

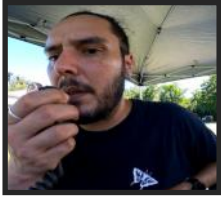
May 2024



THE BIG ISLAND HAMGRAM

The newsletter of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Thomas Avila, WH6GWL

Radioactivity update!

Hello again, fellow HAMS. I wanted to touch on my ongoing MESHTASTIC messaging project but instead I'd like to shed light on an excursion Shawn (WH6GXZ) and I took to fellow Ham Frank (KD9ISN)'s QTH.

Continued on Page 3

Mark Watanabe, WH6FSA, to chair June 22 Field Day at Hilo beachside park

BIARC will host its annual ARRL Field Day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, at the Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Park in Hilo.

Mark Watanabe, WH6FSA, is coordinating, with a committee of volunteers helping to plan for the fun event.

There'll be lots of discussion about Field Day at the club's monthly get-together at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 12, at Kamana Senior Center in Hilo. Attend in person, or participate via Zoom.

If you'd like to help out with Field Day, there are many ways to

Continued on Page 4



Bill Hanson, N0CAN, past BIARC president and administrative officer for the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency, treats current President Thomas Avila, WH6GWL, at right, and the rest of the BIARC membership to a special intro to the agency's new Emergency Operations Center on April 14.

Civil Defense hosts club's April sessions

Former BIARC President Bill Hanson, N0CAN, administrative officer at the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency, hosted the membership for our April 14 sessions.

He treated us to a special introduction to the agency's new Emergency Operations Center.

"The War Room," as it is known, is set up to streamline operations in any type of Hawaii County emergency. It is designed to allow participation by 32 representatives

Continued on next page

Hilo EOC — The War Room

► Partnerships – AuxComms/EmComms

► Mission – "Last Person, In the Last House, On the Last Block"

EMERGENCY TRAFFIC



N0CAN welcomes the BIARC crew.

At Civil Defense

From page 1

of government agencies in four working groups —“mission areas.”

Bill demonstrated how the “war room” functions, using a fine blend of high-tech and low-tech support options to deal with various emergency scenarios. It depends upon a well-rehearsed and multi-faceted coordination of critical steps to perform in each particular area, such as airport, roads, shelters, communications, etcetera.

Lots more information is available on the HCCDA website: civil-defense@hawaiicounty.gov

BIARC Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI, encourages licensed radio operators to check out three basic training courses offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA.

It’s good to “go online and take those courses,” he said. Access: www.fema.gov.

For emergency response to be successful, a focus on redundancy is vital. For every thought-out and practiced plan of action, there needs to be a backup plan. And a backup to the backup. If something fails, there’s a substitute way to do it. Linking together in a “whole community approach” is absolutely necessary.

“We all need to work as partners with each other, not competition,” Tony stressed.

Bill reiterated his favorite mantra. And it’s the focus of the entire emergency response and planning community: To reach and assist “the last person, in the last house, on the last block.”



WH6FSA photos

William Polhemus, NH6ET, discusses and demonstrates a favorite new addition to his multimeter collection, the GOCHIFIX Handheld Oscilloscope/Multimeter/Waveform Generator.

NH6ET demonstrates a good deal on a new multimeter

A few days before demonstrating his new multimeter at the April 14 BIARC program, William, NH6ET, circulated this message about the unit.

— Aloha amateur radio enthusiasts: “I’d like to alert anybody in the market for a new multimeter of what I believe to be a good bargain. I recently became aware of the GOCHIFIX Handheld Oscilloscope/Multimeter/Waveform Generator, when it was featured on the TRX Lab YouTube channel. <https://youtu.be/AL-LUGdn8j8>

“The performance and operation of the device, as demonstrated by Peter’s use in his video, impressed me for a device at this price point. It’s certainly not going to replace my calibrated instruments for serious work. However, for tinkering in the shack, it seems to be a good value, to me.

“I’ve never heard of this brand; but of course, I’d never heard of the brands of many of the nifty devices we play with these days, such as the makers of the NanoVNA and TinySA.

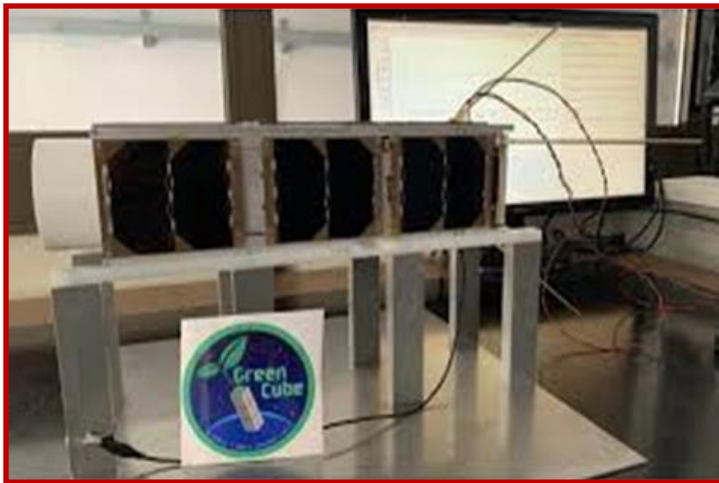
“So, I pulled the trigger and



used Peter’s discount code to get one from Amazon. When I purchased, however, I noticed that right now there is an additional \$20 coupon for the unit on Amazon.

