



## **Big Island Amateur Radio Club Newsletter – April 2011**

### **Coming Meetings and Events**

The April meeting will be April 9 at the usual place, the Kea'au Community Center. The 2:00 meeting will be preceded by a 1:00 board meeting. BIARC president Tom Thornton AH6ZZ has requested that all committee chairs attend board meetings. The program for the 2:00 general meeting will be about radio astronomy, presented by Jim Sky KH6SKY and Ted Brattstrom NH6YK.

The May meeting on May 14 will NOT be held at the Kea'au Community Center. The building has been reserved for that date. Tentatively, the meeting will be held at the Puna Covenant Church, formerly the Puna Congregational Church. The church is located a quarter mile mauka of the Kea'au Community Center, on the same road as McDonald's and the fire station. The program will be by Darryl Koon, director of the Mauna Loa Solar Observatory, located at 11,000 feet. He will discuss solar flares, sunspots, and other solar phenomena relevant to HF propagation. He has invited club members to tour his facility, in groups no larger than ten.

Milt Nodacker AH6I announced that the Pahoa ward of the LDS (Mormon) church will hold a preparedness fair at the Orchidland LDS church, from 9 a.m. to noon on April 9. This will be very similar to the LDS fair held on Kilauea Ave. in February.

Milt also announced that he will be conducting a six week Technician class on Thursday evenings at the Kilauea Ave. LDS church, starting April 14 and ending May 26, skipping May 12. He plans to test on May 28 at the Kilauea Ave. LDS church. Once again, the class is a project of the LDS, not of BIARC.

Field Day will be held June 25-26. Robert Oliver NH6AH has offered to chair Field Day, and is looking for volunteers. Call him at 969-9993 to volunteer. He has reserved the Wailoa Art Center, home to numerous past Field Days. Center management has advised him to obtain State camping permits for those who wish to remain overnight. If you wish to remain overnight, coordinate with Robert.

### **Big Island Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting of March 12, 2011**

The board meeting was called to order at 1:15 by club president Tom Thornton AH6ZZ. Ten of 15 board members were present.

The secretary's minutes for February were approved as published. There was no treasurer's report, the treasurer being absent. Tom Thornton later announced that the secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report will be held for the regular meeting in subsequent months, along with Health and Welfare and QSL Bureau. Board meetings will be used primarily to discuss and (hopefully) resolve problems and issues.

#### **Repeater Committee:**

- 1) Paul Agamata, WH6FM chair of the island-wide Repeater Committee, announced that the Ka'u VHF repeater located at the Naalehu police station is down, as is the UHF link with the Kulani repeater. There have been no Repeater Committee meetings since the last BIARC meeting.
- 2) Pursuant to the Civil Defense tsunami warning March 11-12, Tom Thornton and Bob Schneider AH6J spent

the night manning the amateur radio station at Hawaii County Civil Defense's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). They reported heavy intermod on VHF repeater frequencies. They were able to detect mixing by two transmitters, but were unable to determine which ones. As a result, they were unable to maintain contact with State of Hawaii Civil Defense on Oahu, via the interconnected RACES repeater system. The Mauna Loa 147.04 repeater is the linked repeater for the Hilo area. It was suggested that amateur radio at the EOC use UHF rather than VHF, thereby escaping the intermod. Unfortunately, the present radio is VHF only. [Hawaii County police and fire are under FCC mandate to change their frequency bands, which may ultimately resolve the intermod issue.]

3) There was also some discussion of the VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) repeater on Mauna Kea. Bob Schneider reports that Civil Defense has become the new liaison with the Institute for Astronomy, owner of the mountaintop, replacing the American Red Cross. The repeater is authorized to be operational anytime that the governor has declared an emergency. Because the tsunami emergency declaration was still in effect, the repeater was still operating. He also reported that there had been excellent contact between the Mauna Kea repeater and a station near Diamond Head on Oahu with full quieting in both directions. Diamond Head is headquarters for State of Hawaii Civil Defense. However, there were complaints that the UHF control link (446.72 simplex) has low sensitivity. Paul Agamata suggested replacing the Mauna Kea repeater with a commercial (rather than an amateur) unit.

4) There was considerable discussion of the mission of amateur radio within Hawaii County Civil Defense. Several persons sensed a confused, poorly defined role. Some thought that the primary role was to disseminate information, as had been the case after the 2006 earthquake when nearly all of the island's commercial radio stations went off the air. Since then, Civil Defense has obtained emergency generators for several of the

commercial transmitter sites. However, nearly all are relying on Internet connections between the studios and their transmitters. Internet connections could easily go down during an emergency. Since 2006, Civil Defense has emphasized creation of volunteer, community-based Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Is our primary role now to handle communications with them? In the tsunami emergency, CERT teams relied almost entirely on cellular phones, Tom Thornton will get with Paul Ducasse WH7BR, BIARC emergency communications chair, to discuss the Civil Defense mission of amateur radio

#### Health and Welfare:

Barbara Darling NH7FY reported that Herb Vanderbeek WY6G, age 90, fell at home and pinched lumbar nerves. He was in the hospital. Ron Phillips AH6HN had returned from an extended stay in California on Wednesday.

