

March 2021 Newsletter

Next up on Zoom
(get link on BIARC ListServe)

Saturday, March 13
Noon: BIARC Board meeting
2 p.m.: Membership gathering

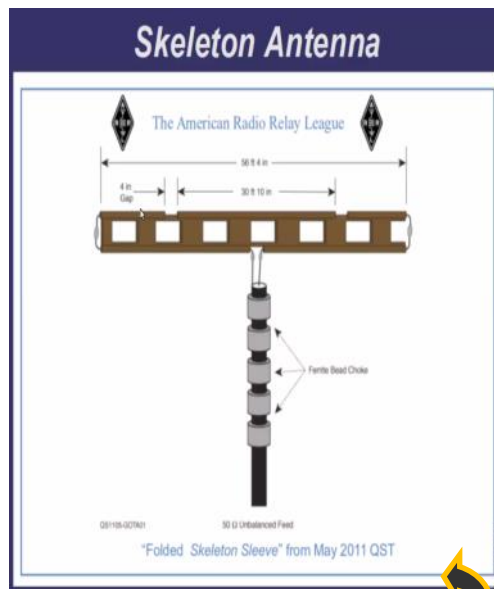
Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Club leaders thank membership for loyalty; Zoom meeting offers tips for DIY antennas

As of our February Zoom gathering, 55 club memberships had been renewed. President William Polhemus, NH6ET, and Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI, thanked everyone for their continued loyalty to BIARC and support of amateur radio in all of its various facets.

Following a round of self-introductions by those in attendance, Vice President Jim Huntley, WH6FQI, presented a program focusing on how to build a "skeleton antenna" using \$5 in parts. He and William discussed how to create and trim and tune a "folded skeleton sleeve," using schematics from ARRL in "QST."

"It costs less than one



**Jim, WH6FQI, built this one,
using only \$5 in parts.**

lunch at a fast food place," he noted.

Jim showed charts of dimension tables by band; frequency-versus-SWR-plotting; Smith Charts, which offer a good representation of what an antenna is actually doing; the Moxon antenna,

Continued on next page

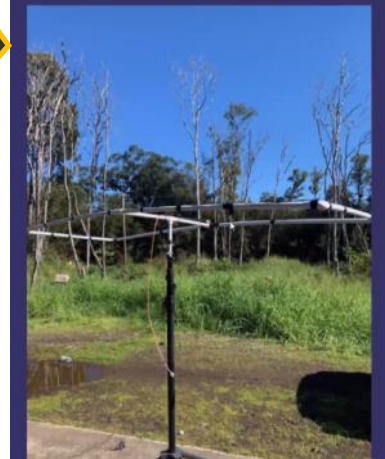
Details and Credits

- ▷ The Moxon Antenna, designed by Les Moxon G6XN (SK), is a compact two element beam antenna with about 5.5-6 dbi of gain and a 25db front to back ratio.
- ▷ Folded Skeleton Antenna info:
<http://skattagun.blogspot.com/2016/04/kg4gvl-skeleton-sleeve-pt-1.html>
- ▷ 6 Meter Moxon Antenna info:
<https://www.jpole-antenna.com/2014/06/11/building-the-6-meter-moxon-antenna/>

