



**Big Island Amateur Radio Club**

## **Newsletter – December 2009**

### **President's Message**

This is my last President's message as we will be having new officers take over in January. As you will note in the secretary's minutes Paul WH7BR will be replacing me. I have many people to thank for helping me during my nine years of being an officer in the club (Five as president, two treasurer, one secretary, and one as vice president). Now is my turn to just be a director for a change. I will not begin to name people who have helped as I'm sure that I would forget someone and I don't want any hurt feelings. There is one person who gave me a bit of advice at the very beginning of my first presidency that I have never forgotten. Up until this very last meeting in November I have remembered to use her advice. Nancy Parry NH7RT helped me out considerably as I was getting started and her advice was "ALWAYS have an agenda". Thank you Nancy for this excellent advice.

As I mentioned in an E Mail we voted to send Ralph AF6DX another \$1,000 toward paying off the repeaters he is letting the club use. I thought we were finished, but Curt came up with a more recent agreement that showed there was a UHF repeater added later, so we still owe him \$1,000 for that repeater. Hopefully we can get that paid off this next year.

Our Christmas party will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2PM at the Keaau Community Hall behind the police station. The turkeys, utensils and beverages will be supplied by the club. It will be a pot

luck dinner. Call me at 982-9126 and let me know what you are planning on bringing, or if you want to know what to bring. We have not had anyone come up with an idea for entertainment yet, so let me know if you have an idea. We will have induction of new officers at the dinner.

One job that I will continue to do is manage the incoming QSL card Bureau. Since BIARC took over the Bureau in April 2008 we have handled over 45,000 cards. Special thanks go to Chuck AH6SC for transporting many cards to Oahu when he makes his trips over there. He hands them over to Ned KH7JJ on the USS Missouri who gives them to Kevin AH6QO who takes them to the club meetings for distribution. Also have Mitch NH6JC on Kauai and Yano WH6CZD on Maui who do their islands for us. Many thanks go to all who have helped distribute the QSL cards.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, from both of us.

73 and 88 Barbara NH7FY and Dick AH7G



You can have one of these too. Read the story on page 7.

# Big Island Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1938  
Hilo, HI 96721

[www.biarc.net](http://www.biarc.net)

## Officers

President	Barbara Darling NH7FY	982-9126
Vice President	Paul Ducasse WH7BR	985-9222
Treasurer	Curt Knight AH6RE	966-8304
Secretary	Arman Wiggins WH6BVZ	963-6846

## Two 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

## One Year Directors

Richard Darling AH7G	982-9126
Fred Benardella KH6FI	968-1331
Rick Frazier AH7H	985-9169
Gregg Datlof WH7FC	982-9838
Peter Yoes KH7HI	965-5429

## Standing Committees

Service/Awards	Vacant	
co-chair	Ron Phillips	AH6HN
Education	Harvey Motomura	AH6JA
Emergency Coord.	Vacant	
Equipment	Fred Benardella	KH6FI
Health&Welfare	Barbara Darling	NH7FY
Hospitality	Kile Golden	WH7FB
Newsletter	Curt Knight	AH6RE
Programs	Arman Wiggins	WH6BVZ
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 each transmission for the link to be established. 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-	Pepeekeo KH6EJ (may be linked)
<b>146.94-</b>	Ka'u PD KH6EJ
<b>146.94-</b>	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
147.02+	Haleakala Maui RACES AH6JA
147.04+	Mauna Loa RACES AH6JA
<b>147.16+</b>	Kona (Hualalai) WH6DEW
<b>147.32+</b>	Waimea Hospital NH7HI (100)
<b>147.38+</b>	Waimea East KH7T experimental
<b>442.35+</b>	Kaanapali Maui (136.5)
<b>442.5+</b>	Kea'au KH6EJ
443.65+	Ocean View Hub
<b>444.225+</b>	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
<b>444.45+</b>	Parker Ranch KH6EJ (88.5)

## Big Island Amateur Radio Club - Meeting November 14, 2009

The general membership meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by Barbara Darling NH7FY.

Introductions were made.

Barbara announced that Curt AH6RE is now accepting club dues for 2010.

