



Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter – April 2010

President's Message – April 2010

Spring has sprung! Time to dust off the old HF Ham rig and string your homemade dipole antenna between a couple of trees and get on the air! Whether it's DXing, Contesting, or just plain rag-chewing it's great to get on the air! There are quite a number of National and International DX contests that take place every spring. There is a list of upcoming contests in every QST magazine and as well as the web site

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>. Hope to hear you on the air working those DX contacts and getting your skills up for Field Day in June.

This months "Presidents Message" is going to be short as our BIARC newsletter editor Curt Knight (AH6RE) assures me that there are a whole bunch of articles to fill this month's edition. Thanks Curt for all your hard work! So I look forward to seeing you at the BIARC meeting on Saturday April 10th! 73 and Aloha,

Paul Ducasse
BIARC President 2010

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1938
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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	968-1271
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 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)

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Regular Monthly Meeting of March 13, 2010

Monthly meeting, held at the Kea'au Community Center, was called to order by BIARC president Paul Ducasse WH7BR at 2:10 p.m. Meeting used the portable PA system donated to the club by Lloyd Cabral KH6LC. The sign-in sheet was signed by 23 adults and 2 children, including 21 hams and one aspiring ham. Introductions followed.

Programs for the following months were discussed prior to beginning the March program. The April program will be Civil Defense communications, presented by Bill Hansen of Hawaii County Civil Defense, assisted by Bob Schneider AH6J and Harvey Motomura AH6JA. Dave Johnson WB4JTT will present the May program, concerning his trip to Midway Island. June will be the planning meeting for Field Day. In September, the program will be presented by our Russian ham visitor, Oleg Borodin RV3GM, who is a founder of the Russian QRP Club.

The Program:

The program, concerning solar radio astronomy, began at 2:25, presented by Bill Sky KH6SKY, formerly K4SKY. Bill actually enjoys listening to solar events that disrupt amateur radio communications. He has offered free listening software to any Big Island ham who wishes to join him in listening. His website is <http://radiosky.com>, e-mail radiosky@radiosky.com.

Bill became interested in radio astronomy during the mid-1980s. He was first interested in SETI (Searching for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), but then shifted his interest toward natural astronomical radio emissions. He has assisted NASA with the Listening to Jupiter program.

When the sun is quiet, it is essentially a "black body" radiator that radiates at all frequencies, some of which are absorbed by our atmosphere. There are several situations during which the sun becomes more active. Sunspots, beneficial for sky wave HF communications, are cooler spots (typically 4000K

rather than the 6000K normal) typically averaging one earth diameter in size. They are places where the sun's magnetic field has formed twisted structures.

Sunspots do not inevitably follow the 11-year cycle to which hams have become accustomed. The Maunder Minimum (1640-1700) was a suspension of the cycle, with very few sunspots. It was also known as the "Little Ice Age" because of its cooler-than-normal temperatures and greater cloud cover. The reason why there may be a correspondence between sunspot cycles and earth climate are unknown.

When the sun gets really active, we can have coronal mass ejections traveling at one solar diameter per hour. When these ejections reach the earth's atmosphere, we can have magnetic storms, with aurora visible far south of usual visibility. Solar flares can be bursts from the surface of the sun, and can be sudden and brief, or can last for days at a time. They can be heard on HF through VHF, and produce noisy sky wave communications. X-ray flares can completely halt radio communications for several minutes, followed by reduced communications for the next several hours.

The quiet sun can be heard at UHF and microwave frequencies, solar flares at HF through VHF, and x-ray flares at VLF frequencies.

Business meeting:

After recess for refreshments, the meeting resumed at 3:10. Secretary's minutes for the February meeting were approved as printed in the March bulletin. Treasurer Curt Knight AH6RE reported that the club has \$2,175.73, with 70 paid members of all categories for 2010. Committee reports followed.

Repeater Committee:

- 1) Receipt of major donation: Paul Agamata WH6FM has donated a Motorola 2010 service monitor, purchased from Fred Honnold KH7Y. This will be very useful for servicing and calibrating repeaters.