**R From ROY-WH6FYK to
Everyone**

I made it out of sch40 1/2" pvc

6 Meter Moxon



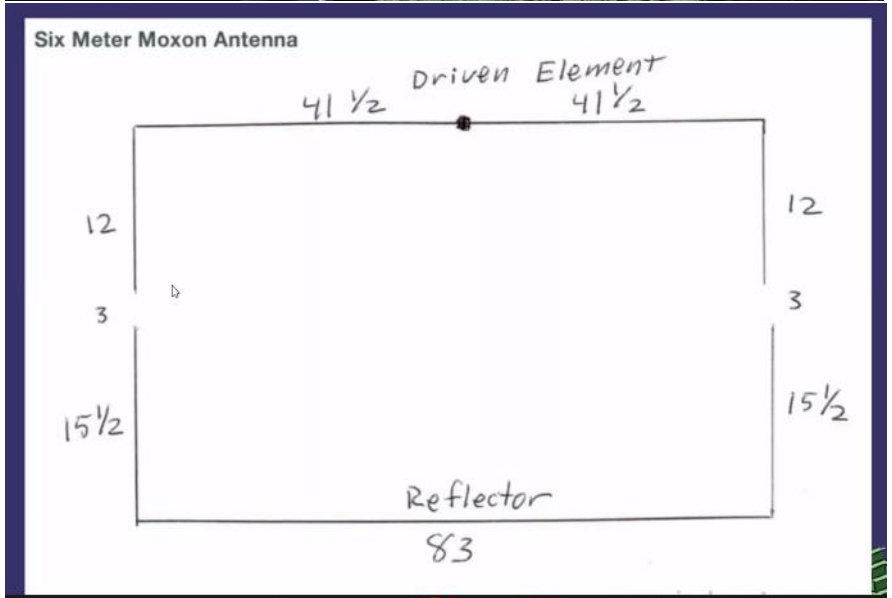


and Nano VNA, a very tiny handheld portable, but high-performance, vector network analyzer.

A future Zoom gathering will feature a program outlining ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) in Hawaii. Jim, who doubles as the BIARC Program Committee chair, will coordinate. This discussion was in response to a question about the status and functioning of the Hawaii ARES organization raised by Glenn Kadota, AH6IO.

William thanked Glenn for bringing up the topic, and once again asked members' kokua in giving the BIARC Board ideas for future program content.

Also during the meeting, William invited volunteers to join him for a work party up at the Kulani Repeater site. BIARC will be helping the County of Hawaii, which has graciously allowed our repeater to be installed on the county's site after we lost our previous home on the mountain.



Jim,
WH6FQI



William,
NH6ET

Dimension Table by Band

The American Radio Relay League

Folded Skeleton Sleeve Antenna Dimensions (Figure 1A)

Bands (Meters)	A (Feet)	B (Feet)	Gap (Inches)
160/75	210	114	24
80/40	111.4	61.5	12
80/30	104	43.2	4.8
80/10	96	15.4	9.6
75/60	110.6	61.4	3.6
75/40	107	60.8	7.2
74/41 (MARS)	100.2	59.8	7.2
40/30	58	43	6
40/20	56.3	30.8	4
30/20	42	30.7	7.8
30/17	40.8	24.08	5.5
30/15	38.0	20.7	5.4
20/17	30.6	24	4.2
20/15	29.6	20.5	9.1
20/10	27.6	15.4	3.6
17/15	24.3	20.5	9.0
17/12	23.6	17.4	9.6
17/10	23.2	15.3	10
15/10	20	15.3	4.2
10/6	14.4	8.3	5.6
6/2 (CW/SSB)	7.4	3.0	3.6
6/2 (FM)	7.1	2.9	4.2
4/2 (UK)	5.4	3.0	2.25

From previous page



Glenn, AH6IO

“I have offered our services – a roof maintenance and painting party – as a thank-you to the County for letting us in,” said William. The County will buy the materials, and club volunteers will roll on a “membrane roof” to stop leaks in the communications structure. There will be some painting and maintenance tasks, and a chance to clean up rusty metal trash on the grounds.



Cory, KN6ZU

“They did us a favor; I’d like for us to do them a favor,” he said. Also, the trip will be a chance for members to visit the operation and to “see how the sausage is made.” The sometimes-rough, off-road access to the high-elevation site is through the beautiful Makaala Forest Reserve.



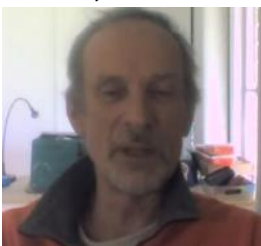
Joe, WH6FZH



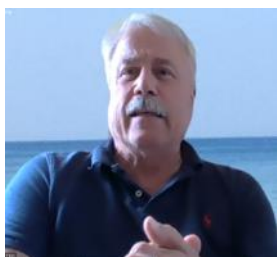
Richard, WH6FLH, in his greenhouse ham shack annex.



