



Newsletter – June 2010

President's Message

FIELD DAY (SATURDAY/SUNDAY) JUNE 26/27, 2010!

I surely hope you can attend Field Day as it will be at the Kamehameha School Campus in Kea'au, Hawaii this year!!!! For those of you who have never been there you are in for a treat. It is a fantastic school campus! Just drive up Highway 11 from Hilo and the campus is about two miles up from the Highway 11 and Highway 130 intersection in Kea'au. There is a big sign that says Kamehameha School and believe it or not the school has its own intersection with its own stop light. If you're coming from the Hilo direction you'll turn right into to the school. Proceed to the Security gate, check in with the campus security officer, and let them know you're with BIARC and you'll be attending Field Day. There should be signs along the campus roads directing you to turn right at the first intersection and then directing you to the elementary cafeteria.

The cafeteria building is a fantastic facility surrounded on three sides by large grassy areas. An advance BIARC team of Curt Knight, Lloyd Cabral, and Paul Ducasse surveyed the site and it looks like we will operate in the cafeteria and set up our masts and antennas in the inner court yard. The inner court yard

appears to have a clear path to the mainland with only a low covered walkway in the distance. As the entire campus has underground utilities we are anticipating low RF interference.

Our Field Day Coordinator Pete Yoes (KH7HI) is amassing the tons of equipment (ha-ha) including HF radios, power supplies, antennas, masts, generators, microphones, tuners, barrel connectors, coaxial cables, etc. Pete would like every able bodied ham radio operator to be at the Kamehameha campus no later than 8:00 a.m. Saturday June 27, 2010 ready to help set up the antennas. So eat your Wheaties that morning! Speaking of food for Field Day, you are on your own for breakfast and lunch. There are numerous restaurants and fast food eateries nearby in Kea'au. There should be coffee and some snacks at the Field Day event. We will have a BIARC dinner at 5 pm in the same cafeteria room holding our radio operations. If you can, please bring a salad or a dessert especially if you live nearby. Please let Peter Yoes or Paul Ducasse know if you will be attending the BIARC dinner and how many family members will be attending so we can get an approximate count of people having dinner.

The Kamehameha campus closes at night at 5:30 p.m. so there will not be any admittance after 5:30 p.m. You will be allowed to leave after the BIARC dinner but I'm hoping a number of you will stay and operate into the wee hours of the morning. They will allow BIARC members to arrive anytime after 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning. For those that can, please arrive by 8 a.m. on Sunday to help the other club members take down all of the antennas and radios. This really is going to be one of the most memorable BIARC Field Day events ever! Even if you can only stay for a few hours come operate the radios in CW or phone mode, support BIARC, and have a great time! Hope to see you there!!!

P.S. **There is no regular BIARC meeting in June!** Our June meeting is Field Day!!!

Paul Ducasse BIARC President 2010



Big Island Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1938
Hilo, HI 96721

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)



BIARC Biographies – Tom Thornton AH6ZZ

My adventure in Ham radio began 50 years ago with a neighbor who worked for the telephone company and was a Ham. I cannot remember his name.

In September 1959, I was 12 years old and interested in electronics, which in those days meant radio. My father arranged for me to see our neighbor's Ham shack and I was thrilled by the equipment and the fact that the neighbor was fluent in a foreign language -- CW. On that first evening, I came home with a book on the Novice test and a straight key.

Hams with a certain class of license (probably General but I am not certain) were, in 1959, permitted by the FCC to proctor Novice and Conditional license tests. I believe the Conditional license had the same privileges as the General but was only valid for a year. The Novice license was also good for a year, and, in 1959, not renewable.

Some weeks after that first evening, the neighbor proctored my taking of the Novice license test which was sealed in an envelope

and sent to the FCC. He also had to sign a paper that certified that I had sent Morse Code to him at 5 words a minute. The wait was several weeks and by the time the license arrived I had either lost interest or (more likely) couldn't afford radio gear. And shortly after the license arrived the neighbor moved away. For whatever the reason, I did not do anything in the hobby and the license expired.