“It allowed me to stack the coupons, so I was able to get it for just \$112.54. I don’t know how long these coupons are going to be around, so I wanted to get this out to everyone ASAP.

Continued on next page



Pic of the satellite we mounted (below) and a stock photo of the cute little Greencube.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Continued from Page 1

While there, we helped put up a downed leg on one of his antennas, helped put up a custom dish, and we got to see a pass of the GREENCUBE satellite.

We also attempted a mini field day and set up at Pohoiki beach park but ended up lacking a critical part of the club's ATAS antenna. Luckily, we made do by lowering the power on the club's Yaesu 991 and using a borrowed QRP antenna from Frank. If all else fails, just throw a wire in a tree and see what you can do.



Below: Shawn WH6GXZ uses the club radio at Pohoiki beach park.



WH6EMN offers updates on T-shirt printing, lending library, club benefit auction

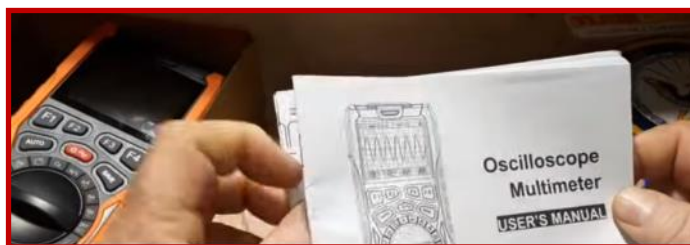
Jim Tatar, WH6EMN, offers some updates on a few things connected to upcoming monthly program sessions:

1) On the project of silk-screening BIARC logos and call signs onto T-shirts, I will be bringing the paperwork to the monthly meetings and I'll be wearing at least one of the choices Chris offers. The offer is still any 2 shirts provided by you and he will do the style of your choice as shown on the order form for \$25, which includes his making the individual name and call sign. A discounted price will be offered on any subsequent shirts.

2) I will be bringing extra copies of the QST magazine with me each month and members are welcome to take them home.

3) I will be bringing a list of books in the BIARC Lending Library every month. You choose which one you want to check out and I will bring it to the next month's meeting, or you can come to my house in Hilo and pick it up.

4) I will also be bringing auction items with me for viewing. The items will be auctioned at the July meeting. Proceeds will be going to the BIARC General Fund.



MULTIMETER: From previous page

“My unit has arrived, and I have just put it through its paces. I am as happy as a clam with it. Is it the best multimeter I have, no. Is it the best oscilloscope I have, no. Within its design limitations it is going to be a very handy addition to my lab.

ally like is that it is rechargeable from a USB C. I am so tired of batteries leaking in my meters!

<https://amzn.to/495XkHP>
Use discount code: 25TRXLab

“Don't forget to check the box for the additional \$20 off coupon!

William – NH6ET



WH6FSA photo

This was the scene at a previous Field Day staged by BIARC at Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Park in Hilo.

FIELD DAY: From Page 1

kokua. Just contact Mark at mtwatanabe@gmail.com or BIARC Operating Activities Committee Chair Joe Rosenbaum at joseph.rosenbaum@gmail.com. The object of Field Day is to work as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, “and in doing so, to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions” according to the ARRL. “A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the

challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.”

“ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the U.S. and Canada. On the fourth full weekend of June, more than 40,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.”

Members of the public of all ages are invited to stop by the Hilo park and learn more about amateur radio -- this many-faceted av-

ocation that is part hobby and part community service.

There’s always a great midday potluck meal and lots of opportunities to connect with our fellow hams and see who’s doing what, and why, and how. And to try our hand at operating in new areas of the spectrum.

Field Day is ham radio's open house. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933.

Health and Welfare Messages -- I am Safe Program by RFI

I have been looking for programs and initiatives that advocate for a whole community approach to health and welfare messages. I came across the following program that seems fairly well thought out. For those of you interested in this topic it would be great if you could check out their program, and share your thoughts about it. I realize that it is put out by Radio Relay International, not ARRL/ARES. I believe that we should adopt the best system and tools for the task based on a solid foundation of what works. At the very least, perhaps we could glean some good ideas from them.