John, KH6DLK



Stan, AH6KO



Paul, WH7BR



As members chatted on Zoom, Bob, AH6J, showed pic of his car, which had been stolen. Less than a week later, it was found destroyed and abandoned.



Jeremy, KH7CN



Hank, KH6HAK



Les, K0BAD

Dave Broyles, KH7SO, silent key, was veteran BIARC member

Word was received recently about the January death of veteran BIARC member Dave Broyles, KH7SO, in the Philippines. He was 71. Barbara Darling, NH7FY, contacted his sister in Texas for details.

Barbara reports: "Dave lived in Ninole and had just purchased a condo in the Philippines. He had moved to the Philippines over three years ago. Dave was a long-time member of BIARC. He had two sisters, one living here in Hawaii who passed away last September.

"Dave had broken a hip and had been in the hospital for 16 days. He was ready to be moved to rehab when a blood clot went to his heart. Dave had requested no obituary or celebration of life. According to his sister his ashes will be spread in the Philippines.

"I will really miss Dave, as he called me from the Philippines about once a month," said Barbara. "His last call was on January 1st when he called to wish me a Happy New Year and said that he knew I was one person he could call that wouldn't have a hangover.

"Dave had quite a sense of humor. He will be missed by some of the 'old-time' BIARC members."

Dave was a member of the Masons and also the Big



Dave Broyles, KH7SO, SK, and Richard Darling, AH7G, SK, at a BIARC luncheon a few years ago at Pizza Hut-Puainako.

Photo courtesy Barbara Darling, NH7FY.

Island Retired Military Association. He also wrote a book titled "What is Energy."

Want to test your 2-meter equipment, practice radio net skills?

Doug Wilson, KH7DQ, announces that the next Technician License Preparation Class via Zoom begins on April 21. Folks interested in taking this class and getting licensed are invited to contact Doug (douscelle@aol.com).

Also, as communications coordinator for the two Volcano-area emergency response teams, Doug conducts a CERT Radio Check Net on the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m.

He welcomes any licensed operators wanting to check their 2-meter equipment to join in. The net starts promptly at 9 a.m. on the Volcano Repeater;

147.260 MHz; (pl 103.5 on the input only, i.e., transmit only). At the end of the regular two-round net on the Volcano Repeater, participants QSY to the alternate repeater 442.150 MHz (Kulani Mauka; pl 100.0) for roll call and signal reports.

"The purpose of the net is to check our equipment, check signals from various locations, have a short open discussion in a "normal" two-round net format, and practice switching to our alternate emergency frequencies," he said. "Everyone should make sure that their radios are programmed with the above frequencies, offsets and pl tones. See you on the air."

Focusing on the power of amateur radio computing

There is no denying the synergistic bond between amateur radio and computing in these modern times. I know that some will cringe at that statement, much as the old CW purists decried phone modes as 'ruining amateur radio.' However, the roots of amateur radio are, too, the roots of computing, so it is inescapable that they remain intertwined as they grow together.

Let's consider that both Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak both began their technical careers in amateur radio before going on to found Apple Computer. Steve Wozniak (ex-WV6VLY/WA6BND) earned his amateur ticket in the sixth grade, and though he didn't stick with it later in life, he credited amateur radio as a pivotal piece of his development as an engineer. A young Steve Jobs was Elmered by neighbor Larry Lange (WB6EVG/SK,) an engineer for Hewlett Packard who had a passion for building Heathkit projects. In several interviews, Jobs credited the Elmering he received from Larry as the impetus of his technical interests. Many say that the history of Apple Computer began in Steve Job's garage. However, it might be more accurate to say that it began in WB6EVG's radio shack.

History is rife with such examples where an interest in amateur radio was the gateway "drug" leading to a full-on technology "addiction." Scores of influential computer scientists and engineers credit amateur radio interests in their youth as the spark igniting their later careers in computing technology. Sadly, this does not seem to hold true today. It is much less common to hear stories of prominent technology professionals having their roots in amateur radio.

