

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter – June 2011

Big Island Amateur Radio Club Regular BIARC Club Meeting of May 14, 2011

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by club president Tom Thornton AH6ZZ. Meeting was held at the Puna Covenant Church, one-quarter mile mauka of the club's usual meeting location at the Kea'au Community Center. Attendance included 28 hams, one associate, and two future hams. There was no board meeting. Business meeting was held before the program.

Approval of the April secretary's minutes was deferred so that anyone who had not read them in the monthly club newsletter could do so. April was the last month for which the club will mail out newsletters. Newsletters will be available at the club website and via e-mail. Dick AH7G and Barbara NH7FY Darling will continue to mail out newsletters to two or three longtime members who do not use the Internet. Paul Agamata WH6M has offered to pay postage to mail to these few. Barbara reported that Office Max printed the April newsletter on oversized paper, necessitating an additional 44 cents postage on all newsletters returned by the post office.

Repeater Committee:

Committee chair Paul Agamata and John Buck KH7T reported that they had rewired the Kulani repeater on May 13, removing excess cable. They believe that the 60 Hz powerline hum has now disappeared. Paul also reported that he has purchased (at his own expense) the VPR-1 serial cable with logic, needed for programming the club's Vertex VXR7000 repeaters. Paul intends to program each for the standard deviation of 5K, and is waiting to program the Kulani repeater.

Paul reported that there are differences among the linked repeaters. He intends to eliminate unnecessary links, and then tune each repeater to standardize.

John Buck reported that the Hualalai repeater was dead as of Friday, May 13, likely due to thunderstorms [still down 5/20]. Nobody has gone up yet to check the repeater. The Kona Amateur Radio Society [KARS] owns and maintains this repeater.

The callsign on the Mauna Kea repeater has been changed from Dennis Carvalho's KH7H to BIARC's KH6EJ callsign. According to Bob Schneider AH6J, VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) is reviewing the letter of agreement with the University of Hawaii regarding use of the Mauna Kea repeater. There are two problems.

First, routine use for testing is limited to one hour per month. Second, continuous use requires a gubernatorial declaration of disaster. Such declaration is usually made a week after the disaster itself, primarily for the purpose of obtaining federal funds. [Amateur radio's usual contacts at the Honolulu FEMA office are presently in the deep South, responding to the massive tornado damage experienced there.]

Paul Agamata is working with Robin Liu to redesign the RACES statewide repeater network, linked interisland via microwave after Hurricane Iniki in 1992.

Website: Curt Knight AH6RE not present. No report.

Health and Welfare:

Barbara Darling had no new health and welfare information. John Buck reported that Herb Vanderbeek WY6G (age 90) is on the Mainland, but will be back on the Big Island July 15, and will remain here until after the October 22 swap meet. He is now using a cane, not crutches.

There were 2,845 QSL cards received in April, bringing total for 2011 to 10,719. Barbara reports that she still has no card distributor on Maui.

New Business: None.

Old Business:

Robert Oliver AH6AH reported that he has arranged to have notice of Field Day posted in the newspaper. He has arranged for use of State-owned Wailoa Center, but has been informed by management that he needs to arrange for a separate use permit for the surrounding County-owned land, administered by the County Parks Commission. A meeting will need to be scheduled to coordinate Field Day equipment and responsibilities. It was decided that BIARC will hold a regularly scheduled meeting at Kea'au Community Center at 2:00 on Saturday, June 11. There will be no board meeting.

Tom Thornton and Rick Gardner WH6LU will continue to coordinate BIARC's participation in the late August Hawaii QSO Party. Tom plans to be on the Big Island for the party.

The Secretary's minutes for April were accepted. Treasurer Lloyd Cabral KH6LC reported that the club has \$2,563 in the bank. The club has 68 members, including 58

regular members, six associate members, and four family members. Membership is about the same as this time last year.

July Meeting:

The July 8 meeting will be at the Kea'au Community Center, beginning with a board meeting at 12:30 (rather than the usual 1:00) to discuss amateur radio's Memorandum of Understanding with Hawaii County Civil Defense. The regular meeting will be at 2:00. Milt Nodacker AH6I will present a brief program on electromagnetic pulse.

The business meeting adjourned at 2:39, followed by the program.

The Program:

The program was presented by Darryl Koon, of the Mauna Loa Solar Observatory. The observatory is part of a larger observatory complex, including the NOAA atmospheric observatory, located at 11,200' elevation on the north end of Mauna Loa. The observatory complex includes two foreign countries, Japan and Taiwan. Opened in 1965, the Mauna Loa Solar Observatory is one of several located worldwide, enabling observations of the sun at all times.

Darryl's news was not very encouraging for amateur radio. It appears that the present solar cycle will be a lot less active than the last cycle, which means that it will produce less optimal HF propagation.

