

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter – October 2013

President's Message October 2013

Hopefully you got to attend the Puna Emergency Preparedness Fair at the Keaau High School on August 31st. There were some great displays and a good representation from the ham radio community. Lots of familiar faces were in attendance not only working but looking at the displays. I hope that they will continue to hold these fairs so that the public can become more informed.

The annual Hamfest, this year hosted by the Kona club, will be held October 5th at the Community Center in Waimea. Set up will begin at 9AM and trading at 10AM, testing at 1PM and possible speakers at noon. BIARC will provide the coffee and refreshments so if you are coming please feel free to bring some sort of goodie for the refreshment table. Kona will take care of the cold drinks. If you are coming up by way of the Hamakua coast road drive through Waimea, just past McDonalds to the traffic light, turn right. As soon as you go around the corner on Kawaihae Road go past the park, the community building is on your right. Just beyond the Community building is the restaurant Hawaiian Style Cafe where some of the hams are meeting at 8AM for breakfast.

Nominations are still open for our election of officers and directors. If you feel so inclined to run give Milt AH6I a call at 965-6471.

At our recent meeting of BIARC there was a paper passed around by Richard AH7G with suggestions on how he thought we could promote more interest in our club meetings. Members of the PERC radio club thought that we were suggesting that PERC be incorporated into BIARC as part of our club. We have no intention of doing this and we're sorry if there was a mis-understanding. Of course there is no reason why a ham can not join both clubs and have "double the fun". If the two meetings are held on the same day, at different times, you'd be able to come to both meetings.

Richard and I are going to the mainland (Maryland) for a few days to celebrate my Mom's 99th birthday and also see his brother in Minnesota for a day or two.

73 Barbara NH7FY

Emergency Communications Van Conversion

Photos by Linda Quarberg WH6LQ, and text by Leigh Critchlow WH7DZX.

Following the Sept. 14 BIARC membership meeting, Jesse Crawford, AH6VB, conducted a tour of his custom-made van equipped with a rooftop antenna field and interior ham shack. Those taking the personal tour of this ultimate custom-made emergency comm ham go rig were mightily impressed.



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 New China Restaurant in Hilo on Kilauea Avenue across from Central Pacific Bank and Long's, and near the new courthouse.

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.

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 KH6HPZ (103.5)
147.04+	Mauna Loa RACES KH6HPZ
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)

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Minutes - Monthly membership meeting

Sept. 14, 2013

Keaau Community Center

President Barbara Darling, NH7FY, convened the meeting at 2 p.m. with 26 current and future hams in attendance.

It was a fast-paced meeting, with lots of give and take, primarily in the arena of emergency communications, as John Bush, V63JB, moderated a recap/discussion session focusing on the Aug. 31 inaugural Puna Regional Emergency Preparedness Fair held at Keaau High School.

In welcoming John as the program speaker for the meeting, Barbara said the PREP Fair was an impressive event. She thanked Bob Schneider, AH6J, and Gregg Datlof, WH7FC, for serving as co-hosts for the BIARC amateur radio booth, an assignment which had them reporting onsite at the crack of dawn to set up antennas and radios and displays to help the public understand the value of ham radio in times of emergency. The BIARC tables, coordinated by Bob and Milt Nodacker, AH6I, were next to the Puna Emergency Radio Club tables, coordinated by Gregg and Rick Gardner, WH6LU, which were next to another emergency comm booth manned by Harvey Motomura, AH6JA, which focused on the Winlink 2000 system, for when a message "absolutely, positively has to get through" and all of the more conventional communications systems have been overloaded or disrupted by an incident. That corner of the fair was an amateur radio showcase, with lots for fair-goers to see and touch and learn about this vital, vibrant alternative to cell phones, which aren't going to be worth much when the towers fail.

The fair was the first such emergency preparedness event in the entire state, with some 50 entities providing information and education in the many facets of becoming self-reliant. The fair partnered the Puna Community Development Plan Subcommittee on Connectivity and Emergency Response with the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency. It was set up not only to provide info to the public, but to gather information from fair-goers relating to community needs, personal preparedness, and to what was a major focus of the event: emergency evacuation mapping.