One common thread that I keep running into in our amateur

radio community nationwide is that stations want to do EVERYTHING via Part 97 bands and modes and fail to see how that cuts off the majority of the population from participating. A hybrid approach to both the collection and flow of information is far more inclusive. There are also major advancements happening outside of Part 97 that I follow as closely as possible. These are likely to come up with this topic. Please feel free to share your thoughts.

See: <https://radiorelay.org/iamsafe/>

73,
Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI

~ 2024 BIARC Roster ~

Executive Board officers and committee chairs

President

Thomas Avila, WH6GWL

Vice President

Les Hittner, K0BAD

Secretary

Joseph Rosenbaum, WH6JOE

Treasurer

Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI

At-Large directors

Mark Watanabe, WH6FSA, and
David Miller, KH6CZ

KH6EJ station custodian

William Polhemus, NH6ET

Public Service/ Communications Committee

Chair Les Hittner, K0BAD

Operating Activities Committee

Chair Joseph Rosenbaum, WH6JOE

Education and

Outreach Committee

Chair David Miller, KH6CZ

Programs Committee

Chair Les Hittner, K0BAD

Digital Systems Committee

Chair Shawn Farley, WH6GXZ

Voice Repeaters Committee

Chair William Polhemus, NH6ET

Meeting Refreshments Committee

Chair Robert Schneider, AH6J

BIARC Hamgram

Editor Leigh Critchlow, WH6LC

Club website: <https://biarc.net>

BIARC monthly meeting info

*The club now gets together on the second
Sunday of the month at Kamana Senior Center
at 127 Kamana St. in Hilo.*

The Executive Board meets at noon, with the

*membership gathering following at 2 p.m.
Zoom access is provided.*

*The link will be shared on the BIARC Listserve
forum prior to the meeting.*

New Biweekly Winlink practice starts

Aloha HI ARES members,

A new Biweekly Winlink practice has started today (4/15/24), please check your Winlink account for the instructions.

If you are not a member of this net and are interested in joining the Winlink practice, pls send me a Winlink message (NH7IT) or email to nh7it@...

if you want to learn more about Winlink, check out

<https://wvnetalkers.com/resources/digital/winlink.php>

Update on last practice of 4/1/24...

Another great turnout with 32 out of 98 sending a IHS Field Patient Referral form. I also received 12 HF P2P messages and 4 VFH P2P messages sent to AH6T. nearly all participants remembered the participation in the last practice was good at 31 out of 98 students. good work. all but one had sent me a good Nearby Report. now would be a good time to re-request a nearby report to see all who participated that are near you. save that report as it is handy to digipeat through neighbors during an emergency to allow for greater range.

I recognize these participants: KH6L, KH6GM, KH6CZ, WH6JOE, AH6KW, WH6GRO, WH6KM, WH6EQU, AH6Q, KH6DL, KH6DQ, AH6T, KH7O, KH6CP, WH6ECG, WH6GPZ, WH6GTC, WH7D, NH7YS, WH6BS, KH6UU, KH6HHG, KH6EKD, WH6CMO, AH7L, K0WET, KH6TOD, N4RJB, NU3E, W2ILT, NH6SP

these are the HF P2P participants: WH7D, KH6DQ, NH7YS, KH6EKD, AH6KW, AH7L, KH6DL, WH6GPX, WH6ECG, WH6KM, KH6HHG, KH6GM

these are the VHF P2P participants: WH6ECG, WH6GPZ, WH6KM, KH6DL, WH6GTC, KH6HH6

-Van NH7IT ASM-Pac

BIARC Donation Funds Summary

Fund Summary: As of: 4/12/2024

<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	\$1,595.00	\$1,548.28	\$948.28	\$1,578.69
2022	\$950.00	\$729.00	\$0.00		\$2,307.69
2023	\$950.00	\$455.75	2626.92*	\$586.84	\$2,176.60
2024		\$349.25	\$0.00		\$2,525.85

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

Humanitarian Fund:

<u>Year</u>	<u>\$ Donated</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u>	<u>Balance</u>
2022	\$395.00	\$140.00	\$255.00
2023	\$158.75	0	\$413.75
2024	\$26.25		\$440.00

Notes: This fund holds amounts donated.

* Of the \$2626.92 spent on equipment in 2023, \$586.84 was paid for out of the repeater fund, for equipment purchased for and to be used at the Kulani and Pepeekeo repeater sites.

June 1 Disaster Prep Fair in Hilo

Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium and Butler Building, 799 Piilani St., Hilo, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 1.

This fair is to raise community awareness about disaster preparedness, emergency response, and community resilience. Learn about the hazards in your area, what you are most susceptible to, and how you can better prepare yourself in the event of an emergency.

