

Big Island Amateur Radio Club Newsletter – March 2011

Big Island Amateur Radio Club Regular Meeting of February 12, 2011

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by club president Tom Thornton AH6ZZ, at the usual meeting place, the Kea'au Community Center. No board meeting was held. The next board meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on March 12, also at the Kea'au Community Center, just prior to the scheduled regular meeting at 2:00.

Twenty-nine hams were present, including four from the Mainland. Four others were also present. After introductions, the meeting proceeded with the scheduled program.

Joe Owen KO4RR presented his program about the April, 2003 DXpedition to Western Sahara. Western Sahara having been a former Spanish colony, Spanish hams planned the DXpedition. Joe was asked to join at the last minute, on Thursday before a Sunday departure. He flew to Spain, where he joined the others. The group then traveled to Algeria; from Algeria to Mauritania; from Mauritania to Morocco; and finally to Western Sahara. The complicated route resulted from the even more complicated status of Western Sahara.

At the time of the DXpedition, Western Sahara had exactly

one licensed ham. In part, this was because few of the citizens of Western Sahara actually lived in Western Sahara. Nearly all, including the nation's government, were living in exile/refuge in southern Algeria. After Western Sahara received its independence, both Mauritania and Morocco claimed portions of the new nation, essentially partitioning the nation between the two of them. The Western Saharan government did manage to retain control of a few small military outposts. The DXpedition operated from one of these outposts.

Superhighways in Western Sahara usually consist of two ruts, unmarked by road signs, and likely to blow away in the next sandstorm. GPS consists of finding the nearest nomadic camp and asking for directions. After nine hours of vigorous jolting in the back of four-wheel-drive vehicles (and with the assistance of a nomadic camp that could point in the right general direction), they arrived at their military post. Joe described the entire six-day DXpedition as “more fun after the fact than at the time”. Joe presented a DVD video of his experience, but failed to bring samples of the camel and goat meat that they ate. Their best meal was of spaghetti, purchased from a nearby camp of UN peacekeepers, and prepared by an Italian ham.

The group had brought everything with them, except for the “memorable” plumbing they found on site. They put four stations into a small, sound-resounding room where the headset-ensconced hams could hear everything except the generator and each other. Antennas: tribander, two element 12/17 meter, 80/160 wire, six meter beam. Total of 36,000 QSOs, both sideband and CW.

Their most memorable side trip was to nearby cave (actually cliff overhang) paintings that are believed to be the second oldest in the world. But not exactly on the beaten path of tourism. The paintings are believed to be 20k-25k years old; they show animals that would have lived there before the region became arid, and were actually quite naturalistic. Also present: human handprints believed to be even older than the paintings. I construe this to mean that the oldest form of human painted art was graffiti.

After a brief discussion of the new \$1,995 HF amplifier that Elecraft is testing prior to beginning production, the meeting broke for refreshments at 3:10. The meeting resumed at 3:25, with a promise that the business portion of the meeting would not exceed 15 minutes. It did, but not by much. Vice-president Milt Nodacker AH6I began by noting that the ham licensing classes he is teaching are an LDS (Mormon) activity, not a BIARC activity. He also announced that there would be testing at the LDS' annual Self-Reliance Fair at the Kilauea Ave. LDS stake headquarters on February 19. Five of eight Technicians who were testing for General passed and are now HF-qualified. Congratulations!

The secretary's minutes were accepted as printed in the bulletin.

Treasurer Lloyd Cabral KH6LC stated that the club had \$2,848.08 on hand in checking account, plus \$220 cash in hand. Outstanding expenses included Barbara Darling NH7FY for newsletters and postage, \$197 yet to be paid for insurance, and \$500 [should be \$1000? -Ed] that the club had previously voted be paid to Ralph Fontaine, formerly AH6RF, for repeaters he had purchased for the club. This will be the final payment for his purchases. Lloyd will prepare a more complete report for newsletter publication, and for acceptance at the March meeting.

Committee Reports:

QSL Bureau:

Barbara Darling had already left the meeting to attend a wedding. It was reported in her behalf that 998 cards had been received in January. This did not include the 8,000 [Barbara says 2000 -Ed] rare Japanese cards subsequently received directly from Japan.

Health and Welfare: No report; Barbara Darling gone.