#### QSL Bureau:

Barbara Darling reported that the bureau had received 3,828 cards in February, bringing the total to 4,826 for the year.

Old Business: None

#### New Business:

Given that printing and postage do cost money, BIARC wants to know who still needs to receive their monthly bulletins via snail mail. For those who find e-mail delivery acceptable, this is faster, simpler, and cost-free for BIARC.

The board meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

### **Regular BIARC Club Meeting of February 12, 2011**

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:18 p.m. by club president Tom Thornton. There were 26 hams present, including two visitors, plus one very junior future ham. After introductions, the meeting proceeded with the program.

The program as presented by Joe Owens KO4RR about the August, 2003, DXpedition to St. Paul Island CY9A. Located in the St. Lawrence Seaway and part of Canada, St. Paul is a separate DXCC entity. Populated with a fishing village during the 1920s, the island has been unpopulated for decades. There is one solar-powered lighthouse, all of six feet tall. The island, actually two very closely located islands, is perhaps five by ten miles, surrounded by cliffs.

The DXpedition was entirely generator-powered. They received support from several manufacturers of ham equipment. Cushcraft loaned antennas. Icom supplied six HF rigs, five of which worked. The DXpedition operated six radios, three barefoot, three with amplifiers of 350 to 700 watts. Power was limited by generator capacity. Antennas included an 80/160 vertical 60-80' tall, a G5RV, a three element steppir, and a six meter yagi used for local contacts only.

The DXpedition launched via fishing boat from the fishing village of Dingwall, Nova Scotia, 25-30 miles from the island. They arrived on a rocky beach at low tide, then needed six hours to get their supplies and equipment up a cliff. Their operating location was another 500-600 feet above the cliffs. Usually foggy at night, winds were usually 25-30 mph. Ravenous mosquitos took over whenever the wind calmed. Temperatures were mostly in the 60s. They saw eagles in the air, but no land mammals. For those of you who think your ham shack isn't luxurious enough.....

The meeting took a break for refreshments at 2:50, then resumed at 3:00 for the regular business. The secretary's minutes were accepted as printed. Treasurer Lloyd Cabral KH6LC reported that the club has \$2,220 in the bank after having paid the final \$1,000 to Ralph Fontaine for repeater equipment. The report did not include funds that he had just received but had not deposited. There was no membership report. Lloyd said that the club has paid Marsh \$197 for a \$13,120 limit of equipment insurance, and does need to update its list of insured equipment.

As at the board meeting, mailing of monthly newsletters was discussed. Lloyd Cabral said that he rarely receives

information from members, usually only cash or checks. He suggested that Curt Knight AH6RE would probably have better information than him. Robert Oliver moved that the matter be discussed at the April board meeting. The motion passed.

#### Website:

Curt Knight reported that the website is current. Bob Schneider suggested that the membership form be included on the website. Curt said that he would include it.

#### New Business:

Robert Oliver reported that the Hilo Medical Center radio room has been relocated to a closet in the west side of the building. Antennas have also been relocated to the west side, away from the generators that produce a lot of RF noise. He now needs 200 feet of donated RG-8U to connect the antennas. Tom Thornton suggested that LMR-400 would be better. Although stiffer and therefore somewhat more difficult to install, it would provide better shielding against RF noise produced by hospital equipment. A possible cost of \$350 was mentioned. Tom, who routinely commutes to Honolulu, said that he would check pricing in Honolulu and would be able to bring it back with him.

Robert Oliver volunteered to chair Field Day. So far, only he and Tom Thornton have volunteered. The relationship between Field Day and Civil Defense was discussed. It was concluded that Field Day should be considered an ARRL activity, with Civil Defense welcome to visit. The primary Civil Defense-related activity is the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) held in October.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50.

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)



### **Isamu “Ham” Kaneshiro AH6HB (1919 - 2011)**

Isamu "Ham" Kaneshiro, 91, of Las Vegas, and formerly of Hilo, died Jan. 25 in Las Vegas. Born in Hilo, he was a retired insurance agent with Prudential Life Insurance, and a member of the Church of the Holy Cross, Hui Okinawa, Waiakea Kyoiei Kumiai, Big Island Amateur Radio Club and the Boy Scouts of America.

### **10-10 International Net**

10 meters is heating up again after a several year hiatus. It's time to check out the action. During the ARRL DX phone contest recently, 10 meters was open nearly all the daylight hours.

Ten-Ten International Net will have its spring digital QSO party as usual on the last full weekend of April, this year April 23 and 24. For full details, check [www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org). You don't have to be a

ten-ten member to participate.

Locally, the Aloha Chapter meets on 28.490 at 6:30PM HST on Mondays. There are two US nets, both run daily on 28.380 and 28.800 at 8AM HST. Listen and if you can hear them, join in. - Thanks Irene NH7PE



**My Tsunami Adventure in Hawai'i  
Susan Meckley W7KFI**

The recent tsunami really has impacted the boating community here in Honolulu. I am currently in the Keehi Small Boat Harbor Marina located at the east end of the Honolulu Airport.