There will be a wide variety of partners at the fair, ranging from local county entities to federal agencies; all with the common goal of informing the public on disasters as it pertains to their role. Learn about how the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

tracks volcanic activity, how Pacific Tsunami Warning Center tracks tsunamis, how National Weather Service monitors tropical cyclones, and much more.

Learn how to create an evacuation kit, build your own family plan catered to your needs, and enhance the resilience in your community. Along with all the valuable information, the public can also participate in giveaways, keiki ID services, enjoy delicious food and meet their emergency management professionals face to face.

Don't miss your opportunity to increase your preparedness for all hazards Hawaii faces.

BIARC will set up info booth

BIARC Will be setting up an information booth, with our Yaesu FT-991A, and ATAS-120A antenna. We need members willing to help staff our table and participate in demonstrations.

(Check out Prep Fair flyer on next page)

We also could use some assistance Friday afternoon for event setup, Saturday morning between 7 and 8:30 a.m. for final setup, and at 3 p.m. for teardown. Please get in touch with Joe Rosenbaum, WH6JOE, or Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI if you wish to help out.

We encourage BIARC members to bring their HTs. Radio communications between volunteers will be ongoing during the event. ARES will be staffing an information table as well. If you wish to volunteer or have questions, send an email

to: tony.kitchen@hawaiiastatevoad.org.



CIVIL DEFENSE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FAIR



Saturday, June 1st, 9AM - 3PM
Hilo: Afook-Chinen Civic Center



Learn how to get your **community** & **home** prepared!

- ▲ Door prizes & giveaways!
- ▲ Keiki ID services
- ▲ Information booths
- ▲ Food vendors
- ▲ Live broadcast by KWXX
- ▲ Interactive preparedness games



More Information: hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Education and Outreach Committee Report – April, 2024

BIARC Education and Outreach Committee

The **Education and Outreach Committee** is constituted through the BIARC Executive Board and is charged with public education and outreach in support of the Club's **Goals and Objectives**:

Engage and Collaborate with the Amateur Radio community.

Present Amateur Radio to the community positively.

Pursue activities and agreements that lead to educational and collaborative success.

Membership, Objectives and Responsibilities are under review.

BIARC E&OC Event Program and Future Planning

Set up radio/communications equipment and conduct a "net" for third-party participants (students) under one of the BIARC members licensed call signs, interacting with volunteer operators in the field via the Club's Repeater.

Distribute handheld radios to demonstrate communications capabilities to students.

Sign up parents, teachers, and students for Amateur Radio training.

Engage groups in the broader community to build radio emergency communications capabilities.

Hawaii Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster

BIARC continues membership and association with HVOAD.

Hawaii VOAD Communications WG Meeting attended April 24.

Hawaii Science and Technology Museum

The E&OC continues to engage with the Hawaii Science and Technology Museum to participate in interactive events with Elementary and High School children in East Hawaii. The Hawaii Science and Technology Museum is an educational non-profit, federally recognized 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education on the Island of Hawaii.

The PSCC participated with four schools in 2023 and the E&OC has continued with this activity in 2024. An event was held at the Hilo Union Elementary School on March 8 and a further event was held at the Keaau Elementary School, April 18th. Further school events are planned for the balance of the year.

The BIARC Team has consisted of Jim

Tatar, Joe Rosenbaum, Mark Watanabe and David Miller. John Bush has recently brought digital radio to the mix. BIARC's newest ham operator and member, Fred Fischer (WH6HAA) has enthusiastically joined our E&OC activities. Thank you, Fred.

Many of our BIARC members have donated "on air" time with students. The BIARC tri fold created by Les Hittner is our primary BIARC information piece.

BIARC's ft991a receiver was introduced into our program this year and a club banner was designed, purchased, and introduced under the guidance of Mark Watanabe. More initiatives are in process for future events.



WH6FSA photo

Joe, WH6JOE, and David, KH6CZ, at Hilo Union Elementary School outreach event.

From previous page

The E&OC program continues to be well received at all the events this year and students' information has been collected for their introduction to ham radio through Doug Wilson's training programs. The E&OC is in discussion with the YMCA regarding participation in their 2024 Summer Program of events.

Disaster Preparedness Fair 2024

BIARC has been invited by the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency to participate in the Disaster Preparedness Fair planned by Civil Defense for **June 1, 2024**. A BIARC participation motion was presented at the April Executive Board meeting.

Winlink RMS Gateway

At the request of the BIARC Executive Board the digital systems committee is assisting David Miller, KH6CZ, with the Winlink RMS gateway setup. The RMS gateway account permission has been set up under call sign KH6CZ to run the gateway. A display screen, keyboard/mouse, USB hub and ethernet switch have been purchased for operation/maintenance of the Gateway. Connection to the internet and installation of an antenna are still in process while setup and testing of equipment and software is pending. The gateway involves the RMS related equipment that was donated by Jim Huntley when he moved to Connecticut.

