

Big Island Amateur Radio Club



Newsletter – August 2010

President's Message

It is the saddest duty of any club president to report the death of any of our fellow members. Last month, our club's former treasurer Ed Breen, NH6HT, became a silent key after a prolonged illness. Ed and his cheerful outlook on life will be missed. Please read the article by former club president Barbara Darling NH7FY about Ed's spectacular life.

A good time was had by all at the clubs 2010 Field Day exercise held at the Kamehameha School Campus in Kea'au this year. Thanks to all those club members and their families who participated in every aspect of putting on a Field Day event. A special thanks to our 2010 Field Day Coordinator Peter Yoes, KH7HI, and to our club Treasurer Curt Knight, AH6RE, for all their efforts behind the scenes to make this Field Day a memorable event. Another special thanks to all of the personnel at Kamehameha Schools for all the aloha they showed the club during this year's Field Day.

Put Saturday August 21, 2010 on your calendar as BIARC members will be providing communications at the 1st annual Volcano Rain Forest Run in Volcano Village. As many club members know, BIARC provided radio communications for many years at the "Wilderness Marathon" held at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. That race has been disbanded by Park officials and this new "half marathon" race will take it's place. BIARC's participation will go from 6 a.m. through the morning supplying 2

meter radio communications at 6 aid stations, 1 base station, and 1 rover van. If you can help out that day please let Paul Ducasse, WH7BR, know. Club members working this event will receive a commemorative race T-shirt for their participation. Hope to see you there!

At our August BIARC club meeting we have a terrific guest speaker Eran Agmon, WH6R, from Honolulu, who is very knowledgeable about HF antennas and getting big signals with little wire. Eran talked to the club last year at a dual club function at the Wailoa pavilion and everyone was impressed about his knowledge of the subject and his ability to describe complex subjects in an easy to understand manner. So don't miss our club meeting Saturday August 14th at the Kea'au Community Center! Have a great August and enjoy Ham radio!

Paul Ducasse
2010 BIARC President



Recent radio contest action

Several club members are to be congratulated for first-place performance in their divisions in the CQ WPX contest:

CW / Multi-Op Two-transmitter / Oceania (2010) (claimed)

1 KH6LC.....9,613,296 (AH6RE KH6KM KH6LC KH7BB N6KB NH6V)

SSB / Assisted High All Bands / Oceania (2010) (claimed)

1 KH7BB.....2,398,962

RTTY / High All Bands / Oceania (2009) (final)

1 NH7C.....1,960,704 (New Oceania Record)



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	988-1271
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.

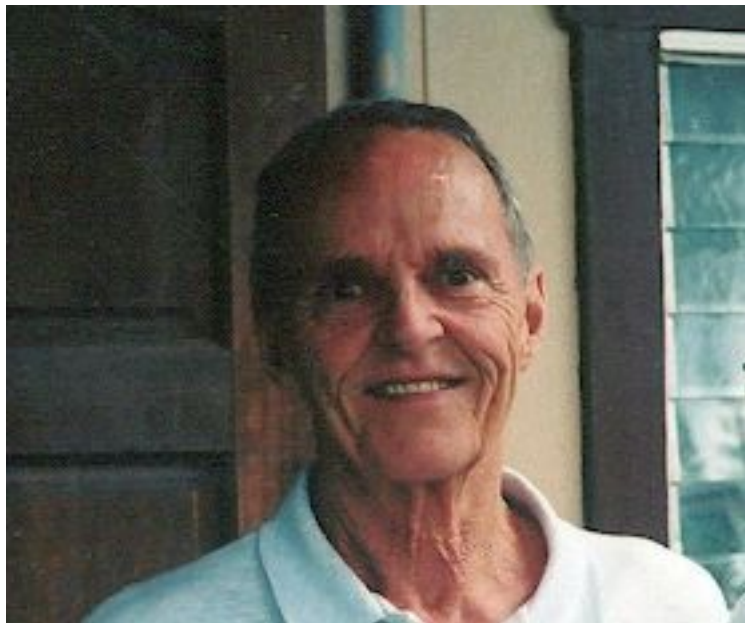
East Hawai'i Net

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'au 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'au 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)



Ed Breen NH6HT (1934 - 2010)