Barbara also announced that Bob Schneider AH6J, Richard Darling AH7G and herself had been to the VA home to visit Fred Benardella KH6FI who is suffering with cancer and is not doing well. The VA home is letting his wife stay in his room around the clock if she wants to. She has an inflatable bed that a friend donated.

Our Christmas party will be next month. It is a potluck where the club is providing the turkeys. So other dishes will have to be brought by members. Let Barbara know what you are planning to bring.

Bob Schneider AH6J said that there will be license testing at the Puna Congregational Church in Keaau on Friday November 27<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Bob or Ron Phillips AH6HN for details.

The secretary's minutes from the October meeting were approved without objection.

The treasurer's report is as follows:

Income Year to Date (13 Nov 09)	
Hamfest	25.00
Memorial Fund	736.00
Refreshments	88.83
Repeater	375.00
Dues: Associate	70.00
Dues: Family	170.00
Dues: General Membership	1,660.00
Dues: Student	20.00
Total Income	3,144.83

Expense Year to Date (13 Nov 09)	
Bank Service Charges	5.00
Dues and Subscriptions	35.00
Field Day	191.91
Equipment Insurance	72.00
Liability Insurance	320.00

Postage and Delivery	176.93
Printing and Reproduction	119.95
Repeater Maintenance	1,728.30
Returned Check	20.00
Bulletin	15.49
Refreshments	113.65
Total Expense	2,798.23
Total assets	2,652.74

Bob Schneider AH6J reported on the status of our repeaters. There will be a group going up to Pepeekeo on Tuesday November 17th to do some maintenance and repair on that repeater. There will also be expeditions to Kulani, Mauna Kea and probably Mauna Loa as well in the near future. Anyone wishing to participate should let Bob or Ron AH6HN know.

We are also responsible for maintaining the site so weedeating and other types of help are needed.

Curt Knight AH6RE requested that when maintenance is done on each repeater that the brand and serial number of the machine be recorded so that the club can more easily keep track of its assets and insurance coverage.

Barbara announced that both Gloria Whitely and Ann Miller are both doing well.

The newsletter needs articles telling how you got involved in amateur radio. Contact Curt AH6RE for details.

Barbara said the QSL bureau received 2484 cards during October.

Chuck Epperson AH6SC has been carrying QSL cards to Oahu regularly for the Oahu hams.

Chuck Epperson AH6SC gave a USS Missouri report. The Missouri is going to be moving from dry dock, where it has undergone some repairs, to its regular mooring on January 7, 2010. The USS Missouri association is offering sponsorships for \$500 that will let you ride on the Missouri during this move.

Lloyd Cabral KH6LC reported that they are now doing live broadcasts on the web of their shack during contests. He has gotten a lot of good feedback from this. Many people enjoy watching the operation in real time. It can be found at [www.KH6LC.com](http://www.KH6LC.com).

New business:

Barbara said that last month we sent \$500 to Ralph Fontaine AF7DX to reimburse him for some of the repeaters he bought for the club. According to club records we have now paid for one of the repeaters and we still owe \$1000 more.

Curt Knight AH6RE moved that we pay off the entire \$1000 dollars now. Lloyd Cabral KH6LC seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Curt will see that a check is issued to Ralph.

Election of officers for 2010. There is only one candidate for each office so Barbara announced the each persons name and the office they are standing for. They are as follows:

President: Paul Ducasse WH7BR  
Vice President: Tom Thornton AH6ZZ  
Secretary: Dave Broyles KH7SO  
Treasurer: Curt Knight AH6RE

Two year board members were:

Beau Mills NH7WV  
Rich Fetchen KH6WE  
Kile Golden WH7FB  
Elizabeth Yoes WH7CU  
Chuck Epperson AH6SC  
They will now be one year directors.

The new two year directors will be as follows:

Ron Phillips AH6HN  
Bob Schneider AH6J  
Richard Darling AH7G  
Peter Yoes KH7HI  
Richard Frasier AH7H  
Lloyd Cabral KH6LC

John Buck KH7T made a motion to accept the slate as announced. Chuck Epperson AH6SC seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously. The new officers will be inducted at our Christmas party.

Bob Schneider announced that there is a limited supply of new IRCs at the Keaau Post Office. Richard Darling AH7G said that he

had ordered 50 of them at the Airport Post Office but hadn't been down to see if they had come in yet.