An interesting role reversal might be at hand, though. More and more we are seeing and hearing of persons with an interest in computing and other advanced technologies being led to amateur radio. The freedom to experiment draws them in, and the experiences they gain appeal to them. Entire university research teams have become amateur radio operators to be able to experiment where no other operating environment could facilitate them. And some of them are continuing as hams for the fun of it! We need to position the hobby to receive them,



THE PRESIDENT- AND-FRIENDS' CORNER

William
Polhemus
NH6ET

to be the experimentation platform they desire. That experimentation speaks to one of the core purposes of amateur radio: "Advancement of the radio art." We must not do as the early CW operators tried and attempt to quell the advancement of ham radio. I've heard several operators decry that, "These new digital modes are killing amateur radio!" It is quite the antithesis actually. These new digital modes is what is keeping amateur radio relevant, or perhaps even existent. We must embrace this shift, and to do so we must position our hobby to receive this interest and to cultivate the innovation of these next generations in amateur radio.

We need to clear away hurdles which impede innovation in amateur radio, be they archaic regulations, or anachronistic views. We need to keep amateur radio at the forefront of technology to make amateur radio an attractive environment for those working at that leading edge, and to do that we need to continue to bring cutting edge technology into our hobby. Computing in amateur radio isn't going away. It's the future of ham radio and it is indeed critical to our hobby's survival.

It's no wonder that our Wednesday night Tech Net on the Kulani repeater is often dominated by discussions of digital modes, computing, and networking. It is reflective of the state of our hobby today. We on the Big Island face greater and unique challenges in leveraging these technologies in our location. We don't have much of a technology industry here to speak of...yet. Many of our communities have little to no access to the Internet, or even utility power, and are economically depressed. Dozens of us operate completely off-grid, supplying our own power, and in some cases, engineering our own connection to the Internet. All of this requires additional innovation, an amateur operator's specialty!

You are probably aware that many in our club regularly experiment with computing in amateur radio.

BIARC PRESIDENT-AND-FRIENDS' CORNER

Gary (WH6EPS) is notorious for it, his Alexa-enabled repeater project being a prime example. Tony (WH6DVI) has been tackling the challenge of bringing affordability to amateur radio computing and to general computing, too, having converted his entire household to Raspberry Pi-based personal computers.

The Pi-400 contains the computer within a small keyboard, and works well in go kits. The Raspberry PI 4B is about the size of your hand and typically draws between 2.5 and 5 watts of power. With built-in WIFI, wired networking, Bluetooth, 4 USB ports, and accessible GPIO pins, this model works well as a base platform for many amateur radio projects as well as a replacement for traditional laptop and desktop computing applications. The Raspberry Pi computers run on various builds of Linux. This provides a large base of free and open-source software applications, including home/office, home automation, robotics, amateur radio, and much more.

See <http://www.hamblog.co.uk/top-10-amateur-radio-uses-for-raspberry-pi/>.

I myself have been working on bringing high power computing to low power off-grid living. Much of the computation I have been performing requires much more processing power and memory than I have been able to feed with my solar panels. To keep under the power budget and yet maintain some amount of performance, I have been living with the mediocre performance that even high-end laptop-based computing brings. Laptop computing brought its own limitation in the form of thermal management. Yup, I've burned up a few processors.

My mission to find the computational power I need for the experimentation I want to do has been long and disappointing. The ARM based options achieved the power efficiency needed but failed to being the computational performance required. And, of course, they don't support the x86 architecture, which Linus Torvalds and I both agree is the winner for high performance computing. But recently, I have found a few fixes to ease my teraflop withdrawals. The first is that I finally found a powerful enough non-laptop x86 based computer which falls under my 25w TDP power budget. It's based on the AMD Ryzen 7 4800U processor. Since it is a laptop processor, it's not as power hungry as the other options. Since it is not buried in a laptop architecture, it is not as hard to cool, so I can really drive it hard! The second solution is the use of a cloud-based machine to perform the most resource intensive tasks. I may not have access to grid power, but the datacenter hosting my virtual machine does.

