

# BIG ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## Newsletter – August 2013

### President's Message August 2013

Field Day 2013 is over. I personally was very disappointed at the turnout we had as there were more walk-ins than ham radio people there. Only one or two people showed up to help set up the antennas, about the same number to clean up on Sunday morning, a half dozen hams to man the radios and only a handful of people showed for the potluck dinner. My impression was that maybe the club doesn't want to participate in Field Day and that possibly next year this should be under consideration. Irene NH7PE was there most of the day talking to the visitors, Milt AH6I set up his tent and along with two VE's tested two people. Robert NH6AH spent most of the day trying to get the antennas to work properly. John KH6DLK brought his truck with the hex beam and made at least 14 of our 30+ contacts. We certainly had good newspaper coverage beforehand (Thanks to Lee WH6DZX) and also a photographer showed up that morning to take pictures. The weather did cooperate except for occasional showers.

There will not be a regular meeting in August as we are scheduled to participate in the Hawaii QSO Party and picnic on Coconut Island. Date is Saturday August 24th and will go on all day. Pot luck lunch usually begins around 11AM. Dinnerware and drinks will be provided.

One week later on August 31 BIARC will be participating in the first ever Puna Regional Emergency Preparedness Fair (PREP) at the Keaau High School from 9AM to 3PM. Bob AH6J and Gregg WH7FC are the co-leads for our club. If you can be of assistance please help as much as you can. It is very important as we never know when an emergency will occur here. (It isn't IF one will occur, but WHEN).

Nominations for officers/directors for 2014 will be starting shortly. Milt AH6I has agreed to head the nominations committee. Hopefully if you are approached to take a position you will consider doing it for a term of two years.

I will have the tee shirt order form with me at the Hawaii QSO Party on August 24th. We need a minimum of 36 shirts before we can place the order and so far have 10 shirts on the list. I will not collect any money until we are sure of placing the order.

My hand surgery went well and after next week I should be released to go back to work.

73 Barbara NH7FY



The 2013 Hawai'i QSO Party will be held over the weekend of 24 August. Full details are available on the event web site:

<http://www.hawaiiqsoparty.org/>

Clubs in Hawai'i with interest in HF operation promote this event to spur interest in Amateur Radio. Come join with us in making next year's event another success. Hawai'i, a very special radio destination, merits support from its Hams. We hope the contest will introduce newly licensed operators to the world of HF, DX'ing and contesting. And that it will encourage Hawai'i amateur operators to use their computer skills in conjunction with radio communications.

Participants will receive a certificate of performance, and plaques will be awarded to top scorers in categories where there was significant competition.



HQP 2012 at KH6LC

**Big Island Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 1938**  
**Hilo, HI 96721**

**www.biarc.net**

**Officers**

President	Barbara Darling NH7FY	982-9126
Vice Pres.	Doug Wilson KH7DQ	985-7540
Treasurer	Milt Nodacker AH6I	965-6471
Secretary	Leigh Critchlow WH6DZX	930-7330

**Two Year Directors**

John Buck KH7T	885-9718
Mary Brewer WH6DYW	985-9595
John Bush KH6DLK/V63JB	935-5500

**One Year Directors**

Richard Darling AH7G	982-9126
Steven Jacquier WH6DPM	907-350-2122
Paul Ducasse WH7BR	985-9222
Darryl Koon AH6TQ	968-7106

**Standing Committees**

Service/Awards	vacant	
Education	Milt Nodacker	AH6I
Emergency	Paul Ducasse	WH7BR
Equipment	Milt Nodacker	AH6I
Health&Welfare	Barbara Darling	NH7FY
Membership	Richard Darling	AH7G
Hospitality	Beau Mills	NH7WV
Newsletter	Curt Knight	AH6RE
Programs	Doug Wilson	KH7DQ
Repeater	Bob Schneider	AH6J
Webmaster	Curt Knight	AH6RE

**Special Committees**

Improvement	Vacant	
Field Day	Robert Oliver (969-9993)	NH6AH
Hamfest	Bob Schneider	AH6J
co-chair	Doug Wilson	KH7DQ
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 the Native Pasta and Steak in the Kea'au mall 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.

**ARES Emergency Net**

Meets Saturday evening at 1900 HST on the 146.76 repeater. Backup is 146.76 simplex. All are welcome to check in.

**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 KH6HPZ (103.5)
147.04+	Mauna Loa RACES KH6HPZ
<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)

**Big Island Amateur Radio Club  
July 13, 2013**

Monthly meeting at Keaau Community Center

President Barbara Darling, NH7FY, called the meeting to order shortly after 2 p.m. At final tally, a total of 33 members, visiting hams and other guests had signed in. Among the guests were the Rev. Philip Zabell, KI6SMN, formerly of Hilo and now visiting from California, and his friend, Pedar Wold of Hilo.