Don Stribling KH6DX said that the call sign auto license plates that were ordered through Hawaii County Civil Defense are now available.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm

John Buck KH7T then presented his talk on the Elecraft K-3 radio and the Stepp IR antenna.

Submitted by Arman Wiggins WH6AW.



## The Story Behind the Certificate on Page 2

Murphy's Law made my attempt to do the CQ Worldwide 160-meter contest not an easy thing. On Thursday, the first night, I discovered that my 160 meter loop antenna (536 feet around) was not getting out. Friday, I spent all day changing the feed line back to the original 50 ohm coax. That night I was too tired to make many contacts, but at least I was getting out. Saturday night, I was able to make a lot of QSOs. The conditions were good too. You can see by the low score on the certificate that there was almost no competition. Checking the other hams who listed scores, only KH6LC and KH7Y participated from Hawaii, and they had much better scores. I was the only station on battery power. I hope that my story will encourage other hams to join me on the 160 meter band this year.

Aloha and 73, Robert, NH6AH





## **BIARC Biographies - Ted Brattstrom NH6YK**

How to start - my first exposure to ham radio was my uncle - W6JYV in La Jolla, CA (now living in Washington State). Every once and a while we would visit the cousins/aunt/uncle and he might be in the shack making those weird duck quacking sounds come out of the radio. I wasn't all that interested.... but a seed was planted.

After being a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal, I moved to American Samoa, and ended up teaching at American Samoa Community College. By magic, I turned into the station manager for the ASCC PEACESAT station, using ATS-3 (a semi-retired geosynchronous satellite) to communicate amongst people in the Pacific and some sites in the Americas. How cool to have my "own" satellite to play with! This intro to satellite communications using a very simple system using frequencies near the 2M ham band was a lot of fun - technically and communications wise. I managed to set up an electronic fieldtrip between students at a school and scientists at Palmer Station in Antarctica. Some people



at South Pole and McMurdo dropped in for a chat with the students also. Way Cool! Space / Satellites / Teaching / Antarctica...

When I finally moved to Hawaii in 1988, Satellites were high on my list of things to play with. Still, I hadn't *quite* been bitten by the ham bug... it was getting close, the Elmers were approaching. KH6GDR had helped me with PEACESAT issues while I was in American Samoa, and John (KJ9U) helped me with my first station set up and HF QSO when I finally passed my tests (5wpm+Novice+Tech) over in Kaneohe with Joe Keola's - (KH6BFZ) VE program. (Feb 1991)

I was having a blast on 2m with the repeaters, packet, MIR, Space Shuttle, and on 10M DXing up a storm... It was the tail end of that solar peak, but plenty of people were out there on 10! I did some demonstrations for teachers, talked (forced) a few students into taking their tests, and all that fun stuff.

My morning ride to work was made fun by chatting with VE3DOA(SK) on Maui while we were both driving to work... Others would pop in with comments and addenda, or just listen, I guess we were interesting enough. We got a students net going sporadically on the State Link with students/teachers on Kauai, Oahu, Maui and the Big Island.

Then I had the opportunity to go to Midway for the summer!!! I figured I could be NH6YK/KH4!! not to mention "playing" with the birds (albatross, not satellite), looking for glass floats, and such things. (on later trips I changed it to NH4/NH6YK) I worked at studying the code (13wpm) - passed the writtens for General and Advanced, but missed the multiple choice code part by 1 question (no, it wasn't 2 minutes of perfect copy - just enough to let me attempt a guess at the questions) . So, "Alas", I went out to the island as a coded tech. Not a problem, 10M was good, as was 6M!! Rick Senones KH6JEB (Later KH7RS, now SK) loaned me a 6M beam and 100W 10M/6M radio - and after work with the gooneys, and walks around the island, I played radio. Pileups! yes - Nothing like a 6M opening to JA or 10M to the USA... It kept me busy! No, I didn't set any records, I just had fun. If someone I was talking to had a story about Midway, I'd stop and listen. I met up

with people who had flown the Clippers across the Pacific and others who had done service on the island. And if someone came by suggesting a boat ride to the north reef and a snorkel, well, the radio came second. Really fun altogether!

