater link that is not needed for a marathon or other special event.

5) Other related topics as appropriate.

— Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow
BIARC secretary