So, this is my call to action: let's get out there and clear the hurdles. Let us address any anachronistic regulations that stymie innovation in amateur radio. Let us find solutions to the limitations in our operating environments, to pave the way for future generations of operators. The solution you find today might be just what the next experimenter needs. Let's not fight the advancement of technology in amateur radio. Let's embrace it. Let's encourage it. And, let's enable it.

73's,

William – NH6ET

Tony - WH6DVI

Hams join in winter Yellowstone VHF radio rally

Wyoming and southern Montana hams belonging to North Yellowstone Amateur Radio Club and Park County (Montana) Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) took to the wilderness in late January during heavy snow for an emergency preparedness exercise.

The groups have about 15 members in all; many more bison and elk roam the roads than do hams. The critical winter duty for North Yellowstone radio amateurs is deployment to remote locations where winter emergencies may require radio support.

The group uses the Eagle's Nest repeater located at 8,000 feet on Electric Peak southwest of Gardiner, Montana -- the north entrance to Yellowstone National Park. The repeater covers the northern one-third of the vast park and southern half of Park County, Montana. Participants received two pages of instructions. The first contained directions for completing their call-out assignment and listed 15 locations that required hams to deploy to the far reaches of the radio coverage area. The second page consisted of a map. Only three roads are in the area, and conditions on one dirt road are typically difficult. Each route had five locations along the way to the terminal checkpoint. The 15 widely spaced locations guaranteed that no operator could visit all of them. Locations were chosen



Electric Peak in Yellowstone.



Bison on northern Yellowstone roads. [Reve Susan Carberry, KX4LZ, photo

such that hams needed to plan their route strategy -- ideally before leaving the starting point, where odometer readings were recorded. Each location was assigned a tactical call sign, and communicators had to use GPS to verify their positions.

Hams radioed net control to have their location verified before moving to the next location. At the last check-in point, participating hams had to call in and

were given instructions on how to find a code word hidden in an interpretive sign to verify their location -- for example, the seventh word in the third paragraph -- and relay it to net control. Each participant had a different code word. Directions included a safety warning about bison and elk on the road, and bad driving conditions due to snow. A prize went to the ham who visited the most locations with the lowest mileage. -- **Thanks to Park County Emergency Coordinator and ARRL PIO Jim Halfpenny, K9YNP**

BIARC Executive Board Meeting

February 13, 2021

A. Begin Meeting.

1. Call to Order by President Polhemus at 1201.
2. Quorum Call

Board members: Leslie Hittner, Tony Kitchen, Paul Ducasse, James Huntley, William Polhemus, Jim Sugg, Bob Schneider (late)

Guests: Glenn, AH6IO

3. Secretary's Report and Minutes (01/09/2021)

William **moved** and Tony **seconded** to approve the Minutes of the January meeting as published. Motion **passed** with no objections.

4. Treasurer's Report:

In addition to his written reports, Tony noted that there were currently 55 members and that this was close to our level of membership in February 2020.

William **moved** and Leslie **seconded** to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. The motion **passed** with no objections.

B. Committee Reports

1. Digital Systems – written Report attached. No action items.
There was a fair amount of discussion about communications issues within ARDEN project in the state. Jim Sugg will attempt to work out the communications issues. No direct action was taken by the Board.
2. Education and Outreach – written report attached. No action items.
3. Operating Activities – no report.
4. Program – oral report given. No action items.
5. Public Service Communications – written report attached. No action items.
6. Voice Repeaters – oral report given. No action items.

A new UHF repeater is being activated on Kulani. The repeater will transmit on 444.600 MHz and receive on 449.600 MHz. This repeater will run C4FM digital.

Bob Schneider arrived.

C. Old Business

1. 2021 Executive Board Goals and Objectives

Leslie **moved** and William **seconded** to lay on the table pending William's proposal in March. Motion **passed** with no objections.