This activity, developed specifically for Puna subdivisions and areas, took participants from large maps of the Puna district to small ones that they could take home and put on their refrigerators so they know how to get out, depending on what direction a hazards is coming from. Community members also helped the mappers by giving info about roadways listed or not listed on official maps. Some roads shown on maps don't physically exist. Some roads that exist might not be shown on maps.

It is estimated that about 200-300 persons volunteered to help at the PREP Fair, with between 1,000-1,500 members of the general public in attendance. The fair's overall co-chairs were retired science professor and former University of Hawaii Regent Marlene Hapai and Bill Hanson, NOCAN, an executive at Hawaii County Civil Defense who is in charge of the East Hawaii Community Emergency Response Teams, or CERT program.

In his brief recap of the PREP Fair, which involved quite a few BIARC members in various roles, John Bush said he felt in many ways that the fair was very good. And, like a mini Field Day, the exercise demonstrated our strengths and weaknesses. The event also gave us an opportunity to see what like-minded groups are doing in the area of emergency preparedness.

John then launched an animated discussion about antennas, modes, frequencies, experiences and theories of amateur radio operators. There were many opinions on what works better or worse in specific emergency situations and scenarios, given widely differing variables and the real need to handle large volumes of health and welfare traffic. Discussion topics ranged from basic voice messaging to various digital programs now being used and tips on how best to employ them satisfactorily. Also: The importance of highly functioning mobile rigs can come into play in emergencies, and there was enthusiastic discussion on how best to set up a ham go rig that is quick to assemble, with an antenna system that is robust enough to serve the purpose, yet one that can be raised and ready almost at a moment's notice.

John's major talking points which prompted the discussion on emergency comms: Choice of bands/frequencies, modes, radios, antennas, power sources and hardening, initial critical emergency communications versus high volume health and welfare traffic, and overall system bandwidth.

In other action at the BIARC monthly general membership meeting:

Richard Darling, AH7G, asked for feedback relating to his plan to petition the DXCC Committee — in the name of fairness — to alter certain rules either in effect now or set for enactment in the near future. A main point is the DXCC plan to withdraw certain localities from the list of qualifying countries. As a guy who's been in ham for more than 60 years, and who has been a DXer for most of that time, he's on the cusp of reaching the 331 QSLs needed to make the honor roll. Richard has 330, needing just one more to make it. But planned rule changes would take away countries that he and others, who've been building their numbers over the decades, contacted years ago. Richard's point: If a country was a valid country at the time the DX contact was validated, the contact should be valid in perpetuity. He also would like to see several other changes made for reasons of streamlining and common sense.

On another front, Richard proposed establishing a few more standing committees, with subcategories of assignment and expertise to get more club members involved at the committee level in the following areas, some of which already are BIARC standing committees: Communications, Education/Testing/VE, Field Day, DX, Technology, HDXA, PERC/Emergency, ARRL, Repeaters and Special Programs. In this expanded hierarchy, he has established the Refreshment Guru Committee at a status on par with the Executive Committee, a positioning which drew no opposition, given the refreshments enjoyed at the meeting — coffee, ice cream and cherry cobbler provided by refreshments Chair Janet Mills, NH7AK.

Robert Oliver, NH6AH, reported that his special team working to upgrade emergency communications at Hilo Medical Center recently put the final touches on the project, completing the "hospital's invisible antenna by adding an invisible ladder line."

Robert, also the BIARC Field Day chair, reported the final bill for the new coaxial filters was \$135 plus change.

Barbara said there will be no membership meeting in October, because BIARC will be participating in the Oct. 5 Hamfest in Waimea. We're in charge of providing refreshments, so any donations of goodies would be appreciated. The Hamfest will run from mid-morning until noon, when there will be some guest speakers, followed by VE testing for all amateur radio licenses at 1 p.m.

Nominations Chair Milt invited members to nominate themselves or others for open slots on the Board of Directors. Thus far, he has the following nominations: Robert Oliver, president; no vice presidential candidate; Leigh Critchlow, WH6DZX, secretary; Andre Robert, WH6EBA, and George Bezilla, WH6EFN, treasurer; new directors Barbara, Milt and Toni Robert, N0INK; and continuing directors John Bush, John Buck, KH7T; and Mary Brewer, WH6DYW. Please let Milt know if you have other nominations. The election will be at the November meeting, with installation at the December Christmas party.