We received warnings of the impending tsunami via radio, TV, VHF radio, and the civil defense sirens. However, because this happened last year, and nothing came of it, many people elected to remain in the harbor, much to their later sorrow.

My friend, Linda, has a 55' ferro-cement ketch, and her husband was back on the mainland USA visiting relatives. Linda has just about zero knowledge of boats and sailing. Thus, I decided to put most everything of mine that was of value onto another friend's 65' steel boat, leave my Challenger 32

boat in harbor (with all expectations that it would be a total loss) and help Linda get her boat out to sea where it would be safe.

When I started her boat's engine I had no problem, but the prop was so overgrown that it gave the boat only about 1 kt speed. Plus the cutlass bearing was obviously bad, due to all the vibration.

To the rescue came the 65' steel boat. He offered to tow us out to sea and then I could raise the sails and just hang around until the tsunami danger was over.

Great, no problem, but about 10 miles out to sea problems began to arise. The tow was bucking and jumping...the towing boat did not adjust the tow to put us both "on the rise and fall" of the swells together. Yep, the tow line parted.

So there we were! The towing boat's captain waved at us and continued out over the horizon. We guessed he would be back for us...WRONG! We drifted for a day and a half and still no return of the towing boat.

So I called the USCG on my handheld VHF...Linda's boat did not have a working VHF. In fact, I discovered the sails do not go up, there are no charts onboard, the cutlass bearing is extremely bad, the prop was ineffective, no flares were aboard, the boat's batteries were almost at the end of their life, the boat had no running lights, etc. And guess what? Linda's boat had only 5-6 gallons of diesel onboard.

Shame on me for not checking these things before setting off. But the towing boat would not let us have time to check these things before he commenced the tow.

Now, being an experienced sailor and having cruised for over 10 years (including a solo 36 day transpac) I never venture out on someone else's boat without my own "KIT." My "KIT" has Steiner binoculars, 25 flares including 5 solas 1200' parachute types, smokes, dye markers, handheld VHF, local chart, AA-AAA-C-D spare batteries, generation three night vision device, and green laser. So we were not out of luck.

Since it looked like the towing captain had abandoned us, I did what any other sailor would do....I CALLED FOR HELP ON THE VHF. The USCG responded but did not know where we were. Their large (over 150') cutter was over the horizon from us. Thus, I fired off two regular 12 ga. flares....no good and popped an orange smoke. Still no good, so I swallowed the bullet and fired off a 1200' SOLAS parachute flare (Hey, these things are expensive). They saw that.

Their cutter, the USCG cutter *Galveston Island*, arrived, tossed us a messenger line, and in two tries we had it aboard. We hauled over the tow line complete with port/starboard bridle, fed it through the hawsepipes and secured the tow line to our Sampson post. All the time, the USCG Captain kept in VHF contact with us, updating us on what was happening. We

talked and agreed on a tow speed of 7 kts.

The USCG towed us approximately 12 miles to a spot off shore at Honolulu's Ala Wai Marina. Then waters became too shallow for them to proceed. The *Galveston* called in one of their smaller new jet drive 44' boats. Although it took over an hour for them to arrive because they were out at the western end of the island, they quickly arrived and took us under tow and away we went, again.

But they also could not get to the anchorage, so they launched their small boat (one of the inflatable RIBs). A Coast Guardsman came aboard, secured the tow lines and away we went to approximately one half mile offshore, where he proceeded to anchor us in 60feet of water. OK as there was 300' of chain available

BUT, now the USCG did a boat inspection. Linda did not have anything. I gave her my flares and VHF, and this looked good. So, I got into my dinghy and left for shore. Wrong. The shift lever on my one-week-old Tohatsu 6 hp, 4 stroke outboard came off in my hand. With the help of the USCG, we got the engine into forward and away I went again.

Guess what? 1/4 mile offshore, the new outboard died. But a good Samaritan came by and towed me into the marina, where I attempted to get the dingy up into the parking lot. At 75 years old, I am just not strong enough to do that anymore.

I called my friend Raymond, who came down. We tied the dinghy to his truck and dragged the dinghy up to the parking lot, loaded it into the back of his pickup and drove back to my marina. The harbors were all closed and no traffic was being allowed into or out of Keehi Marina by boat because of too much damage.

Fortunately, my boat was unharmed. I truly believe that if you do good, you build up good karma and it will help you. My guardian angel was looking out for my boat.

There are three marinas in this harbor. One disappeared...totally gone. One still has a couple of slips, and the marina I am in mainly survived. But in the harbor there are sunken boats everywhere, boats up on the island, boats on the reef, and even boats sunk in the channel. The USCG closed the harbor, but one brave individual said the heck with it and proceeded to enter the harbor, with a tow no less, got caught in the surge, hit the reef, and both boats sunk in the channel.

The end result is that my boat is okay, Linda's was taken by the USCG to another marina (they would not let her anchor as she had no anchor light) and things are starting to get back to normal.

The main lesson I learned is that at 75 years old, I AM TOO OLD FOR ALL THIS—especially the 2 ½ days without sleep.

**Big Island Amateur Radio Club**

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