Darryl also discussed the first successfully functional radio antenna system, unintentionally successful decades before Marconi invented radio, and nearly 50 years before amateur radio. The 1859 Carrington event, named for the astronomer who observed it, was a massive solar flare that induced massive electromagnetic pulses, igniting telegraph poles and papers in telegraph offices. This was the event that first established a correlation between events on the sun and electromagnetic events on earth. A Fox News story that discussed the event claimed that a similar solar event could paralyze the U.S. for months or years, a claim that Darryl believed was exaggerated due to safeguards built into more modern systems.

Rather than risking erroneous explanation (at which I am expert), I refer hams to some of the websites on Darryl's list for further information:

The Mauna Loa Solar Observatory (MLSO) website:
http://mlso.hao.ucar.edu/cgi-bin/mlso_homepage.cgi

For explanation of "Space Weather" and how it affects us on earth:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/primer/>

For a .pdf file that related solar activity to radio propagation:
<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/info/Radio.pdf>

For explanation of Space Weather Scales used in SWPC alerts, including Radio Blackouts:
<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/NOAAscales/index.html>

For good information about recent past and predicted future solar activity:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/forecasts/RSGA/>

Darryl is usually at the observatory until 2:00 p.m. on Sundays and Tuesdays. He can be contacted at home at 935-0533, koon@ucar.edu. He, his wife Denise, and their two children are all taking Milt Nodacker's Technician licensing class and plan to test late on May 28. Son Wyatt was present at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments at 3:54.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Broyles KH7SO, secretary

Secretary's Note to BIARC

I have received notice (via first class mail) that I will be listed in the 2012 edition of Marquis' *Who's Who in America*, to be published in September. This is the real McCoy. I am be listed for having written a radical critique of energy theory a decade ago. I have no idea who nominated me, or why I am being listed at this time. I would not be surprised to receive, and will definitely consider, an offer from the Mainland. I will not accept any BIARC office for 2012, and could conceivably depart before then.

Dave Broyles



Banner Picture

This month's banner picture is a display of the spectrum of a part of the 75 meter band provided by a software defined receiver.



Rich KL7RA and Fred KH7Y in Dayton last week

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1938

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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	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

Improvement	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
Field Day	Robert Oliver	NH6AH
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)



To find out how to get something like this of your own, contact a club member interested in radio sport.

Ten-Ten International Net

Irene NH7PE reminds us that the Ten-Ten International Net will hold their Open Season (PSK) QSO Party on the first full weekend of June, from 0001 UTC Saturday to 2359 UTC Sunday. See www.ten-ten.org for more information. Also remember the local net meets on 28.490 at 6:30 local time Monday nights, and the Kaua'i net meets on 28.730 each Saturday at noon.

ARES Net

There is an ARES Net for new hams on Thursday evenings at 6PM on 147.760. More experienced operators can check in at 6:15. Kevin Bogan AH6QO is Net Control, and gives some emergency training every week. -Thanks Irene NH7PE.

ARRL SM Report

[These are extracts of particular interest to BIARC members from the current ARRL SM report. The full report can be read by ARRL members at www.arrl.org Thanks Bob AH6J]



According to many sources, the tornadoes & flooding in the mainland U.S. not only caused widespread damage but also destroyed a lot of communications infrastructure. For example in the city of Tuscaloosa, the entire emergency communications system was wiped out by a tornado. It was only through reports filed by radio amateurs that first

responders began to learn the magnitude of the devastation to that city.

The on the air event for the Makani Pahili 2011 exercise is on Saturday May 28. Some agencies are already doing planning for the event. It is not just an Amateur Radio event. The simulated Hurricane exercise is to better identify problems that might happen in case of another real hurricane. This exercise is very important especially because of the just past tsunami event, the start of hurricane season and the upcoming APEC conference in November. On 5/14 the Maui node of the SCD VHF RACES repeater network was restored. All repeaters (Lihue, Diamond Head, Mt Haleakala and Mauna Loa) are available for inter-island calls and emergency traffic, and to communicate state-wide. The restoration occurred ahead of the annual State-wide hurricane exercise Makani Pahili. The repeater system will be used for coordination, and for handling simulated emergency messages. See:

<http://www.qsl.net/ah6rh/am-radio/emcomm/makani-pahili-11.html>

As a reminder, amateurs are encouraged to limit their contacts during times of non-emergencies to no more than 15 minutes to encourage all to monitor the inter-island network for breaking developments. Of course, during any emergency strict net discipline will be used. Tnx Ron Hashiro, AH6RH and others.

Appointments such as District Emergency Coordinator, Emergency Coordinator, assistant DEC, assistant EC and Official Emergency Station are available. Contact your SM, SEC or consult the ARRL webpages for more information.

Milt Nodacker, AH6I, said he is conducting a six week Technician class on Thursday evenings at the Kilauea Ave. LDS church, starting April 14 and ending May 26. He plans to test on Saturday May 28 at the Kilauea Ave. LDS church. The class is a project of the LDS, not of BIARC. Cost for exams is now \$15. Some VE prefer cash and other check. Check with them for details.