On behalf of the Education Committee, Milt noted that VE testing will be done at 1 p.m. at the Oct. 5 Hamfest in Waimea and at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17, at the Orchidland LDS Church. A new General License class will start Oct. 24 at the Orchidland church. The class is free; the only charge is for the \$15 testing fee.

Barbara reported that, with the closing of Native Steak and Pasta in Keaau, the 11:30 p.m. regular Friday meeting location has been changed to the New China restaurant on Kilauea Avenue in Hilo, across from the downtown Longs and Central Pacific Bank. Everyone is invited to stop by for lunch and to ragchew in person around a big, friendly round table. Other locations also are being considered, so if you have any ideas, let Barbara know.

Following the meeting, Jesse Crawford, AH6VB, conducted a tour of his custom-made van equipped with a rooftop antenna field and interior ham shack. Talk about a ham go rig! Nicely done, Jesse. Thanks for the show-and-tell.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow/WH6DZX
Secretary



Local Participation in the Hawai'i QSO Party HQP at KH6LC

Summary:

Band	CW	Qs	Ph	Qs
160:		2		0
80:		5		51
40:		312		656
20:		231		2379
15:		258		1053
10:		50		443

Total:		858		4882
Total mults:		174		
Total Score =		1,867,775		



Lloyd KH6LC operating 10 meters (KH7Y photo)

In spite of the less than optimum conditions, we made a decent show of it resulting in a total of 5740 contacts, about 1000 fewer than last year. We worked many who stated that we were their first Hawaii contact ever. We worked 4380 unique stations of which 2020 were not in the Master.dta database, thus there were lots of casual operators. We worked all states, almost all Canadian provinces, and 102 DXCC entities. Mahalo to John K6MM, Doug N7NM, and Steven K6AAB for working us on 10 band/modes. We also need to mention Tom K3TW who we unfortunately missed on 20 CW. We worked 6 stations on 8 band/modes. Rob NH6V found the weekend to be excellent therapy as he's recovering from his terrible bike accident, taking his mind off his constant headaches. Thanks to all for a most enjoyable weekend.

73 & Aloha, Lloyd KH6LC, Curt AH6RE, Rob NH6V, Fred KH7Y

HQP at KH6QR

I didn't plan to do the HQP but on Sat I went on the air and worked w9fz and he gave me a 59 wi, so that was my only contact that day for the HQP..

On Sunday i got bored and decided to do the HQP. I'm not familiar

with multipliers, but these are the stations that I worked outside of North America:

8p6nv, kp2ej, pp5bs, jr7nmx, ji1alp, jo7sak, vk4hia, 9v1yc, jh1sjn, ve6bmx, xe1h, ja2fuj, jr3aaz, lw3ex, ve7cv, xe1hx, ve9aa, ve6bmx, ve7nwi, pj4nx, ve4pdd, xe2joc, va3eco, hp8dpd, kh2ju.

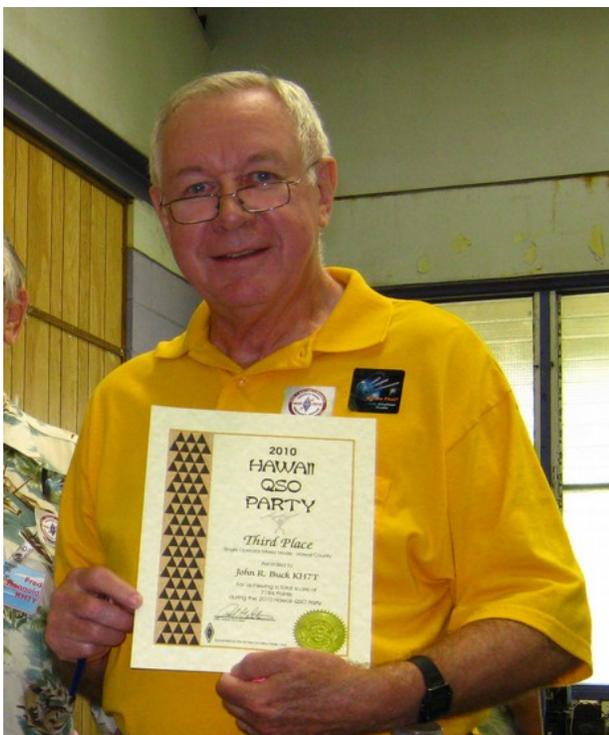


my total contacts came out to about 217..