- 2) Naalehu repeater still has some problems. Needs to be rebuilt and possibly relocated.
- 3) New Mauna Kea repeater has been installed. BIARC is authorized two hours of use per week during nonemergency times, with unlimited use in case of emergency. Club needs to purchase a UHF antenna for the link, and install 10-20 feet of hardline.
- 4) Club portable repeater, which had been installed temporarily on Mauna Kea, will be relocated to become a stand-alone repeater in lower Puna.

QSL Bureau: Barbara Darling NH7FY reported that the Hawaii QSL bureau received only 216 cards in February, for a total of 1216 so far this year. Also, ARRL has approved local discarding of bureau QSL cards that hams refuse to accept.

Civil Defense: Hawaii County Civil Defense held a radio communications exercise on Saturday, Feb 27, including ham participation. Bob Schneider AH6J and Harvey Motomura AH6JA participated in behalf of amateur radio at Civil Defense headquarters. Robert Oliver NH6AH participated at Hilo Medical Center. Paul Ducasse WH7BR participated as representative of the Civil Air Patrol. John Buck KH7T commented that this had been the most successful Big Island test that he had ever monitored. Radio discipline was excellent.

Health and Welfare: Thankfully, there are no BIARC members presently in the hospital. Annette Miller, widow of long-time ham and former BIARC president Eddie Miller, passed away on March 2. Gloria Whitely, widow of Les Whitely and presently at Life Care Center, had a bad week due to a cold. Kile Golden WH7FB, presently at the Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home, is recovering from his stroke and doing well. He is now eating regular food and is expected to take his first few steps within the next week. Norman Paik NH7CT broke his lower leg in a fall on a stairway at home, and has been released from the hospital. .

New Business:

VOAD (Volunteers Organizations Active in Disasters) dues are due in Honolulu. Bob Schneider AH6J recommended that the dues be paid. It should be noted that the new Mauna Kea repeater was paid for by VOAD.

Ron Phillips AH6HN reported that members who had not paid their dues by March 31 would be dropped from the roster.

There will be a board meeting at 1:00 p.m. before the April meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Broyles KH7SO, secretary



Eddie Miller W7GMH (1920 - 2009)

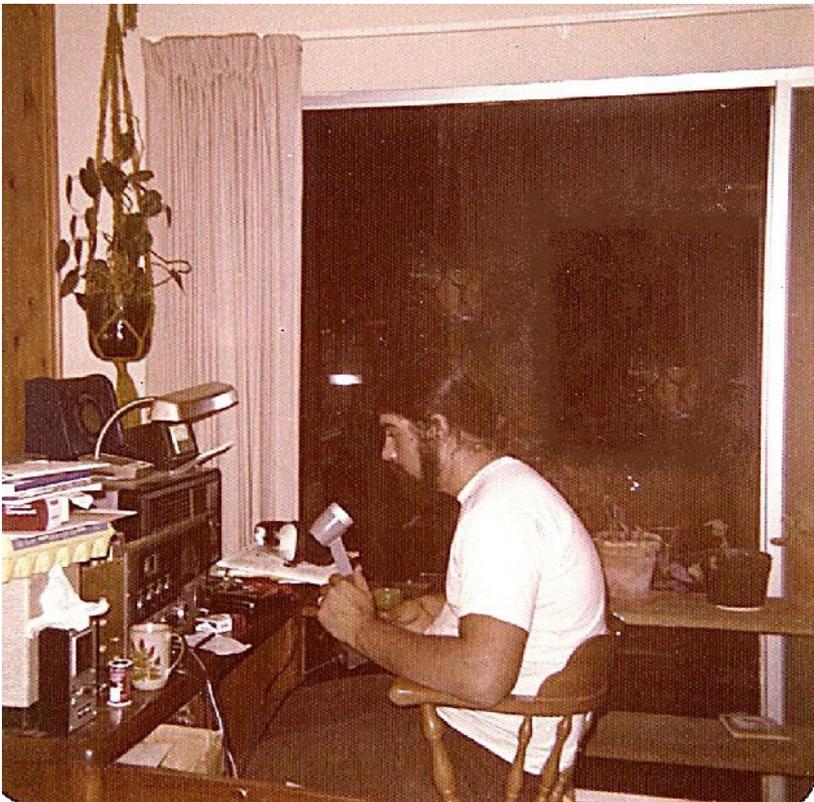


Annette Amanda Miller (1929 - 2010)