Announcements: Richard Darling, AH7G, announced that earlier in the week, he had received his 328th confirmation of contacts made with individual countries, with two more confirmation cards pending. He still needs to get to 331 to get on the honor roll, and has his eye out for any newly formed nations.

Ted Brattstrom, NH6YK, is preparing to leave on a two-year teaching assignment in South Korea, and brought "a bunch of freebies" for folks to sort through and take home.

Education Chairman Milt Nodacker, AH6I, who was held up back in Hilo teaching the first of two six-hour Saturday marathon Technician classes, sent word through Barbara that the membership roll now lists 95 paid-up members for 2013. Barbara said the requests to purchase new BIARC T-shirts have been slow, nowhere near the 36 needed for a minimum T-shirt order. She'll bring the signup info to the QSO picnic party in August. She will not be collecting money until enough orders are placed.

AARL Pacific exec Bob Schneider, AH6J, reported that the AARL national convention will be held in New England next year, marking the organization's 100th anniversary. He hopes to attend.

Monthly program: Paul Agamata, WH6FM, gave a rousing report on the status — past, present and future — of amateur radio in the digital realm. He labeled his talk "A Primer on How to Set up and Operate the Digital Modes on the HF Bands." Then he promptly noted that you don't have to use HF to do digital. You can do it on any band you want, it doesn't have to be fancy, and all you need is a computer with a sound card and a two-meter, or other, rig.

He talked about "the early years," from the mid 1940s to the early 1980s; then the "age of innovation" from the early '80s to the late '90s, noting that the hobby has gotten cheaper over the years. In "the early years," the very big, bulky and noisy teletype provided RTTY, the first digital mode. "The Age of Innovation" saw the rise of the personal computer in the early '80s and AMTOR, Pactor, Pactor II, Clover and G-Tor, early digital modes developed by ham radio operators. The AFSK, or audio frequency shift keying, was quite inexpensive and simple, as long as you knew

how to run your computer.

Enter, "The Modern Era," beginning in the late '90s, with the rise of the Internet and accompanying modes of operation such as PSK-31, MFSK, Hellschreiber, MT-63 and PSK-63. Everything became lots faster. "Easier, more affordable setup costs led to broader acceptance of digital communication by hams in the U.S. and overseas," said Agamata. "It's very frequency friendly." He ran down the various HF digital modes: RTTY, AMTOR, Packet, Pactor I, II and III; Clover/G-TOR, Hellschreiber, MFSK, PSK-31, MT-63 and Olivia, describing PSK-31 and MT-63 as predominantly "THE" modes everybody liked working on. He labeled RTTY the "old fart" of digital, adding that it is still the mainstay of DX and digital contesting. MFSK is "essentially a super-RTTY mode," he said. PSK-31 is "by far the most popular mode," does 60 words per minute and is "great for QRP work." MT-63 is "very fast" and is very popular today.

Agamata discussed station setup, and what you need to get started: a "junk computer somewhere in the closet" will work great. You need Windows 95, or a Mac will also do fine. You need a monitor and a radio transceiver. You need a sound card interface, and it's important to keep "audio in, and audio out" consistent, with the quality level high. There's lots of free open source software up for grabs. He uses and recommends one of the free ones: fldigi. Also good is Ham Radio Deluxe, which costs about \$100 for the newest version but is free if you use the earlier versions. He said fldigi runs on Windows and on Macs and has all of the features of HRD. The basic setup requires an eighth-inch jack line, interface serial USB port line, and an interface microphone line.

Then it's time to figure out "where to find the action," he said. And this would be on the lower end of the band: 10 meters at 28.120; 15 meters at 21.070; 20 meters at 14.070; 40 meters at 7.073, and 80 meters at 3.583 Mhz. And observe proper protocols, he warned: "Be socially right." Don't mix RTTY and PSK-31. Stay out of each other's territory, or you'll get a lot of folks angry very fast.

Agamata then gave a hands-on demonstration, with the results of the computer-radio interface action and the messaging process projected on a screen for everyone to see.

Gregg Datlof, WH7FC, said an fldigi practice net meets at 2000 hours on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.090.00 on the upper sideband. Amateur radio operators are working on building up their skills, so they can help transmit messages in times of emergency. State and county Civil Defense Agencies also are moving in this direction for emergency communications, because of the speed, flexibility and accuracy of this streamlined mode.

Refreshment break: Prior to the start of the business portion of the monthly meeting, the group took a break to enjoy a nutritionally balanced snack buffet prepared by Janet Mills, NH7AK, of the BIARC Refreshment Committee.

