



Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter – October 2009

President's Message October 2009

Our annual Hamfest was a huge success again this year. Thanks go to John KH7T and Bob AH6J for a job well done. The sign in sheet had 61 names listed but we are sure that there were more there. I figured between 70 and 80. It was great to see some of the hams from other parts of the island that we only get to see once a year. Testing was done and apparently there are two new Techs, a new General and a new Extra class ham. Door prizes were handed out throughout the morning. A silent auction of Larry Iwami's(KH6ATQ) radio equipment was held. His wife Barbara had donated the equipment to BIARC. We have collected \$661.00 so far and there are a few small pieces that we intend to bring to the October meeting for sale.

We would also like to welcome four new members to the club which I believe brings our total membership to 108. These new members which can be added to your roster are: Randy VanLeeuwen KH6RC, Len Winkler KB7LPW, Daniel Durgin KH6AFJ and Maria Thornton Associate.

DXing has been quite good the past few weeks, especially for me. I have worked Macedonia, Romania, Egypt, Cyprus and Glorioso Island. Egypt was the last of the zones that I needed. Dick and I also got to talk to Victor E51USA and his new wife Eleanor in Rarotonga. Victor has finally gotten a new tower up and operating.

Our October meeting will be very interesting. Not only will we have the report of the nominating committee but our speaker of the day, Ted Brattstrom NH6YK will have a program on Antarctica. Hope to see you there.

Ann Miller is doing quite well at the VA Home and Gloria Whiteley is making great progress at the Life Care Center. She is now able to stand on her own, pivoting to get into her wheelchair. They both like to have visitors stop by.

The QSL Bureau received 2,153 cards during August making our total so far for this year of 23,727. Of course the largest number of cards are coming from Japan.

Chuck Epperson AH6SC said that about a year ago he talked with someone at BIARC about donating WW2 era radios to the USS Missouri in Honolulu. He would like to get in touch with that person again or anyone else who might have old radios to contribute.

We are still undecided as to where our Christmas party will be held this year. The decision will have to be made at our October meeting so if you have any suggestions please let us know.

Barbara NH7FY



Bob W6RGG and Bob AH6J

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1938
Hilo, HI 96721

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.

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-	Pepeekeo KH6EJ (may be linked)
146.94-	Ka'u PD KH6EJ
146.94-	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
147.02+	Haleakala Maui RACES AH6JA
147.04+	Mauna Loa RACES AH6JA
147.16+	Kona (Hualalai) WH6DEW
147.32+	Waimea Hospital NH7HI (100)
147.38+	Waimea East KH7T experimental
442.35+	Kaanapali Maui (136.5)
442.5+	Kea'au KH6EJ
443.65+	Ocean View Hub
444.225+	Haleakala Maui KH6RS (110.9)
444.45+	Parker Ranch KH6EJ (88.5)

BIARC Biographies – Curt AH6RE

I have always been interested in electronics. By 1959 I had already for years had a hidden crystal radio that I listened to late at night

when I was supposed to be asleep, but I didn't know about ham radio at all until that year when my father, mother, and I started a class at the Port City Amateur Radio Club in Portsmouth, NH, taught by Bill Meehan. Bill was an old timer who had been around since the spark days and he was a CW expert. The three of us managed to learn the code and we got our novice tickets at the same time in early 1960. My father was KN1NTE, my mother was KN1NTD, and I was KN1NTC. You can see where we lived by looking at Google Earth



at coordinates 43 13 28 north, 70 48 16 west. We started out with an Eico 720 kit transmitter and a Hammarlund HQ-110 receiver. We had lots of big trees for wire antennas, and the old tube rig would tune up into anything, so we got on all bands, that is, 80, 40, and 15 where novices were allowed.

Back then, Ivor Stafford, VK3XB, had a project going to get his WAS by working only novices. We received a letter from him (no e-mail back then) suggesting a schedule, and at 4AM one morning the three of us worked both Ivor and his wife Mavis VK3KS on 80 meters. This was a huge thrill, and pretty good DX for a 50 watt station with an end fed 150 foot wire antenna.



K1NTC in 1961

I had a good ear for CW and picked up my general and extra class licenses as soon as the time limits allowed. Upgrading was a chore, because I had to get up in the middle of the night and get my father to drive me to where I could get the bus or train to Boston in time for the test. After the two hour ride I had to walk to the Custom House tower, the tallest building in Boston, and go to the FCC office where tests were given. Afterward, I would reverse course and hang out in Portsmouth until my father got out of work and could pick me up. Results came in the mail two or three weeks later. I made this trip four times, once each for general and extra, and twice more for commercial radiotelephone licenses. There was a good incentive to pass on the first try.

With a general and then an extra class license in hand, I wanted a better radio. A used Johnson Ranger-II came on the market, and I spent my last penny on it. This was a big step up, it had the HF bands and 6 meters too, and I got hooked on 6 meters and put up a 5 element yagi in our back yard. It turned out that 6 meters was where all the high school kids hung out and I met quite a few friends during our daily after school net. I got involved with VHF DXing and carried on 6 meter CW schedules with stations as far away as Pennsylvania. I could work Pennsylvania pretty reliably but with barely detectable signals on any night, but sporadic-e was another thing altogether and when a late afternoon opening occurred, the word spread quickly and my school friends and I would be out in force. For a while I was the only station in Maine on 6 meter SSB, using a homebrewed 75 watt transmitter plugged into the accessory power socket of my Ranger.

My parents and I were involved with the Port City radio club until I left home in 1963. For a while, I was club secretary and my mother was treasurer. In particular, we looked forward to Field Day. The club set up W1WQM/1 at Dover Point NH, in a park almost under the bridge there. It was at Field Day that I got my first taste of relatively high power operation, the club had a Heathkit DX-100, and once I actually got to touch and operate a Collins S-line station. Pretty nice!

From my Field Day experience I got interested in radio contesting, too. Bill Olson K1JDY (now K1DY), Lucky King K1KOB and I used to haul portable stations to the local high spots for VHF contests. Bill was exactly my age, 15 or 16, but Lucky was a couple of years older and had a driver's license and a car. We used a borrowed Gonset Communicator on 2 meters and various radios on 6, depending on whether we were battery only or generator powered. Our most ambitious effort was for the winter 1962 ARRL VHF Sweepstakes. We piled all the stuff, radios, antennas, food, generator, and tent on a toboggan and hauled it by hand miles through the woods to the top of Mount Agamenticus in Maine, where we set up a 6 and 2 meter operation that won the Maine section with 104 contacts. The weather was horrible, with a sleet and ice storm for the whole contest period that obliged us to go out almost hourly and knock the ice accumulation off our 6 meter yagi. My mother working from the comfort of home only had 59 contacts, so we were pretty proud of ourselves and we thought it was worth the effort.



K1JDY and K1KOB after the 1962 VHF Sweepstakes (K1NTEC photo)

Now, almost 50 years later, my parents and Ivor Stafford are gone, but Mavis is still listed in QRZ and I know that Bill K1DY and Lucky K1KOB are both still active. My thanks to all of them and the many others that made my early days in ham radio memorable.

Curt AH6RE





Paul WH7BR, Roland AH6RR, and Doug KH6QR



Kevin AH6QO

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PO Box 1938

Hilo, HI 96721