D. New Business

1. 2021 Committee Memberships and Chairs

William **moved** and Tony **seconded** to approve David Miller to the PSCC Committee. Motion **passed** with no objections.

Committee Membership:

- **Public Service Communications Committee:** Tony Kitchen (Chair), Leslie Hittner, Paul Ducasse, David Miller
- **Operating Activities Committee:** Roy Kunishige (Chair), John Bush, John Bonowitz, Joe Rosenbaun, Paul Ducasse
- **Programs Committee:** James Huntley (Chair), Bob Schneider
- **Digital Systems Committee:** James Huntley (Chair), Mel Uchida, Paul Ducasse, Gary Schwiter, Lawrence Byng, Jim Sugg
- **Voice Repeaters Committee:** William Polhemus (Chair), Gary Schwiter, Paul Ducasse, Alan Okinaka
- **Education and Outreach Committee:** Leslie Hittner (Chair), Doug Wilson, Tony Kitchen

Website committee memberships and chairs will be updated.

2. Special Fund concerns

A discussion took place and some recommendations were offered to the Treasurer, but no action was taken.

E. Other Business

F. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by William at 1256.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie D. Hittner

Leslie D. Hittner, Secretary

Attachments:

Operating Statement
Repeater Fund Summary
Budgets and Repeater Fund
Treasurer Accounting for On-Line Dues

BIARC 2021 Budget & Operating Statement

	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>Actual- 1/1/2021 To 2/9/2021</u>
Income:		
Dues	\$1,500.00	\$960.00
Repeater Fund Donations	\$500.00	\$635.00
On-line Payment Fees*		\$5.26
Total Income	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,600.26</u>
 Expenses:		
Club Liability Insurance	\$325.00	\$0.00
Club Equipment Insurance	\$200.00	\$0.00
Donations (PCC)	\$25.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$600.00	\$168.39
Field Day	\$370.00	\$0.00
Printing (Membership Booklet)	\$100.00	\$0.00
Annual Build Project	\$50.00	\$0.00
P. O. Box Fee	\$190.00	\$0.00
VOAD Dues	\$50.00	\$25.00
Office Supplies/Bank Fee/Misc.	\$40.00	\$0.00
Website Costs	\$50.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$193.39</u>
Excess (Deficit)		\$1,406.87
 Bank of Hawaii Balance as of: 2/9/2021		
Deposit Pending		\$4,194.95
Namecheap Balance		\$50.00
Paypal Account Balance		\$11.96
		\$640.85
 Fund Balances: (2/9/2021)		
Repeater Fund	\$1,566.97	
Emergency Reserves	\$1,000.00	
General Fund	\$2,330.79	
Total Funds	<u>\$4,897.76</u>	

* 10% Convenience fee for on-line dues payments minus processing fees.

BIARC - Repeater Fund Summary
As of: 02/9/2021

<u>Year</u>	<u>BIARC Equipment Budget</u>	<u>Donations (Credit)</u>	<u>Equipment Purchases & Maintenance Costs</u>	<u>\$ Covered By Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund Balance</u>
2017	\$600.00	\$273.00	\$932.75	\$332.75	-\$59.75
2018	\$1,000.00	\$235.00	\$266.98	\$0.00	\$175.25
2019	\$500.00	\$255.00	None	\$0.00	\$430.25
2020	\$500.00	\$501.72	\$436.78	\$0.00	\$931.97
2021	\$600.00	\$635.00	\$168.39	\$0.00	\$1,566.97

Notes: This fund holds amounts donated by club members to be used for repeater maintenance & upgrades.

Equipment costs are paid first out of the annual equipment budget allocation. This fund is used after the amounts allocated in the annual BIARC budget have been depleted.