Annette Miller was born on May 20, 1929 and died on March 2, 2010 at the Yukio Okutsu State VA Home in Hilo, Hawaii. She had been a resident there since April, 2009. She was married to Eddie W7GMH who passed away almost exactly a year ago on March 4, 2009. Ann and Eddie were married for 59 years. Ann has been cremated and will be buried with her beloved Eddie at the Veteran's Cemetery in Hilo. She had requested no memorial or funeral service. She and Eddie had lived in Hawaiian Paradise Park for 20 years and had belonged to the Big Island Amateur Radio Club for many years. Before moving to the Big Island, Ann had been employed by Montgomery Ward as a bookkeeper for 30 years. Ann had some distant cousins on the mainland, but considered Eddie's niece Debbie Deane of Vancouver, Washington and Eddie's brother Ray and his wife Martha from Albany, Oregon as her closest family. Ann was a very quiet and sincere person who loved her dogs and delighted in feeding the

birds. She brought pictures in to lunch of her feeding the white dove in her yard and at the VA Home went to the garden to feed the wild birds. They soon learned to look for her. She also had a toy chicken that she brought to lunch, which played and wildly danced the Chicken Dance. When she died we found that she had three of them in her room. The one that was fastened to her wheelchair we left for the VA home to share with others and the other two were given to Kelly McGrew, Eddie's closest friend, and Jack Sanders, who got a kick out of its antics when Ann brought it to lunch. Ann will be missed by all of us.

Barbara Darling NH7FY



Lloyd Cabral WB6TRR in about 1972

BIARC Biographies – Lloyd Cabral KH6LC

My first awareness that "something radio" was stirring inside of me was during my elementary school years in Niles California. Across the street from the school was a radio tower and antennas. I didn't know what it was for but I was very curious and enjoyed looking at it from across the schoolyard. What I lacked was the nerve to walk up and knock on the door. The fact that one of the cutest girls in my class lived there probably had a lot to do with my hesitation.

I grew up in a farming/ranching family in a SF-East Bay community that would eventually become part of Fremont. My dad was supportive of my interest in radio, allowing me to buy small kits and bits from the Lafayette and Allied catalogs. I first became aware of Ham Radio listening to neighbor Ivan Fox's Hallicrafters S-77 receiver which he used to listen to the ballgames. I was drawn to the receiver and soon discovered little black areas on the dial marked AMATEUR. I started listening to his old receiver every chance I had. Most hams were still using AM in those days. Like any curious youngster, I started reading anything I could get my hands on relating to electronics and radio. Things really progressed when the old Hallicrafters died and Mr Fox offered me the relic. I jumped at the offer and the fix turned out to be a new ballast tube. Now I had my own receiver. I found an article in Popular Electronics on building a 10 watt 40 meter transmitter using mostly parts from an old TV. Perfect. Between finding an old TV to cannibalize and my Lafayette and Allied catalogs, I was able to build the simple crystal controlled 6L6 oscillator rig for 40 meters. A wire antenna sprung up outside. At this point I still knew no hams nor had a license.

Everything changed the summer day I heard a young kid about my age on the radio. His name was "Bob" and his callsign was WB6OKE. "Bob" was in High School, a few years older than me and lived in nearby Mission San Jose. The Junior High I was going to be attending that September was right next to the High School where "Bob" was going to be. Believe me, I couldn't wait for that school year to start. One day after school I walked up to the adjoining High School and went straight to the Electronics Room. There I found the instructor Jason Maloney, who soon

introduced me to "Bob". Mr Maloney wasn't a ham...something about learning the code... but he was very supportive and a cool guy.

"Bob" turned out to be Robert Harris and my Elmer. I couldn't have asked for a better one. Bob was brilliant and built some of the finest homebrew AM, FM and SSB rigs I've ever seen. Now hooked up with Bob and Mr Maloney, I was on the right path. I soon had my novice ticket WN6TRR and was on the air. Soon after, I had to convince my folks of the need to miss a day of school to go to SF and take the FCC General exam. The day I passed my General I celebrated by going to Amrad Electronics in SF and buying a used Viking II. The price was \$49.00 and it took every dollar in my wallet and all the change in our pockets to get even close to the \$49 dollar asking price. In the end, I walked out the door with my "new" rig. While dealing for the transmitter, we forgot all about the bridge toll required to get across SF Bay and home. Thank goodness we had a full tank of gas as we had to drive way south towards San Jose to get home.