Business meeting: The secretary's minutes from the previous meeting were approved as circulated in the monthly newsletter. Treasurer Milt, in the interim, had made it back from his teaching assignment in Hilo, and reported that we have \$4,793 in the bank and 95 paid-up members. He noted that in the second half of the year, the dues are halved for NEW members: \$10 for folks joining between July and December. An updated list was presented, showing current membership status. Wilbur Carlson, KH7E, re-upped on the spot, adding \$20 to the coffers and advancing the total to 96 members in good standing. The treasurer's report was approved, subject to audit.

Milt, chairman of the BIARC Education Committee, said he has two Technician licensing classes under way in two formats: the regular six-week class, meeting once a week, and the two-Saturday intensive which winds up July 20. He said the first Saturday went very well. Testing will follow the second session, at 3:30 p.m. July 20 at the LDS Church on Kilauea Avenue. Testing for all three levels of licenses also will be done at 6:30 p.m. July 25 at the Office of Aging complex on Kinoole Street. The next classes: Technician, starts Sept. 5 and runs for six weeks at the Orchidland LDS Church, and a General class starting Oct. 24 at a location to be announced later.

Bob, AH6J, the Repeater Committee chairman, said recent problems with the Pepeekeo repeater had seemed to clear up this morning. Paul said the problems may have been heat-related. Paul, a Repeater Committee member, said adjustments will be made to the 76 repeater. John Buck, KH7T, said the access-approval paperwork process is moving forward and things are looking positively positive in gaining access via the Girl Scout Camp to get in and work on the repeater, which is on state land leased by Parker Ranch.

Bob said the Repeater Committee is involved with a dozen or more entities in developing plans to expand and upgrade the repeater system on Hawaii Island. He also noted that the North Hawaii repeater project is pretty much complete, hardware-wise. The repeater, above the Waikii Ranch station, is being developed by the school ham club at Hawaii Preparatory Academy and North Hawaii hams. It just got its AARL certification. This repeater will not be linked to the islandwide repeater system.

Barbara reported that we received 2,433 QSL cards in June from Japan and Germany, for a year-to-date total of 11,168.

Robert Oliver, NH6AH, the chairman of of the June 22-23 annual

Field Day in Hilo, said only 37 contacts were made, with a solar flare and antenna problems contributing to the lower-than-expected tally. In comparison, John Bush, KH6DLK/V63JB, did well using the "homeless hex beam" antenna set up in the bed of his pickup truck. Robert said 47 persons showed up at this year's Field Day, with the last five arriving at about 2 a.m. in the form of skateboarding teens who came in under cover at Wailoa Center to get out of the rain. Robert said he was solo from 3 a.m. on and was able to make more CW contacts. "We had a pretty fun Field Day," he reported. "The coaxial stub filters worked great." Getting the stubs built and in operation for Field Day was "a real positive step" and "a good investment" for the club, he said.

Milt reported that two of the students in his accelerated two-weekend Technician's class were recruited at Field Day. Barbara announced that in August, there will be no regular BIARC meeting. Instead, the club will participate in the QSO party and picnic on Aug. 24 at Coconut Island. The next regular membership meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Keaau Community Center.

Old business: Bob and Bill Hanson, NOCAN, discussed the Puna Regional Preparedness Fair, which will run all day on Saturday, Aug. 31, at Keaau High School. Bill noted that it will be the first fair of this type ever done in the state of Hawaii. To date, there are 40 participating entities, including amateur radio. Bill has asked Bob and Gregg to head up a team to put up and man a ham booth throughout the day. Bob has approached Dean Manley, KH6B, who is one of the Big Island's true deans of amateur radio, to help. The focus of the amateur radio prep fair displays will be "ham radio: as it was, as it is, and as it will be." Bob said Dean, of the Hilo Amateur Radio Club, intends to get his old spark-gap transmitter up and running to provide a hands-on glimpse into the past.

Barbara said a nominating committee needs to be activated to propose a new slate of officers and directors in October, to be elected at the November meeting, and then to be installed at the December meeting. Milt volunteered to chair the committee. Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leigh Critchlow/WH6DZX  
Secretary





## Field Day on Mauna Loa



The California-Pacific ARC, KH6HME, activated the Mauna Loa beacon site for Field Day. We made about 100 QSO most on 15 meters but did make QSO on 6,2,432 and 1296. This was the first year and we were a bit disorganized but we had fun, till my TS2000X decided to quit working. Above is a picture of Jim, K6MIO below the tri-band dipole. We will have a larger effort next year to celebrate our good friend Paul KH6HME, SK.