The HealthComm net is on the 1st Saturday of each month. June 4th at 9AM is the next one. Starting 3.888 MHz SSB, next 7.080 MHz SSB, last 5.371.5 MHz USB 50w PEP.

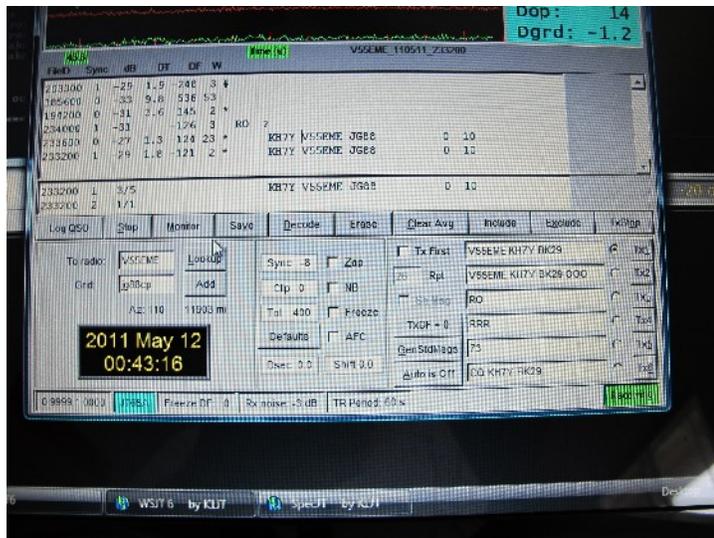
June 25 & 26, 2011, is the annual ARRL [Field Day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator). So far EARC/KARC will be at [Kualoa Park](http://www.kualoa-park.com) on windward Oahu. BIARC will be at Wailoa Visitors center in Hilo. The HI QRP club will be at Leleiwi Park also in Hilo. The Kauai club will be at Nawiliwili Yacht club however they have not posted their location on the ARRL field day locator page. It is <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>. Only three clubs are posted at this time.

KALAUPAPA DXPEDITION: Bev AH6NF reports that the Kalaupapa DxPedition is a definite "go" for Hawaii QSO Party weekend Aug 27/28 and will be operating as one of Hawaii's event stations. Many thanks to Joe AH0A and Bart WH6AA who worked with the National Park Service and the State Department of Health to make this happen. Six

members and two alternates have been chosen for the team. A charter flight will transport them there, and they will operate from Kalaupapa Settlement. The effort will be funded by those making the trip. Joe Speroni is leading a group, including some on the team, to help interested Kalaupapa residents (Park Service, Department of Health and patients) in obtaining their ham radio licenses and acquiring equipment for an emergency communications setup.

<http://www.karc.net/OperatingEvents/HawaiiQSOParty/HIQSOPartyRules.html>

The Big Island International Hamfest will be Sat. October 22, 2011 at the Waimea community center, at 16-1260 Kawaihae Rd. (next to the ball field off Mamalahoa Hwy) Kamuela, HI 96743. Hours are 10AM to around 3PM. Doors open 9AM for setup. Please stay for cleanup. Sponsored by Big Island ARC, Kona ARS, and Kohala Hamakua ARC. The event is free however registration at the door is required and donations will be accepted to offset costs. Sellers are asked for a donation of part their sales. There will be BIARC ARRL Testing session about noon. Please note that this is a non-commercial event that promotes the trading of equipment and information between hams and the general public and to promote the open exchange of information concerning the benefits of exploring Ham Radio as a hobby. Talk in will be on the BIWARN system. The 147.16+ repeater on Hualalai is down at the moment however the Waimea Hospital on 147.92+ is up. Contact: John Buck, KH7T - PO BOX 489 - Kamuela HI 96743 Phone: [808-885-9718](tel:808-885-9718) - email: kh7t@arri.net or Bob Schneider, AH6J - P.O. Box 131 - Keaau, HI 96749 Phone: [808-966-8146](tel:808-966-8146) - email: ah6j@arri.net



This is a screen shot documenting Fred KH7Y's 6 meter moonbounce QSO with V55EME in Namibia two weeks ago.

BIARC Swap and Shop

Clarence AH7A has the items below for sale:

Kenwood TS 440 with built in antenna tuner
Kenwood TS 130

Heath SB200 2 KW amplifier with (2) 3-500s

Soldering irons

Water pumps

Heil 4 pin microphone

Heil 8 pin microphone

Power supply - 50 amp 13.8 volts

WM 1 computing meter SWR/PWR

Cantenna dummy load

2 meter amp 35 watt (home made)

Antenna switch - supports 4 antennas

Flexible prices. Contact Clarence at 982-5625 or 430-8624 or cdsmith@hawaiiantel.net

Lloyd KH6LC wants to buy a tower, anywhere in Hawaii, preferably 70ft or higher. Call 966-7782.

Curt AH6RE has a Kenwood TS-520 with 12v and 110v power supply, in good condition, for \$200., and, off topic, a brand new Roku XD for 50. ah6re@arri.net