**Tony Kitchen,
WH6DVI,
BIARC treasurer**

lhittner@hbc.com

From: Tony Kitchen <tonykitchen808@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 19:34
To: Bob Schneider; James Huntley; Jim Sugg; Leslie Hittner; Paul Ducasse; William Polhemus
Subject: BIARC Budgets & Repeater Fund: History/Discussion for Executive Board

We continue to receive generous donations into the repeater fund. For the 2021 dues year we've already received \$635. The fund's current balance is \$1,566.97. I have always described this fund to members as a repeater maintenance and upgrade fund. Based on old records it appears to me that the donations have also been used for creating/maintaining links between repeaters in the past.

The records prior to 2017 are somewhat incomplete, but BIARC didn't seem to previously make a distinction between the general fund and repeater donations. Looking at old records I think that we didn't usually have excess funds. When we needed equipment we would ask for donations to help offset the cost. I've seen old records of BIARC getting used equipment from a private party, and making payments over time to pay for it.

Starting as Treasurer in 2019, Paul, WH7BR's gave me good records for 2017-2018. I was able to tally the amounts budgeted, donated, and spent on equipment. In 2017 we spent a bit more on repeater equipment than our combined budget plus donations allowed for. As a result I started to maintain the "Repeater fund summary" document to keep track of it, and suggested to the members and later to the new Executive Board that we should first use the amounts budgeted from the general fund for "equipment" and only tap into the repeater fund if we spent more than the general fund budget. There was support for this and I think that the Executive Board adopted this policy after the new constitution was in-place. Since 2018 we've always spent less than the equipment budget, allowing the "repeater fund" to grow from donations year on year. We have detailed records of who donated, how much, and when the donations were made.

The annual budget is an estimate of income and expenses based on the previous year. It is used to give everyone some idea of how the club plans to spend money from dues and the general fund, while retaining some reserves in case things do not go well. Our budget for 2021 is conservative. We've allocated more for expenses than we are likely to spend. We also now have several hundred dollars of what one could call "excess reserves" above and beyond the \$1000 emergency reserve established by the Executive Board and in addition to money set aside in the repeater fund.

Looking at our club history, almost all of the "equipment" money is usually spent on repeater infrastructure. Although we must only spend the repeater fund on repeater related items, I see no conflicts with any of the general ideas I've heard coming from committees so far. I also believe that the membership would want us to spend some of the money donated to this fund on repeater upgrades and linking, rather than holding onto all of it for a rainy day. Of course there is a lot of room for different opinions here, so I'm hoping that we can start a productive discussion on this topic. We probably don't need to add the topic to the agenda yet, unless someone has a specific proposal to bring up.

73

--

Tony Kitchen
WH6DVI

From: Tony Kitchen <tonykitchen808@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 12:54
To: Bob Schneider; James Huntley; Jim Sugg; Leslie Hittner; Paul Ducasse; William Polhemus
Subject: BIARC Treasurer Accounting for on-line dues payment

Prior to our last general membership meeting, on-line dues payment had the potential of reducing our dues income due to Paypal and bank processing fees. Since the 10% convenience fee was passed, 11 members paid the 10% convenience fee. For a \$20 dues payment, processing fees are \$0.94, resulting in \$1.06 of 'income' from the convenience fee on each of these payments.

Another 5 members paid their dues amounts combined with an additional donation of between \$5 and \$100 on-line, but without adding the convenience fee on the dues payment. Some included the 2021 membership renewal from and listed the amount of their dues and repeater fund donation, while others just sent in a Paypal donation without any additional information. For example, one member sent \$120 via Paypal, along with a renewal form specifying \$20 for dues, and \$100 for a repeater fund donation, while another just sent in \$35 for a family membership with no instructions. In these two examples, the amount of money BIARC actually received was \$115.92, and \$33.68 respectively.

We have this situation where a repeater fund donation is made along with a dues payment on-line, but no convenience fee is paid. I would like to list the full amount of the donation to the repeater fund in the log, and do not think it would be a good idea to annoy these donating members by contacting them to ask for more money because they neglected to pay the on-line convenience fee. This can be done by using the on-line convenience fee line item as an overage / shortage fund. So in the case of the member paying \$20 dues, and making a \$100 repeater fund donation, the accounting line item for the convenience fee would show **-\$4.08**, reflecting the actual transaction fees charged to us.