Thanks to the Digital Systems Committee; Gary Schwiter, WH6EPS and Mel Uchida, KH6EKD have provided continued support to the project.

E&OC Report Addendum

Volcano Emergency Response Team

1) Volcano Emergency Response Team (since 2017) will be conducting training sessions over the next several months to include local emergency radio practices, CPR/AED classes and activation exercises. Vibrant Hawaii will also conduct Starlink and solar generator training for VERT members.

2) The Volcano Oh'ia Lehua Runs has been scheduled for **July 27, 2024**. Those that are interested in assisting with radio communications for the race please contact Doug Wilson.

3) Ham radio testing was conducted **March 24, 2024** at the Kamana Senior Center in Hilo. VERT will be conducting training sessions over the next several months to include local emergency radio practices, CPR/AED classes, and activation exercises. Vibrant Hawaii will also conduct Starlink and solar generator training for VERT members.

End of Report

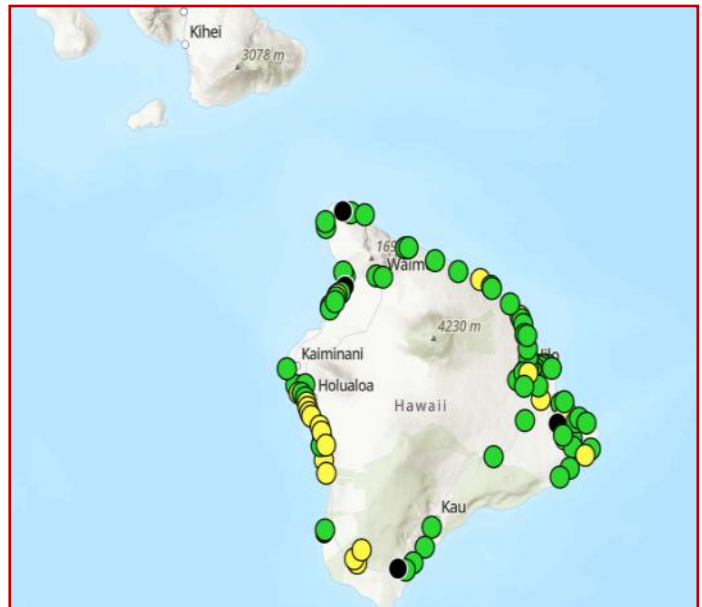
David Miller

BIARC Education and Outreach Committee

WW1USA to activate May 24-27, and all hams invited

The National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, will activate WW1USA from Friday, May 24 until Monday, May 27, 2024.

Amateur radio operators are invited to participate in this special event and contact stations around the world. Amateurs are also welcome to serve as guest operators of WW1USA at any time and receive a special amateur radio operator certificate. QSL with WW1USA will be available by mail with a SASE or other postage provided, or via an eQSL. After the event, information will be provided regarding how to request a commemorative certificate. WW1USA operation dates often coincide with other events held at the museum and memorial, highlighting lessons from the first worldwide war. The station helps to raise awareness of the Great War and how it continues to affect the world today. Learn more about the National WW1 Museum and Memorial at [WW1USAAmateur Radio Station \(May 2024\). | National WWI Museum and Memorial \(theworldwar.org\)](http://WW1USAAmateurRadioStation(May2024).NationalWWIMuseumandMemorial(theworldwar.org)).



First parallel Siren Net is a big success, with 35 check-ins and 33 reports on May 1

Bev KH7LM:

We had our 1st parallel Siren Net with Hawaii County (Mauna Kea) 146.820 (-) PL 123 & Big Island Monthly Siren Net (AllStar). We received 35 Check-Ins & 33 Reports.

Ainaloa & Ookala were not working this Month.

Mahalo to our NCS and Siren Reporters: WH6DVI (NCS), WH6GBS (NCS), WH6GDC, WH6FSA, KH6ATU, WH6FDE, KH7DQ, AH6EI, WH6DXF, KH6RDO, KH7LM, WH6FDE, WH6FC, KH6CZ, NH6OV, WH6HAA, KH6TD, WH6HC, WH7WZ, WH6EHJ, KH6AQ, KH6RDO, WH6FSE, WH6FSI, KI6HBZ, WH6HC, WH6GTD, WH7RE, AH6JA, WH6FDE, WH6EHJ, AJ0T, WH6EHJ, WH6FIQ, WH6EHJ.