That experience had stoked the 6M bug, so, when I returned, I got a little 2W IC-502, put up a dipole, and started DXing! Ken Hoppe had a 6M quad which was not being used, so up on the school roof it went. In short order, the school roof had a number of antennas!!! 6M Quad, 10M Beam, Satellite beams (2M / 70cm), 2M and 10M verticals.... and on it went.

Along with the 6M bug, I came down with a serious satellite addiction. First working RS-10/11 and MIR, then, a bit more equipment, and AO-10, AO-13, AO-27. FO-20, FO-29, RS-15 and others... It was fun seeing how far I could get on the low satellites - working Kansas when we both had about a 3 degree pass, and on the high ones just over the horizon. I took the station out to field day more than once, and it was fun to watch people make their first contact on AO-10 or 13 with the time lag!

As time has gone on, I've taken up opportunities to travel in other places, and occasionally operate ham radio, Several more trips to Midway(NH4/NH6YK), Palau (KC6YK), England (M/NH6YK), Wales (MW/NH6YK), the Falkland Islands (VP8DHI), Easter Island/Rapanui (CE0Y/NH6YK - talk about a long call!) and the Marshall Islands (V73YK). In an early trip to New Zealand, I took along a 2M and 70cm HT, and had a blast talking with hams up and down the islands. One day we (Lisa - NH6YU and I) were hitchhiking, and at several stops I'd take the radio out and chat. We met up on the air with a ham driving the opposite way... it turned out, we both got to the same town at the same time, and met for a cuppa and a chat in person! before heading on our separate ways. At several meetings you've seen some of the pictures from some of these travel / vacation DXpeditions, and there will likely be more to come.

What have I left out? Plenty, I was VP and President of EARC in Honolulu for awhile, sorted QSL cards for the Oahu end of the KH6 buro, went on a county dxpedition to Kalawao county, organized and Won! a multi-multi DX contest for Oceania (OK, we

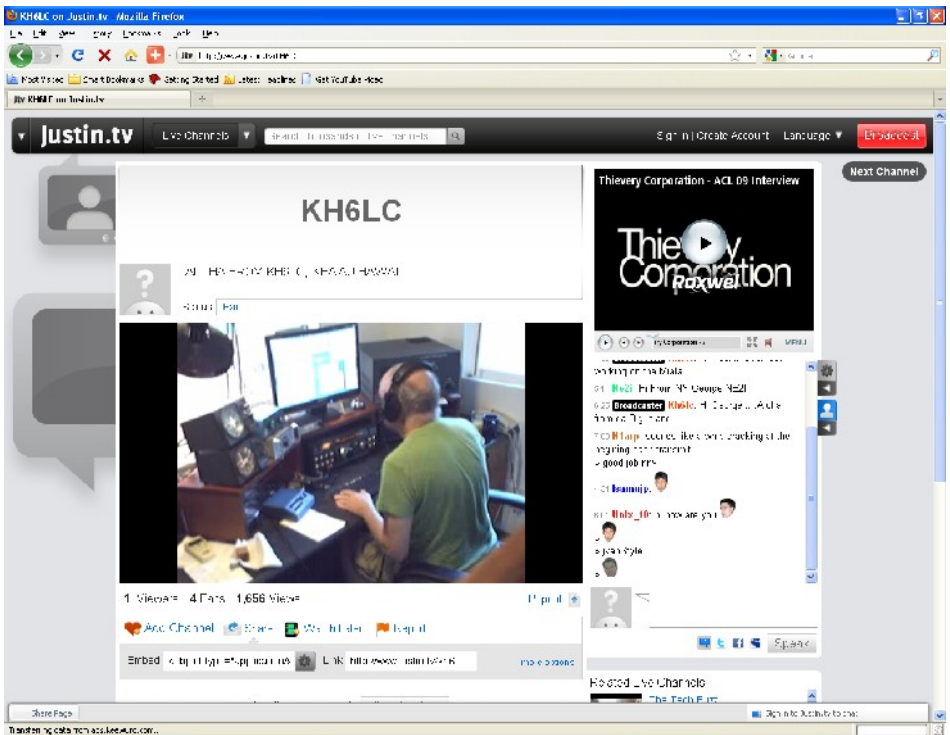
were lucky, I think no one else operated or submitted a report :-), volunteered for the Ka'u desert site for the Volcano Marathon, Radio Astronomy at NRAO Greenbank (Ever wondered what keying up a 1.5W 2M HT next to a 40ft dish on 1420MHz looks like - I don't think I kept *that* chart recording!) Operated APRS aeronautical mobile, and the traditional paperchasing; DXCC, WAS, VUCC, WAC...