The majority of members are still paying by check.

--

Tony Kitchen
WH6DVI

**BIARC Digital Committee
Report for
February 2021
Board meeting**

The Digital Committee has been in park as of late, I don't feel we can move forward until the Clubs infrastructure decisions are made and start to be built. There is friction with ARES/ARDEN mesh group and what they perceive us as not playing ball. I know they have had conversations with multiple people in the club including myself. I believe this needs to be aired out first within the club and then addressed with Joe and his group.

Jim Huntley
Digital Committee Chair

Education and Outreach Committee Report

Feb 13, 2021

1. Lending Library

The Lending Library was made available for 3 hours on Saturday, January 23, 2021. There were no visitors to the library, however a couple of days later I did receive a donation of an ARRL CD from Mel Uchida (2016 ARRL Periodicals on DVD). The lending Library will next be available on Feb 20, 2021 from 9:00 am to Noon at 545 Kukuau Street, Hilo, HO (Pacific Heights Townhomes). An announcement will be sent out during the preceding week and the committee would appreciate an announcement at today's Monthly Activity.

2. Club website improvements

BIARC Webmaster, Tony Kitchen, reports that he has had no time to work on the website upgrade at all during the past month. There are four main things that still need to be worked on:

- **On-line Membership Records update.** It is basically working. However, once members log-in using their call sign and password, it automatically remembers that. I need to figure out how to make the "log-out" button work correctly. We should discuss how to get member's passwords to them. I've got a couple of ideas that we should discuss as a group. I suppose we could send snail mail to a few members who don't have email addresses on file. (The password recovery feature won't work without an email address on file.)
- **Paypal integration.** Paypal just came out with new shopping cart features that should allow us to integrate the membership application form, to allow it to automatically calculate the correct charges for on-line payment based upon member status, family membership discount, etc. I'm hoping to get some time to look at that and figure out how it works.
- **Training on Publishing / Access rights.** It turns out that the Word Press GUI was a bit more complex than I thought it would be. Right now when I give another user access to it they basically have access to modify anything anywhere on the entire website, instead of just the portions that we would want to assign them to update. There is a paid plugin that solves the problem, but I'm trying to figure out how to do it for free.
- Tony is not happy with the way the website performs on smartphones. It could definitely be improved.

Public Service Communications Committee Update

February 10, 2021

American Red Cross Training (<https://arc-emcomm-training.groups.io/g/main>)

The nationwide ARC Winlink training continues through monthly practice drills. *The spring exercise will be held May 8th, on World Red Cross Day.* ARC-EmComm-Training is an unofficial mailing list and message board for news and information. To subscribe, send a blank email to ARC-EmComm-Training+subscribe@groups.io.

Hawaii Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster: (HVOAD)

HVOAD held its general meeting in January. Changes were made to combine the county and state organizations into one entity, with the county VOAD groups (known as COADs) being like divisions within the statewide organization. BIARC is a member of HVOAD.

The PSCC encourages BIARC member participation in HVOAD. Monthly Zoom meetings provide information on private and governmental disaster preparations and on-going activities. HVOAD provides opportunities to prepare for and serve during disasters. The meetings allow volunteers to get to know each other, and helps us to maintain a dialog between groups. If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, a working group, or would like more information, please send email to tonykitchen808@gmail.com.

Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee: (RATPAC) Recent presentations:

- ARRL Volunteer Monitors (VM) program
(Assisting the FCC in monitoring the airwaves.)
- Designing A Radio Based Data Network
- CERT Forms Training
<https://vimeo.com/509072258>
- Virtual HamCation 2021
<https://vimeo.com/508511922>
- FEMA Compliant Exercise HSEEP
<https://vimeo.com/506163446>
- Pandemic Ham Radio Activities
<https://vimeo.com/505788355>

RATPAC Announcements: <https://groups.io/g/RATPAC>

Join RATPAC Group: *Send blank email to:* RATPAC+subscribe@groups.io.

Tony Kitchen
Chair, Public Service Communication Committee