Tony WH6DVI:

The Maunakea Siren net will continue to run in parallel with the AllStar net on the Hawaii Island stations. After the Siren reports are finished, we anticipate that we will have time on the Maunakea repeater to take check-ins from all other stations. If time permits, we will take a report in the following format:

your callsign,
tactical callsign (if none, just use the suffix of your callsign),
name,
location,
power,
antenna model number and antenna elevation above MSL.
Readability

HAWAII COUNTY (MAUNA KEA) & BIG ISLAND (ALLSTAR) MONTHLY SIREN REPORT

05/01/2024 Start 11:30 am - End 12:30 pm

NCS Tony WH6DVI Mauna Kea

NCS Sookyung WH6GBS AllStar

{35 Check-ins & 33 Reports}

[Adopt-A-Siren](#) | [BI AllStar](#) | [Mauna Kea 146.820 \(-\) PL 123](#) | [HCCDA Siren Map](#)

2 Siren Not Working		
Location	Notes	Callsign
Ainaloa (Pahoia)	Phone	WH6DVI (NCS)
Ookala	Text	WH6GDC
Siren Partial Operation		
Location	Notes	Callsign
Siren Location(s) Not Heard		
Location	Notes	Callsign
31 Siren Location(s) Heard		
Location	Notes	Callsign
		WH6GBS (NCS)
Ainaloa Park (Hilo)	Mauna Kea / AllStar	WH6FSA
Banyan Dr	AllStar	KH6ATU
Federal Building	Email	WH6FDE
Cooper Center (Volcano)	Mauna Kea	KH7DQ
Cooper Center (Volcano)	Relay WH6DXF	AH6EI
Hakalau	AllStar	KH6RDO
Hawaiian Beaches #1 (Park)	Mauna Kea	KH7LM
Hilo State Office Building	Email	WH6FDE
HOVE #3 (Reef)	Text	WH6FC
HPP #1 (Paradise Ala Kai)	Mauna Kea	KH6CZ
HPP #2 (Makuu Dr)	Mauna Kea	NH6OV
HPP #2 (Makuu Dr)	Mauna Kea	WH6HAA
HPP #3 (Awapuhi Ave)	AllStar	KH6TD
Honuaupo (Naalehu)	AllStar	WH6HC
Kamehameha Park	Text	WH7WZ
Kawaihae Harbor	Mauna Kea	WH6EHJ
Keheha	AllStar	KH6AQ
Kolekole Park (Hakalau)	AllStar	KH6RDO
Laupahoehoe Lookout	AllStar	WH6FSE
Laupahoehoe Point	AllStar	WH6FSI
Lelewi (Hilo)	AllStar	KH6BZ
Naalehu, Kau (Ohai Rd)	AllStar	WH6HC
NELHA (Natural Energy Lab)	AllStar	WH6GTD
Niulii Keokea Park (Kapaau)	Email	WH7RE
Paauiio (Hauola Rd)	Text	AH6JA
Papaikou	Email	WH6FDE
Puako #2 (General Store)	Mauna Kea	WH6EHJ
Punaluu	AllStar	AJOT
Waiaka, HPA (Waimea)	Mauna Kea	WH6EHJ
Waikaumalo Park (Ninole)	AllStar	WH6FIQ
Waimea Park	Mauna Kea	WH6EHJ
#43 BIMSN (KH6RDO)		

BIARC Executive Board Regular Meeting

**Draft
minutes**

April 14, 2024

Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 pm by Board President Thomas Avila. A quorum of 7 board members were present.

Attendance:

- Board members: Thomas Avila, Les Hittner, Tony Kitchen, Joseph Rosenbaum, William Polhemus, David Miller and Mark Watanabe.
- Guest: Bill Hanson(NOCAN) from the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency(HCCDA.)

Secretary's Report and Minutes:

- William moved and Tony seconded to approve the March, 2024 Secretary's Report. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- William moved and Les seconded to authorize Tony to replace our Mercer insurance(both liability and equipment) with the ARRL plan. The chair of the voice repeater and digital systems committee will work with the treasurer to determine items to be covered by the equipment insurance policy. Motion passed.
- Discussion was held about the inventory spreadsheet.
- See attached reports

Digital Systems:

- The Digital Systems Committee have installed a 2.4 GHZ AREDN mesh gateway at the Peepekeo repeater site. It was tested and performed well and is now in operation.
- There have been three work parties since the last meeting. A request was made by Bill Hanson from the HCCDA to clear out the brush at Peepekeo and both Thomas(WH6GWL) and Shawn(WH6GXZ) took care of that.
- Gary(WH6EPS) and Mel(KH6EKD) provided support to get the Winlink RMS station at Kaloli Point up and running.
- David(KH6CZ) added several peripherals to the RMS station he is hosting at his QTH.
- Shawn (WH6GXZ), the new chair of Digital Systems introduced himself and talked about some ideas he had.