my first contact was at 12:46, and the last was 17:58 on Sunday. my base station which is where I operated from is a Kenwood ts-480hx, my amp is an Ameritron AL-811H, and I was running at 700 watts. my antenna is a 6 element tri band Mosley classic 36..

tnx 73 Doug / KH6QR..

HQP at KH7T



My location was at the home station near Waimea and I entered as a single operator in the Big Island Kohala (KOH) contest zone.

The primary antenna was the Steppir DB36 (3 elements on 40, 4 on 20, 15 and 10 meters) up 70 feet. I sometimes briefly switched to a B&W all band loaded dipole up 20 ft for a different angle.

A major decision had to be made before the contest. The choices were to run the 500 watt amplifier for the High Power category or to run 150 watts or less to get into the low power category. The decision was made to keep it simple and go with the K3 barefoot at 100 watts and to not use the amplifier. Because my goal was to give as many Hawaii KOH contacts as I could, I did not consider QRP for very long. I also decided to stick to phone and CW.

The N1MM contest logging program was used. The program has a feature to keep track of operating time less breaks. I kept forgetting to turn it on and off so I ended up going through the log and adding up the break times to figure out if I was over the limit of operating time.

The results were pretty good by my standards for casual operating style with time out for meals, breaks, sleep, and high noon propagation doldrums. I did operate most of the allowed 18 hours total for a single op.

Almost all my operating was done by picking a quiet spot near the low end of the General Class band allocation and calling CQ HQP or in the middle of a run often just QRZ KH7T. A little bit of hunt and pounce was done during lulls in propagation to pick up some local multipliers.

Watching band activity on the P3 Panadapter helped pick quiet spots in the middle of the activity to use for my cq frequency. I sometimes changed frequencies even though I did not hear interference in my passband but I could see strong stations next door that were interfering with stations hearing me or possibly stations calling me and interfering with the neighbor. When requested I moved off a DX station frequency that some were chasing. I never heard that station. The P3 also helped me spot local strong stations for Hawaii multipliers.

I am completely convinced that I would not have worked many more stations if I had used the amplifier. My run rates were usually limited by my ability to dig a couple of letters out of the pile up. At other times I also spent a lot of time trying to get the call and zone right when very weak stations were almost heard.

To the dismay of the pile, I took a bit of time to rag chew when one of my old High School buddies showed up. Darn it, I do mean old -- 1950s.

The piles were extremely well disciplined. Even with many stations calling, as soon as I gave a partial call they almost always shut up until the contact was completed. I think that only 3 or 4 times did I notice people calling on top of the desired station unless there was a legitimate conflict like multiple stations ending in x or whatever I had picked up.

Almost all contacts were SSB with a few CW.

Result was a claimed total score of 123371.
Band Total number of contacts

40 114
20 598
15 130
10 20

Total 862 contacts, subject to review.

There was a lot of DX participation and very little need to explain what the Hawaii QSO party Zone designators were. The rules worked pretty well for this contest and I recommend they not change for next year.

Aloha,
John KH7T

HQP at AH6SK

I participated in the Hawaii QSO Party. I had a total of 297 contacts mostly on 20 and 40 meters. I have submitted my log to Joe in Honolulu a week ago. I operated using an Icom 756 Pro II, an Ameritron AL-80B amp, a MFJ 998 auto antenna tuner and a G5RV multi-band dipole antenna. I lacked 4 states from WAS. I had several DX station, from Europe, Latvia, Canada, Central and South America, New Zealand, Australia and Guam. I worked as a single operator and at times it was more than I could handle. It was fun!