Repeater committee:

Paul Agamata WH6FM reported that the new Motorola Quantar repeater on Mauna Loa (146.82, PL tone 100) is operating at 80 watts and is linked to his home via 5 GHz microwave that he has donated. No longer linked to

BIWARN, it can be remotely linked should the need arise. Instead, the Mauna Loa repeater is now a part of the California-based, mostly-Internet-linked WIN system. WIN consists of 73 repeaters located in 18 states and four foreign countries, and is therefore much less local than Mauna Loa recently was. WIN uses the Asterisk VOIP (voice over Internet protocol). Paul's home repeater (444.725 PL 123.0) is usually WIN-linked also, but may be unlinked occasionally (unannounced) for purely local use. Hawaii hams are welcome to join WIN's "Insomniac Net" at 9 pm. local (DST Mainland?), which usually lasts for about an hour. Also, there is a problem with the Kulani repeater, likely grounding.

Section Manager:

Section Manager Bob Schneider AH6J reported that there are plans to link the Mauna Kea repeater with Oahu, but that this link is not yet up and working. FEMA will replace the Red Cross as amateur radio's liaison with the Institute for Astronomy, the astronomically-motivated "gods of the mountain". Bob recently attended a FEMA meeting at Ft. Shafter on Oahu to discuss communications preparations for next fall's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to be held on Oahu next fall, and that will include several national leaders.

Bob also discussed a recent incident that occurred when he attended a meeting of the South Point Amateur Radio Club. A distraught dog owner approached the club after her dog was attacked by a pack of wild (or hunting) dogs on a nearby trail. The dog was found two hours later, beneath the owner's pickup truck; with puncture wounds, frightened but otherwise okay. After learning of the attack, the hams grabbed their HTs and went searching. Cellular service was unavailable in that area. Unfortunately, Bob had forgotten to take his. The lesson: Carry your HT. You never know when (or why) you will need it.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Broyles KH7SO, secretary

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

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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.

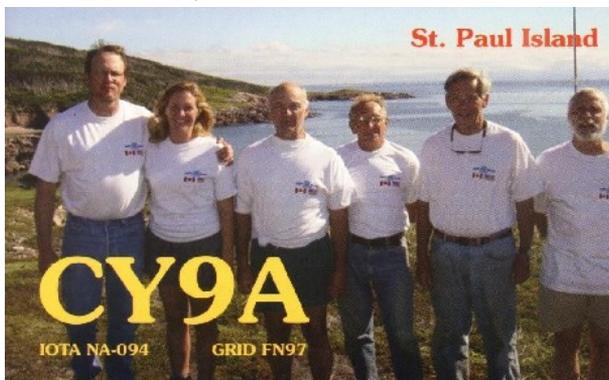
BIWARN accessible Repeaters

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.

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 AH6JA
147.04+	Mauna Loa RACES AH6JA
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)

March Meeting Program

The March program will feature Joe Owen, KO4RR, with a report on his dxpedition to CY9A, Saint Paul Island.



VE Testing Report

Technicians upgrading to General on 19 February:

Matt Rippa, KD7AJM

Steven Jacquier, WH6DPM

Marvin Kitchen, WH6DPO

Brent Watson, WH6DPP

Shirley Watson, WH6DPQ

Congratulations to all and thanks to all of the VEs who helped:

Bob Schneider, AH6J, Team Leader

Tom Thornton, AH6ZZ

Victoria Owen, N4WV

Joe Owen, KO4RR

Dave Broyles, KH7SO

Milt Nodacker, AH6I

License Class Announcement

The next Technician class will be on Thursday evenings beginning 14 April. Location is yet to be determined, but will be Hilo or Pahoehoe. The test will be the end of May or first week of June. Contact Milt, AH6I, for more information and updates. 965-6471.

ARRL DX Contest at KH6LC

The contest took place over last weekend, the 19th and 20th of February. Operators for the multi-operator multi-transmitter entry were KH6LC, NH6V, AH6RE, KH7Y, KH6KM, W6NV, N6DA, N6KB, and W6SC.

Band summary and claimed score:

Band	QSOs	Mults (states/provinces)
160:	448	52
80:	1072	60
40:	1665	59
20:	1623	58
15:	1740	59
10:	755	48

Total:	7303	336
Total Score = 7,360,416		

135 stations were worked on all six bands, confirming the impression that conditions were very good in spite of the scare from a massive solar coronal mass ejection event only a couple of days before.



Fred KH7Y operating 15 meters at KH6LC in the ARRL DX

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