Voice Repeaters:

- Work is ongoing for the microwave link between the Kulani Cone and Peepekeo repeaters. After the work party prepares the site, William will install the tapered leg and dish.

Continued on next page

Education and Outreach:

- The committee has been active working with the Science and Technology Museum to present amateur radio for area schools science events. The next school event will be on April 20th at the Keeau elementary school. We've made use of Les's trifolds, now with a QR code at the schools.
- David motioned and Les seconded to have BIARC participate in the disaster preparedness fair presented by Civil Defense.
- At 12:57 Les called the question.
- David moved and Les seconded to create an ad-hoc committee for the preparedness fair. Motion passed.
- Discussion was held to include ARES and VOAD in the fair and Biarc's involvement with informational and interactive components.
- David received a request from VERT (Volcano Emergency Response Team) for volunteer radio operators to help with the Ohia Lehua run.

Operating Activities:

- Les suggested that BIARC offer to assist the Kiwanis with radio communications for some of their events, such as marathons.
- Tony moved and William seconded to appoint Joseph Rosenbaum as the Operating Systems Committee Chairperson. Motion passed.
- Mark(WH6FSA)volunteered to coordinate Field Day and Shawn volunteered to help as well.

Programs:

- April's program was a presentation by Bill Hanson of Civil Defense, graciously hosted at their facility. May will be the semi-annual business meeting. June's program will be a presentation by William on how to use the NanoVNA(a handheld vector network analyzer) for common amateur radio tasks.

Public Service Communications:

- No report.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Other Business:

- None

Next Meetings:

The next meeting will be on May 12, 2024 at the Kamana Senior Center in Hilo. The Executive Board meeting will be at 12:00 pm and the semi-annual business meeting will be at 2pm.

Adjournment:

William moved to adjourn and Tony seconded. Motion passed.
There being no further business Thomas closed the meeting at 1:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Rosenbaum, secretary

With a 'sad heart', Jue is closing MFJ

**Dear fellow hams and
friends,**

It is with a sad heart as I write
this letter.

As many of you have heard by
now, MFJ is ceasing its on-site
production in Starkville, Missis-
sippi on May 17, 2024. This is al-
so the same for our sister compan-
ies' Ameritron, Hygain, Cush-
craft, Mirac and Vecronics.

Times have changed since I
started this business 52 years
ago. Our product line grew and
grew and prospered. Covid
changed everything in businesses
including ours. It was the hardest
hit that we have ever had and we
never fully recover-
ed.

I turned 80 this
year. I had never
really considered retirement but
life is so short and my time with
my family is so precious.

I want to thank all of our em-
ployees who have helped build
this company with me over the
years. We have many employees
who have made MFJ their career



In 2010, Martin F. Jue — founder and CEO of MFJ Enterprises — is awarded the first Ham Radio Outlet Certificate of Honor. Presenting the prestigious award is Atlanta HRO Manager Mark Holmes. The honor was in recognition of “performance and valued participation in Amateur Radio and as the leader in Ham Radio Accessories for over 38 years.”

for 10, 20, 30, 40 and more years.

We are going to continue to sell MFJ products past May 17, 2024. We have a lot of stock on hand. We will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our customers and our dealers who have made MFJ a worldwide name and a profitable business for so many years. You all are so much appreciated.

*Sincerely yours,
73s
Martin F. Jue, K5FLU*

According to Wikipedia: Jue is a 1966 graduate of Mississippi State University's Bagley College of Engineering, which in 2014 honored him as a Distinguished Fellow. After graduating from MSU in 1966 and GIT in 1971, Jue worked for a year at Magnavox. In October, 1972, Jue began manufacturing a CW filter kit in a room of the now-defunct Stark Hotel in Starkville, Mississippi. Over the next 40 years, MFJ would grow to become the largest manufacturer of amateur radio products in the world, and would garner numerous honors.

In 2012, ARRL awarded Jue the ARRL Special Achievement Award, honoring him for innovation in the field of amateur radio. Jue also serves on the board of On2Locate and Magnolia Intertie Inc.!

Jue lives in Starkville with his wife Betty Quong Jue, where he is a member of the Starkville Rotary Club, board president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Golden Triangle, and board member of the Mississippi Children's Museum. He has been inducted into the CQ Hall of Fame (2001) and the QRP (2009) Hall of Fame. In 2011, he was awarded the Ham Radio Outlet Certificate Of Honor. He is a member of the Alabama Historical Radio Society in Birmingham, Alabama.

Aloha to venerable Maunakea repeater

[BigIslandRADIO] 4/26/24 Removal of Maunakea Repeater 146.72- MHz (PL100.0), WH6FIU

The Hawaii VOAD Maunakea 146.72 MHz repeater was removed from Maunakea on April 26 and will be stored on the Big Island until another suitable location is found and agreements made.