Edward H. Breen, known to us as Ed NH6HT, was born and raised in California. He had one brother and two sisters. The only living relative is a sister in a nursing facility in Arizona. Ed was 75 years old when he passed away. He worked for Pacific Telephone in the Electronics Department and was also an architect. Many do not know that Ed was a concert pianist and won the grand piano he owned in a competition when he was in his early 20's. He and Ron AH6HN built a boat in San Pedro, California and lived in it for 15 years. In 1985 they moved to Hawaii and built their home in Hawaiian Paradise Park. Ron thinks they both joined BIARC in 1986. Ed has been a director and a couple years ago the treasurer. Ed was drafted into the U.S. Army where he spent two years. Ed was a ham for at least 20 years and was active as a net control in the Maritime Net after he moved to Hawaii. This was where he met Les Whiteley AH6OV who was the net control on Moorea where he and Gloria lived for 17 years. When Les and Gloria decided to move to Hawaii Ed and Ron helped them find a home here. Ed was a very quiet and very personal man. He will be missed by all of us in BIARC. - Barbara NH7FY

The Hawaii QSO Party

Did you know that Hawaii has an annual QSO Party contest? Well, maybe not—Hawaii is a long way from the other states and some may not even know what a QSO Party is and why it exists, let alone that we have one.

QSO parties have their genesis in US county hunters. Over 46 states put on a yearly contest with the intents of giving county hunters a chance to contact their counties and have their in-state amateurs be hunted like rare DX. Ok, so it's not the same as DX, but it can still give the pseudo thrill of being rare. Some states give impressive plaques or trophies for the top finishers in various categories. BIARC could be one of the clubs sponsoring an award category – single station Phone?

Hawaii has had a QSO Party since 1998. Some of you may remember Richard LaChance¹, WH6T SK, who created the contest to promote more interest in Hawaii Amateur Radio. Only one small group in the Ko`olau Amateur Radio Club has recently promoted the contest. Some years we had only one or two stations participate. The lack of sunspots had something to do with that, but also we were lax in involving other clubs in the event. This year every club is being visited and given a presentation explaining the event. More KH6² Amateurs will certainly know of the contest. We hope many will participate.

The State of Hawaii has some differences that make contest rules “unique”. Most states have many counties. For example the Ohio QSO Party, which is held the same weekend as the Hawaii QSO Party, can claim 88 county multipliers. We have four – Honolulu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii. Hmm, I guess there are five if you count Kalawao County, but it is not very active

The rules have been adjusted this year to make the number of multipliers a little larger. We'll still have the five counties but other islands have been added - Molokai, Lanai, Niihau and Ford (□) islands have been added as multipliers. It would take a lot of effort to get some of these active. We're working on it. So far all we can promise is that the Battleship Missouri will be active as

¹ See Ron Hashiro's, AH6RN, Hawaii Amateur Radio Hall of Fame for a history of Richard LaChance's contribution to Hawaii Amateur Radio
<http://www.qsl.net/ah6rh/am-radio/hof/wh6t.html>

² Use of KH6 in this context dates the author; he means any Hawaii Amateur – AH6, AH7, KH6, KH7, NH6, NH7, WH6 or WH7. ©

well as the KARC Club station, KH6J. If things go well this year a few of our members, who have done it before, plan to operate from Kalawao next year. The suggestion of considering every KH6 club as a multiplier is getting active consideration, e.g. BIARC members operating from the home stations would count as a multiplier. But that really depends on how many clubs can be added to the contest sponsorship group. Given the size of the Big Island, we should find a way divide it into districts. Advice from BIARC could help us with that!

Based on inputs during the “Clubs Tour” for the Hawaii QSO Party we will be making two changes to the rules for this year.

1. Xerox or scanned paper logs will be accepted *only from Hawaii stations*. Mailed logs should go to my home QTH and scanned logs should be emailed to me at ah0a@arri.net. After “processing” I’ll submit them to the awards committee.

2. In addition to awards for the entire state, the top three scorers in **each county** in each category will receive awards. With so many active hams on the Big Island, the competition should be interesting.

Another big difference is that KH6 is a DXCC entity. The only other state that can claim that is Alaska, but they don’t have a QSO Party. (nor does KP4). There is a difference in operating the HI QSO Party³. Stations turn their antennas toward us. OK, maybe Big Island DXer’s don’t see that difference. It is harder to understand when you already have over 300 countries. But for many newcomers to Amateur Radio, KH6 is rare. If you have operated FD with 100W trying to push thru the west coast KWs, you notice the difference. In the HI QSO Party we’re on the receiving end of pile ups – good practice for up and coming contesters.