Lots left out, lots left to do - I hope the sunspots return, and we get another high orbiting satellite.... 73 and aloha, de NH6YK



## KH6LC Live on the Web

During radio contests, check out the live action at KH6LC by following the link on Lloyd's web site [www.kh6lc.com](http://www.kh6lc.com) . Shown here is Goran SM0DRD operating during Sweepstakes SSB.



The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying a live stream on Justin.tv. The browser's address bar shows the URL [www.kh6lc.com](http://www.kh6lc.com). The Justin.tv page features a search bar, a navigation menu, and a main content area. The central video player shows a person in a green shirt operating radio equipment. The video title is "KH6LC". Below the video, there are statistics: "1 Viewer", "4 Fans", and "1,656 Views". The page also includes a "Next Channel" section with a video titled "Thievery Corporation - ACL 09 Interview". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows the address "http://www.kh6lc.com/".



### **Fred Natale Benardella KH6FI (1945 – 2009)**

Fred Benardella KH6FI died November 12 at the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans' home in Hilo after a long battle with cancer. He was born 64 years ago on Christmas day, hence his middle name. He was a retired electrical supply manager. He is survived by his wife Helen, sons Michael and Fred III, daughter Stacy, two brothers, six grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Fred had been in ham radio since 1959, when he started out as WA2HFI, the call he held until 2004 when he moved to Hawai'i. His son Fred mentioned in his eulogy that ham radio was very important to Fred. They never had to ask where Dad was when they came home for they knew that he was in the ham shack. The biggest smile they ever saw on Fred was the day that the cement truck arrived to pour the concrete for his tower base. Fred was a BIARC member since 2004 and was a club director. He was active on all bands 1.8 through 1296 MHz and particularly enjoyed radio contesting and VHF. He will be missed by all of us.  
-Barbara NH7FY



Lloyd KH6LC



## **ARRL Section Manager's Report**

This report covers Mid October to mid November 2009.

[The SM report has been edited owing to space limitations. The full report is available to ARRL members at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) ]

### **EMCOMM:**

At the moment the central Pacific doesn't have any major storm activity however a storm started in the Eastern Pacific and made its way across parts of Central America, the Caribbean, some southern states and is finally finishing by dumping its remnants across the eastern US. The message is "stay prepared".

### **ACTIVITIES:**

The Hilo Amateur Radio Club will be operating Dec. 11, 12 & 13 at Laupahoehoe Point using the club call KH6CC.

As many of you know, the USS Missouri is in dry dock across the way at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. She will spend several months there, getting the hull repaired and the entire ship cleaned and painted from the topmast down to the keel. During that time she will be closed to visitors and KH6BB will be shut down.

There was a DXpedition to Midway Island on October 11 to 19. Check the website for a really nice write up. It is:  
<http://www.midway2009.com/index.html>

As always, check out Ron Hashiro's, AH6RH, websites for more information on several subjects.  
<http://www.qsl.net/ah6rh/am-radio/emcomm/makani-pahili-09.html>  
<http://ronhashiro.htohanenet.com/am-radio/in-hawaii.html>,  
[www.qsl.net/ah6rh/am-radio/in-hawaii.html](http://www.qsl.net/ah6rh/am-radio/in-hawaii.html).  
<http://www.qsl.net/ah6rh/am-radio/cellular-phone-ordinance.html>  
There are also quite a few other web links imbedded in Ron's web pages.

ARRL Pacific Section Manager: Robert L. Schneider, AH6J  
[ah6j@arrl.org](mailto:ah6j@arrl.org)



President-elect Paul WH7BR



Secretary – elect Dave KH7SO



Director-elect Pete KH7HI

**Big Island Amateur Radio Club**

**PO Box 1938**

**Hilo, HI 96721**