Hawaii VOAD, its members, partners and people of Hawai'i whom it has served thank IfA, CMS, MKSS and the Mauna Kea stewardship and oversight authority for allowing us to use the location on Maunakea for the repeater. Furthermore, we express gratitude for their steadfast support of the effort of Hawaii VOAD to provide disaster communication capability to the people.

Thank you and stay safe,
Kevin Bogan, AH6QO

Hawaii VOAD Vice Chair
HVOAD Communications Working Group, Chair
Skywarn HAM Coordinator for Hawaii, DEC for South Oahu.

Classifieds

Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC
808-333-6555
KH6LC@hotmail.com

For Sale:

Tower. 90' Rohn 45, base & rotor plates, top guys are PhilyStrand, Complete. \$1000.

2.) Yaesu FTDX-3000, CW filter, Box, Mic, Manual, Excellent condx. \$800.

3.) Yaesu FT-1000MP, both receivers loaded with INRAD CW filters, excellent. \$800.

4.) Geochron Clock. Original model, Black, Surface mount or recess in wall.

Looks great, works but needs a little help. \$100.

Hawaii County Civil Defense installs its new EMCOMM repeater on Maunakea

The Hawaii County Civil Defense has installed its repeater on Maunakea. It should be able to be hit from many parts of the Big Island and some parts of Maui and Oahu. Perhaps if you are akamai there are spots on Kauai that one might be able to reach it.

This EMCOMM repeater will only be active *on the first working day of each month from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM*, or when it is activated under the authority of the Hawaii County Mayor, by Civil Defense. Roughly the first 30 minutes of the net will be for Hawaii Island stations only, to participate in our Hawaii Island Siren net. When that business concludes, I will take check-ins from stations not participating in the Siren Net, including stations in other counties if time permits.

The frequency is 146.820 MHz, negative offset, with a tone of 123.0 Hz. Please feel free to listen in, or join if time allows and you are able. The net will be paused for 1 minute at 11:45 AM, while our All Hazard sirens are going off. Stations on Hawaii Island that have adopted a siren location to report on its status are the primary users on this net. Stations outside of Hawaii County will be able to check in to test their ability to hit the repeater on a secondary basis. If you wish to attempt to check in from outside of Hawaii County, please wait for us to call for the non-siren net stations, and be ready to transmit your call sign using ITU phonetics. All traffic must be directed to net control. Use prowords to keep transmissions as short as possible. Examples: *(your callsign)*, check-in, *(your callsign)*, check out, or *(your callsign)*, Radio Check, etc.

The Hawaii Island Siren net will also be held in parallel on the AllStar Hawaii/Mainland for the stations in Hawaii County. Other stations normally connected to the Hawaii/Mainland AllStar network will be separated from Hawaii Island stations, but otherwise, those stations will linked as usual.

73,

Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI

ARRL, Pacific Section

ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator

Skywarn HAM update

ARRL Pacific Section Section Manager Alan P Maenchen, AD6E ad6e@arrl.org encourages all hams to read this Skywarn HAM update from Kevin Bogan.

“Ham radio involvement with the National Weather Service (NWS) has been declining. I've asked Kevin Bogan AH6QO to reestablish our relationship with the Skywarn HAM system,” says Alan. “Note that Skywarn is NOT the same as Skywarn HAM.

“Kevin has made good progress and would like to get you involved too,” announces Alan.

From Kevin Bogan, AH6QO via ARRL email:
If you wish to participate in Skywarn and Skywarn HAM, please read the message below:

- We need Skywarn Spotter volunteers. Please view the 47 minute video, follow the instructions and report your results to sheana.walsh@noaa.gov and liam.tsamous@noaa.gov in order to receive your Skywarn Spotter number or that you have refreshed your standing with them.

- In addition to needing Skywarn Spotters, we need Spotters who have Amateur Radio license to register with me, kevin.bogan@gmail.com, to participate in the Skywarn HAM effort supporting NWS HFO. Amateur Radio operators who have a Spotter number are asked to send me your name, callsign, Spotter Number and location. Due to privacy issues, NWS HFO cannot provide me with a list of who is a Spotter nor who has just received a Spotter number. Please let me know.

- Here are some useful links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlttvKlyPFk&t=1s>

Skywarn Spotter 2019 training video.

<https://www.weather.gov/hfo/skywarn>

The Skywarn page at NWS HFO includes criteria for reporting.

- If you have questions, please ask. Please remember that I am Skywarn HAM and not an NWS meteorologist at Skywarn. NWS activates Skywarn HAM not me. I coordinate Skywarn HAM, its training in reporting and scheduling of HAM staff at NWS HFO.

Thank you for your interest in Skywarn and Skywarn HAM.



Kevin, AH6QO