My first job out of high school (1964) was with AT&T Long Lines in Dayton, Ohio. They put me through 16 weeks of electronics and sent me to the FCC office in Chicago for the commercial Second Class Radio Operator test. I needed that license to work on the microwave equipment AT&T used for long distance transmission systems. In 1978, I upgraded to the First Class license, which became the GROL in 1986.

My educational background can be seen as scattered or eclectic -- I went to a technical high school (electronics) in Ohio, the AT&T school, and to a Navy electronics school for a year -- three times through basic electronics. Maybe that was why it eventually became boring and I lost interest for a long number of years.

After the first hitch in the Navy as a technician, I decided to have a go at college -- BA in Anthropology from UH Hilo, MA in Asian Studies from UH Manoa. Nothing to do with electronics -- and anthropology is not really a skill set that a lot of employers look for. So, back to the Navy -- this time as an intelligence officer. And along the way I worked for GTE Communications, the Navy as a civilian, and now as a government contractor. I also lived / worked in Japan, Korea, Germany, Sri Lanka and Mexico.

Then in 2001, I retired (which lasted less than a year). And the Ham radio bug hit me. The hardest part for me should have been the easiest -- CW. I found that sending wasn't that bad, but I couldn't hear it -- or so it seems -- and when I do hear a character that I can't immediately decipher, I freeze up. But it was only five words a minute... Somehow I copied a full minute of the test CW and passed Element One. I also passed Tech, General and Extra over the months that followed -- becoming an Extra in July of 2001.

Like most new Hams -- especially Hams in Honolulu condos -- I was on VHF and the Emergency Amateur Radio Club's nightly net, where I got over mic shyness and learned the limitations of VHF (at least for Hams). Quickly I got interested in HF and specifically QRP HF -- only to discover that on HF everything is DX in Hawaii.

The lanai for an antenna field (13' by 4'), a QRP transceiver (FT-817) and lack of experience or knowledge all led to a lot of quiet listening and almost no contacts. From the car I had better luck and ten meters was open... so I began to go to Bellows and make 10m contacts and soon had most of the states. One of my regular contacts on ten was ZK1JD Jim on Rarotonga. Then one day we went down (or is that up) to 21.350 and I had my first 15m contact -- I consider this truly my first HF contact (I know all of you 10m fans will say, but, but, ten meters is HF -- but 10m is two feet of wire and summer in the middle of the solar peak -- 15M IS HF...). And Jim is now E51JD and I talk to him regularly on three or four bands.

After realizing that antennas were the heart of HF, I discovered that I didn't have enough room for even a 10m dipole on my lanai. But one of my problems was knowing something about radio theory (remember basic electronics three times). I began building home-made antennas -- something that seems easy in theory. Shortened antennas do work -- but not like a full size antenna -- and I created a number of dummy loads out of coils and wires.

Then I discovered the antenna tuner. Tuners tune practically anything, and 12 feet of wire and a tuner gave me contacts -- never good signal reports, even though by now I had a 100w Kenwood. All those coils and capacitors simply tamed the SWR at the expense of my signal.

To spare you years of narration on many failures with antennas and tuners, I will just say that I saw the light and realized I was reinventing the wheel... well the antenna -- and there were those out there who knew what worked. Antenna gurus like Mike AH7U, Kimo KH7R and Eran WH6R. And I've learned that you can build home-made antennas that work -- my most active antenna is a tap

off of my rain gutters which I have used on four bands: 40m NVIS and DX on 15m, 17m and 10m.

Ham radio for me is HF, antennas, and most importantly, fellowship with other Hams. Still can't remember my Elmer's name. CW is still pretty much a foreign language.

73 and aloha

Tom Thornton ah6zz



Field Day Site – Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

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