-Larry AH6SK

HQP at WH7DX

I joined the BIARC to support the repeater in Honolulu giving me access to the Win System on the mainland.

I decided to try RTTY with the HQP and it was slow going until the end. During the last day – 2 hours before deadline I had the most fun. I made something like 25% of my contacts during 1 hour compared to the other 11 hours I figured I spent.

I worked a little SSB – saying HI to the other local calls.

It was a fun contest and next year I plan to work more SSB and then move to RTTY after the other RTTY contest (SCC) ends after the first day. It was confusing having two RTTY events at the same time and most were thinking about SCC.

It was a very mellow and enjoyable HQP. I had some good multiple contacts with those on the mainland that participated.

My two logs are on 3830 Scores.

<http://lists.contesting.com/archives//html/3830/2013-08/msg01948.html>

<http://lists.contesting.com/archives//html/3830/2013-08/msg01950.html>

Running – TS-570, Signalink USB, 811H amp, 5 Band Hex Beam,

40,80,160M dipoles.

Take Care!

Bryan
WH7DX



Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

The SET this year is the same date as the hamfest in Waimea. Irene, NH7PE, has offered to conduct the SET from 0900 to 1200 on 05 October. Stay tuned for more details.

Upcoming VE Testing

The VE team will be conducting testing for all license classes at the following times and places:

5 October -- Hamfest at Waimea. 1:00 p.m.
17 October -- Orchidland LDS Church. 6:30 p.m.
12 December -- Orchidland LDS Church. 6:30 p.m.

Also, there MAY be a General Radiotelephone test available at the 17 October session. Contact Milt, AH6I, 965-6471, nodacker@gmail.com for more information.

General Exam Class

A six week test preparation class for the General exam will begin 24 October at the Orchidland LDS Church. The sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and run about two hours. There is no charge for the class. Contact Milt, AH6I, 965-6471, nodacker@gmail.com for more information.

Nominations open for 2014 BIARC Officers

Nominations are now open for BIARC officers for 2014. The current President, Vice President, and Treasurer have served two terms and are not eligible for reelection. Nominations so far are:

President:
Robert Oliver, NH6AH

Vice-president:
none

Secretary:
Leigh Critchlow, WH6DZX (Incumbent)

Treasurer:
George Bezilla, WH6EFN

Andre Robert, WH6EBA

Directors (for a two year term):

Barbara Darling, NH7FY

Milt Nodacker, AH6I

Toni Robert, N0INK

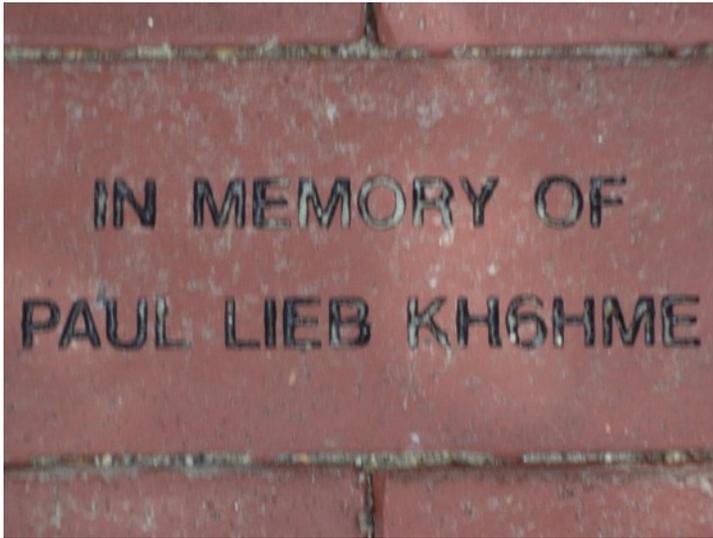
Milt is in charge of accepting nominations. He would like to have at least two nominees for each office.

If you would like to serve or to nominate someone to serve please contact Milt Nodacker, 965-6471, nodacker@gmail.com.



Paul Lieb KH6HME Memorial

Chuck McConnell W6DPD has purchased a memorial brick in the ARRL Diamond Court for BIARC member and VHF/UHF/microwave celebrity Paul Lieb KH6HME.