The old Viking II served me for many years alongside a beautiful Hallicrafters SX-28A. I spent every waking moment on 80, 40 and 20 meter AM phone. Fast forwarding to adulthood allows me to conveniently skip over all the illicit details of growing up during the 60's in the SF Bay Area. Ohlone College kept me out of Vietnam. Afterwards I went to work for PG&E General Construction, building steel high voltage towers from the Tehachapis to the Oregon border. That lasted a few years before I quit and went to work for Pacific Bell in Santa Cruz in early 1972. Something about wanting to own a home and sleeping in my own bed at night. Now in Santa Cruz, I soon met hams who would become lifelong friends. Dave Rowley WA6UZA /N6RZ, now a SK, was my mentor into CW Contesting and Dxing. Notice I said CW Contesting. Up until meeting Dave, I was strictly a Phone guy. Dave changed all that when he said if I wanted to play radio with him and his friends I had to ramp up my CW skills, which at that point were practically nil. So I did. I couldn't have asked for a better mentor. He was tough, the learning curve steep and painful at times but I learned a lot about serious contesting from him. Through Dave I joined the NCCC which during the early 70's was a young, fun and exciting group to be a part of. Operating at

Dave's QTH was my first chance to use large HF antennas that really worked well. Around that time I started looking for a decent QTH and in 1977 bought a few ridge top acres in southern Santa Cruz County near Corralitos. I built a modest home and then started building a station. My call sign changed to AA6T about that time and I became quite active in HF Contesting in the late 70's through the 80's.

The antennas consisted of 3 towers with monobanders 40 through 10 with wires for 80 and 160. I also went through a lengthy period of collecting and operating vintage tube gear. I think I've owned or used just about every piece of decent tube gear made by Collins, Hammarlund, Johnson, Central Electronics, Drake and WRL among others. It was fun to use and look at but it made little sense to have a small fortune tied up in gear you really couldn't use. A divorce and California's Community Property laws will sometimes make you see things that way!!!

After a 32 year career with Pacific Bell and with a divorce behind me it was time to start thinking about making a few changes. I have many friends and a retired co-worker who had moved to the Big Island so it seemed like a logical place to check out. I came, I saw, I liked it, I stayed. I won't bore you with the details of the situation today, all of which is well documented on my QRZ page and my website: www.KH6LC.com Of the Contesting I've done since becoming active out here, the Contest Crew is most proud of having the KH6LC contest operation chosen as one of two stations representing the State of Hawaii in the 2009 IARU Radiosport Contest, celebrating Hawaii's 50th Anniversary into Statehood. The other being the KH6YY/KH7X group on Oahu. This entire crew feels quite honored. Aside from that, using KH6LC on KidsDay was lots of fun, personally very rewarding and hopefully beneficial to the long term survival of our hobby.

A longtime interest of mine has been vintage motorcycles, especially the old BMW and Ducati models. I've restored several old Airhead BMW twins. I keep a couple of bikes on the mainland and go over as often as possible for a dose of long distance riding. Another hobby that kept me occupied for the better part of 10 years was road racing a 1965 Lotus Super Seven up and down the west coast. Road racing was fun, I learned a lot and met

a bunch of wonderful people who are equally passionate about their hobby.

For a kid raised on a farm, it's not too far fetched to say my early exposure to ham radio led to many life forming factors. It directly led to a lengthy career in electronics, countless friends and travel around the world. Who could ask for more from a hobby?



ARRL DX CW at KH6LC

The ARRL International DX contest, CW division, was held on the weekend of the 20th and 21st of February. Lloyd KH6LC has been upgrading his station and the installation of the third tower and its stack of tri-band Yagis was completed just in time. Lloyd decided to try a multi-operator multi-transmitter operation for the first time, and he organized a crew of 9 operators, who came from as far away as Colorado to operate the contest here in Hawaii. Four stations were laid on to provide the capacity for continuous operation on all bands open to the mainland from 160 through 10 meters.