Logging can be a problem for the casual tester, and especially for newer Amateurs. Working with the N1MM Windows logger program group we’ve come up with a version of the software that supports the HI QSO Party. It is an impressive program and used by serious testers (and it’s a free program). It even has variable size type so I can operate without have to put my glasses

³ In 2009 in about 15 hours, KH6J worked 1220 stations - US/Canada 709; Europe 485; Asia 18; S. America/Caribbean 8.

on (eh, small point but important to some of us older folk). We have installation instructions tailored to the HI QSO Party for first time users. ***We're not pushing the N1MM program. The logging method or program is not important- use any method you want. We'll take any reasonable format by email and compute your score!***

Some may shy away from operating contests because of the financial considerations and labor involved in QSLing. We are encouraging KH6 participants to use the on-line ARRL Logbook of the World (LoTW) services. Once setup it is just an upload to reply to everyone contacted. Some stations that have QSL managers or prefer to answer their own cards can continue to do so. For KH6 stations that submit logs we will also provide an on-line QSL request service on their behalf (similar to what was recently done for the K4M DX-pedition to Midway). QSLing is not a reason not to be active in the contest!

We'd really like to see BIARC members operate in the upcoming contest. Amateur Radio is growing and the sun spots are ever so slowly coming back. The US Amateur population has increased by more than 40,000⁴ since its lowest point in Jun 2007. Many new hams have never worked Hawaii. Here is a chance to give back a little to new hams and promote Hawaii as a DX paradise. Add a little rag chewing to some QSOs and let everyone listening know "lucky to be in Hawaii, a great vacation spot".

Need to know more? It's all on-line at www.karc.net (the Ko'olau Amateur Radio Club web site). Just select the OPERATING EVENTS Tab, then HAWAII QSO PARTY to get a list of available documents, including the contest rules. Oh yeah, please mark out a few hours on your calendar during the contest period – Friday 21:00 August 27th thru 12:00 August 29th (Hawaii local time) and get on the air. Look for KH6BB "Big Mo" and KH6J from Camp Mokuleia, in Waialua on Oahu. It's OK to work other KH6 stations and we need the multipliers.

73 de Joe, AHØA



⁴ See www.ah0a.org/HawaiiGraphs for graphs showing the growth of US Amateur Radio from Aug 1999-Jun 2010.

Big Island International Hamfest

Saturday, October 23, 2010 is the Revised Date for the Ham Gathering at the Community Center near the park in Waimea (Kamuela). The Facility has been reserved.

According to the internet, Pacificon is the previous weekend, and Ironman ends the weekend before that.

Ham radio related swapping is encouraged. This is a non-profit venue and commercial vendors are not encouraged.

We plan to open the doors at 9 AM for table setup. Bring in the stuff after you have helped set up the tables. Every one is requested to refrain from trading before 10 AM, to enable late arrivals from the southern end of the Island to be able to fully participate. Drooling between 9 and 10 is acceptable.

Admission is free if you sign in. Donations may go into the kitty.

There will be a test session planned about 1 pm.

Please help with the cleanup after the swap meet ends.

73,
John Buck KH7T, 885-9718, kh7t@arrl.net

Picture

This month's title banner picture is a view of the Kulani repeater site taken from 8.1 miles away in Volcano Park.

Field Day 2010

The annual BIARC outing for the ARRL Field Day was over the weekend of the 26th and 27th of June. This year the location chosen was the campus of Kamehameha Schools in Kea'au. The school administration was extremely helpful, and the location provided in and around the Middle School cafeteria was more comfortable than we are used to.



Antenna engineers at work

This year the club entered in the 1A category. The station included Paul WH7BR's Icom 7600 radio, Bill KH7E's computer for logging, a triband yagi and tower from Pete KH7HI, and a multiband off center fed dipole from WH7BR. We used power from Paul's generator and battery power from units loaned by solar power contractor Tony Vidana.



Satellite antennas

Robert NH6AH brought his VHF/UHF satellite station, but once again, in spite of a good effort, no satellite contacts were made.

Solomon NH7ZE turned up to shake hands and kiss babies. He's a candidate for the Puna (District 4) House seat in the Hawai'i legislature.



Candidate NH7ZE smiles for the camera

Paul WH7BR provided a beef and chicken barbecue for dinner, and with several pot luck dishes there was plenty of food for the 25 who came to eat and talk story.



After dinner discussion



Solomon NH7ZE impresses the voters with his tower climbing skill

On the other side of the island, Fred KH7Y hosted a field day at his home in Ocean View. Participants included BIARC members Carl KH7BB and Matt WH7XM. They had a great time and Fred promises a repeat next year.



Matt WH7XM operating at KH7Y

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 1938

Hilo, HI 96720