Thanks Fred KH7Y for sending the picture.



10-10 International Net



The Ten-Ten Sprint QSO Party will be held October 10 for 24 hours, using all operating modes on the 10 meter band. Mobile entries will be accepted. QSO scores for the Sprint may be assigned to any 10-10 chapter.

The fall QSO Party will be held the third full weekend of October, the 19th and 20th, using CW only, in the CW area of the 10 meter band. 48 hours of CW fun.

Prepare for the fall digital QSO Party, November 9 and 10.

Remember the 12-man DXpedition to Wake Island, K9W, which will be operating until October 20 on all bands 160 through 6 meters on CW, SSB, and RTTY. See www.wake2013.org.

10 meters is often open, as you can see from the HQP results in this issue. I recently worked San Juan, PR. You have to call CQ to get results.

-Irene NH7PE



Preparedness Fair

The Preparedness Fair held at Kea'au High School was well attended by BIARC members. Thanks to Barbara NH7FY, Leigh WH7DZX, and John KH6DLK for pictures and text.



Bob Schneider, AH6J, and Gregg Datlof, WH7FC, served as co-hosts for the BIARC amateur radio booth, an assignment which had them reporting onsite at the crack of dawn to set up antennas and radios and displays to help the public understand the value of ham radio in times of emergency.



The BIARC tables, coordinated by Bob and Milt Nodacker, AH6I, with help from Boy Scouts, were next to the Puna Emergency Radio Club tables, coordinated by Gregg and Rick Gardner, WH6LU,

That emergency comm corner of the fair was an amateur radio showcase, with lots for fair-goers to see and touch and learn about this vital, vibrant alternative to cell phones, which aren't going to be worth much when the towers fail.



which were next to another emergency comm booth manned by Harvey Motomura, AH6JA, which focused on the Winlink 2000 system, for when a message "absolutely, positively has to get through" and all of the more conventional communications systems have been overloaded or disrupted by an incident.



Upcoming 2013 International Hamfest

The Kona Amateur Radio Society will be hosting the next international Ham Swap Meet in Waimea, on October 5th. 2013. We will be forming a group from club members to organize the event; parking, vendor placement, set up, testing, refreshments etc.

The Waimea radio club will be joining us on this project.

The venue is the Waimea recreation center, same location as past Swap Meets. The tentative schedule will be as follows:

8:00am Breakfast at Hawaiian Style Cafe
9:00am Vendor setup
10:00am doors open
12:00pm guest speakers, forum, presentations (your input)
1:00pm license testing
2:00pm wrap up clean up

There is always a good turnout from both sides of the island for this as well from off Island. Always a lot of great used ham radio gear, meeting old friends and meeting new ones.

Contact Stuart, KH7DX [808-896-1290](tel:808-896-1290) or

<mailto:kh7dx%40arrl.net>

with your offer of assistance for this always fun project.
More updates as they come in, and thanks for supporting HAM Radio in these Hawaiian Islands, Stuart



Invisible Antenna Installed at Medical Center



Here's a new photo of the Hilo Medical Center invisible HF antenna. Don't worry if you can't see it, you are not supposed to. Yours truly just installed a new feed line to the "G5RV" antenna. The feed line is 18 gauge enameled copper wire with acrylic plastic spacers. I got the plastic from Ben Franklin's picture frame shop as scrap for \$2.00., which got me more than I needed to make the 16 spacers and drill the holes for the wire. I tied them in place with 20 gauge enameled copper wire. With one and a quarter inch spacing between the wires, according to a chart I have on open wire line the impedance is about 500 ohms.

This completes the design after several tests with other twin leads that were always somewhat visible though they worked well. This antenna is connected to a homemade 4 to 1 transformer to RG8U 200 foot feed line into the first floor conference room. The operating area is now juxtaposed to the hospital's emergency

satellite phone area in the conference room. As chief operator of the station, I would like to ask for more volunteer BIARC Ham operators to join the Health Com. group. We have a monthly SSB net on 40, 60, and 75 meters. More information is available.

73

Robert NH6AH