One station, consisting of Ken N6KB's Ten Tec transceiver and amplifier, was dedicated exclusively to 160 meters. This station used one of the towers as a vertical transmitting antenna, and had a Beverage type receiving antenna. A second station, used primarily on 10 meters but capable of being switched to 20 meters, was connected to the new stacked beams on the third tower. This station used a K3 transceiver along with an amplifier. The third station, using an FT1000D and amplifier, was dedicated to 40 and 15 meters, and the fourth station, using another FT1000D and amplifier, was dedicated to 80 and 20 meters.

The object of the ARRL DX Contest is for stations in Canada and the US Mainland to work as many DX stations as possible, and vice versa. The final score for a DX station (Hawaii and Alaska are DX in this contest) is 3 points for each contact multiplied by a factor which is basically the sum of the number of states and provinces worked on each band. The summary of results for KH6LC was:

Band	QSOs	Mults	
160:	438	57	
80:	838	59	
40:	1540	59	
20:	1506	59	
15:	2020	60	
10:	374	41	
Total:	6716	335	Total Score = 6,744,555

As the summary indicates, contacts were made on all bands, and in fact 78 stations were worked on all six bands. It appears from looking at the online score reporting site that there was activity in only 60 of the possible states and provinces. Judging from the online information, it was possible to work all 60 multipliers on 40, 20, and 15 meters but not on 80 or 160. So KH6LC did very nearly as well as possible in multipliers. 10 meters opened only sporadically and the QSO and multiplier total on that band suffered in comparison with the totals from stations in the Caribbean, for example, who had a good 10 meter opening.



ARRL DX CW Operators at KH6LC. Standing from left to right: Oliver W6NV, Jim W6SC, Curt AH6RE, Lloyd KH6LC, Rob NH6V, Ken N6KB. Sitting: Alan K0AV, Fred KH7Y, Don N6DA.

*From Russia with Love!
Oleg & Olga*



Oleg RV3GM and Olga RA3GKB

Radio Club 72

Edited by Dean Manley KH6B and Barbara Darling NH7FY

Club 72 was organized by founder of Amateur Radio "72" code Oleg Borodin RV3GM (Mr. 72). This is the International private elite Club uniting all "72" code users in the World. Since the code used by QRP operators Club "72" is actually a QRP Club devoted to promotion of Low Power Amateur Radio Communication in the World.

There are three membership stages: Associate, True and Honor.

Everybody using the 72 code QRP can be a Club 72 Associate Member. No voting rights, nor office holding duties for Associate Members. True membership (Legion) is free of charge. To become a True Member (Legionnaire) you must send an application form. Member's Certificate will be returned to your e-mail for printing yourself. Honor membership (Guards) pay an entrance fee of \$75

(once for life). Each Honor Member (Guardisman) is awarded a personal member's number Certificate signed by "Mr. 72" (paper in frame) and special T-shirt with Club logo. To become an Honor Member (Guardisman) send an application form. The payment details will be returned to your e-mail. Certificate and T-shirt will be sent by Priority Air Mail International parcel.

True and Honor Members (Legionaries and Guardsmen) have an exclusive right to use Club 72 logo on QSL-cards, hats, T-shirts, any clothes or things for personal use only. Their call signs are added to Club Member's List. All Club Awards and Trophies are free for Honor Members (Guardsmen).

Any way, True or Honor Member (Legionnaire or Guardsman) title may be awarded free of charge to anybody who introduces a great contribution in a World QRP Activity.

An overall objective of Club 72 is encouraging the QRP activity in the World. The Club is a sponsor of an annual June 17 International QRP Activity Day (IQAD). This is not a Contest but activity on QRP frequencies only. There are no full logs but a short declaration only sending to check-point. See details at Club 72 Web page.

Also, Club 72 is a prize sponsor of the WW 72 QRP Net. It takes place daily at 10 UTC on 14060 kHz. Call "CQ 72 QRP" and add WW-locator to QTH info during the Net. The activities WW 72 Net participants will be awarded with Club gifts annually.

There are some QRP rating tables at the Club 72 page: QRP Countries, 2-way QRP Countries, QRP Sectors'n'Grids, 2-way QRP Sectors'n'Grids. All activity ratings users will be awarded with Club 72 prizes. The Club prepares an unusual award program devoted to popularization of WW-locators exchange between all QRPers

I invite all QRPers to visit Club 72 Web page – www.club72.su 72 and see you all at QRP freq's!

Oleg Borodin "Mr. 72" RV3GM

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

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