- Fred KH7Y

## Field Day at Wailoa Center



FD 2013 – NH6AH photo

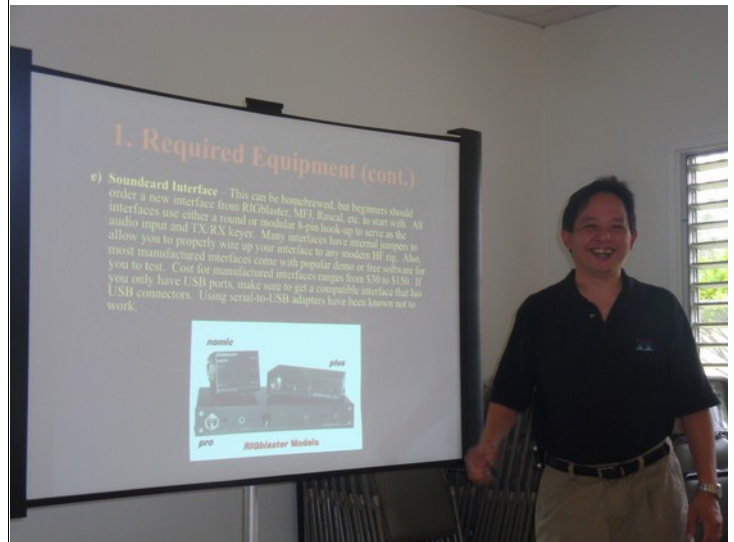
Here is an extract from the BIARC Field Day submission to the ARRL:

Call used : KH6EJ  
exchange: 2 Alpha Pacific

47 participants  
entry class: Club=2A  
Also a Mobile (John Bush)  
Power source: Generator, Battery, solar.  
Power multiplier: <150 watts = 2  
Bonus points: check  
100% emergency power -yes  
Media -yes  
set-up in public place -yes  
information booth -yes  
nts-no  
w1aw message-no  
formal nts message-no  
natural power -yes  
Site visit by elected official-no  
Site visit by agency official=yes  
Youth participation=yes  
number of youth participants who completed at least 1 qso=1  
total number of youth participants=7  
educational activity=yes  
gota bonus=no

Band-mode breakdown:

band	mode	points	mult	total
40m	CW	5	2	10
20m	CW	11	2	22
20m	ph	21	1	21
DX		2	5	10
total of all points:				63



Paul Agamata, WH6FM, delivers an enthusiastic talk on the past, present and future of amateur radio communication via digital modes. (picture Mary WH6DYW, text Leigh WH6DZX)



**10-10 International Net News**

Ten-Ten international Net's next event is the summer phone qso party held from 00h UTC August 3 until 2359 UTC August 4. Exchange is callsign, name, S/P/C, and 10-10 number, if you have one. Every ham has some 10 meter privileges, and those without 10-10 numbers will be sought after for their one point. Remember that every member within 150 miles of Hilo (check the map below) can assign their qso party score to the Aloha Chapter, and the chapter can compete for a certificate as well.

The Ali'i Chapter meets Noon Saturdays on 28.730 MHz from Kaua'i. The Aloha Chapter meets at 6:30 PM HST Mondays on 28.490 with 28.487 as an alternate frequency in case of qrm.

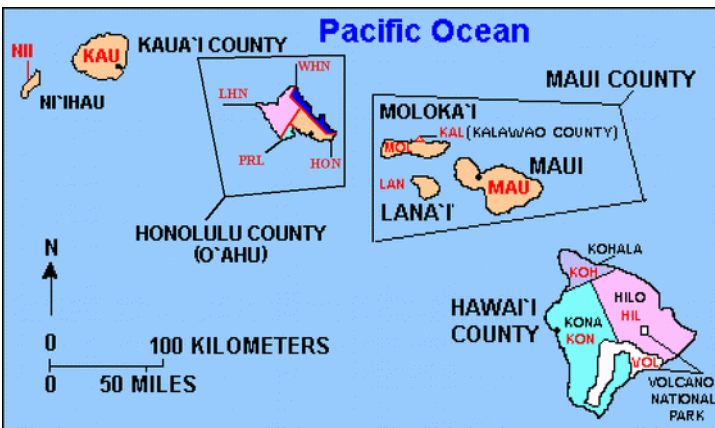
-Irene NH7PE



Bob Schneider, AH6J, and Bill Hanson, N0CAN, discussing the community prep fair while standing in front of the framed schematics plan for the setup Aug. 31 at Keaau High School. (picture Mary WH6DYW, text Leigh WH6DZX)



Wilbur KH7E and Irene NH7PE at Field Day. (Larry AH6SK photo)



The map above indicates the multiplier ID for the different multipliers in the upcoming Hawai'i QSO Party. It may also be useful for checking if you are within 150 miles of Hilo, for use in the 10-10 contest.