



Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Newsletter – November 2009

President's Message November 2009

Does it seem possible that there are only two months left in 2009???? This is our month to vote for new officers and directors. Hopefully you will try to be at the meeting as John KH7T will speak about the Elecraft K3 radio and the SteppIR antenna (Not quite sure which antenna). Hopefully his discussion on the K3 radio will help Dick AH7G understand his radio a little better.

The DXpedition to Midway is over now and from the looks of it nearly 100 Hawaiian stations were able to make contacts with them. I know of two hams in our club who were really happy to get them: Pete KH7HI and Paul WH7BR. Of course I was happy to get them too. I wish that we had been able to talk to them and find out how things are out there. Dick and I were fortunate to make three trips to Midway and it became one of our favorite islands. I was not a ham at the time so had to sit and listen to Dick make all the contacts from there. In 1999 we spent over three months there doing volunteer work. Dick set up a ham radio station while we were there and I helped out in the operations area. On our last trip there along with Dick and Lori Miner (NH6FP and AH6OS) and Norm Paik NH7CT and his wife Kathleen, I was a Technician and able to operate on 6M but was not able to make any contacts. Darn, Darn and double darn. Now it is too expensive to make the trip out there.

Fred KH6FI has been transferred from Hilo Hospital to the Yukio

Okutsu VA Home. I'm sure he will be much more comfortable there than in the hospital. He is on the second floor on the same hall as Annette Miller.

At our last meeting it was decided that we would pay the price to reserve the Keaau Community Center for the day of our Christmas party December 12th. I called to make the reservation and was told that they have reserved it for us and they are not going to charge us this year. It will be a pot luck type dinner with the club supplying the turkeys, drinks and utensils. If anyone has a suggestion for entertainment please let us know.

Curt is still looking for some articles from hams telling how you got into ham radio and a little about what you have done. The articles that we have had so far have been very interesting. I'm hoping that my son Dave K1TTT will write an article for us. We know that he can write as he has published two books about his Super Station. How about it Dave?????

Have a Happy Thanksgiving,

Barbara NH7FY



Ted NH6YK

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

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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 Meeting Minutes

General Membership Meeting

October 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Darling, NH7FY at 2:05 pm. Introductions were made and the roster was passed around. Next month's presentation will be by John Buck, KH7T who will speak about his new K3 and the SteppIR antenna.

The program was presented by Ted Brattstrom, NH6YK. He talked about his trips to Antarctic areas. He showed many pictures. At 3:45PM there was a break.

Reports: The secretary, Arman Wiggins, WH6BVZ, was not present so Bob Schneider, AH6J, volunteered to take the minutes. Last month's secretary's report was approved. Treasurer Curt Knight, AH6RE, left the report with the President. Barbara reported we have \$3,196.48 with approximately 108 members. Ron Phillips, AH6HN, gave the repeater report. We are having problems at Mauna Loa, Kulani and Kau. The County of Hawaii had HELCO disconnect power at Kulani however the Coast Guard transmitter was affected and the Coast Guard ordered it turned back on. Negotiations are on going and there is a trip planned to both Kulani and Mauna Loa very soon. John Buck, KH7T, reported four batteries were replaced on the Kona side of the island. All is OK there. Articles for the newsletter are due before the 20th of the month. The QSL bureau distributed 1,536 cards last month and 25,263 so far this year.

New Business: Richard Darling, AH7G, moved that we pay the rental fee for the community center and have the Christmas Party potluck on Saturday December 12th at 2PM. It was seconded by Doris Carlson, KH6ER and passed unanimously. The club will furnish the turkeys, drinks and utensils.

Ron, AH6HN, presented the following people in nomination for 2010.

President - Paul Ducasse, WH7BR

Vice Pres. - Tom Thornton, AH6ZZ

Secretary - Dave Broyles, KH7SO

Treasurer - Curtis Knight, AH6RE

Two Year Board - Ron Phillips, AH6HN; Bob Schneider, AH6J; Richard Darling, AH7G, Peter Yoes, KH7HI; Rick Frazier, AH7H and Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC.

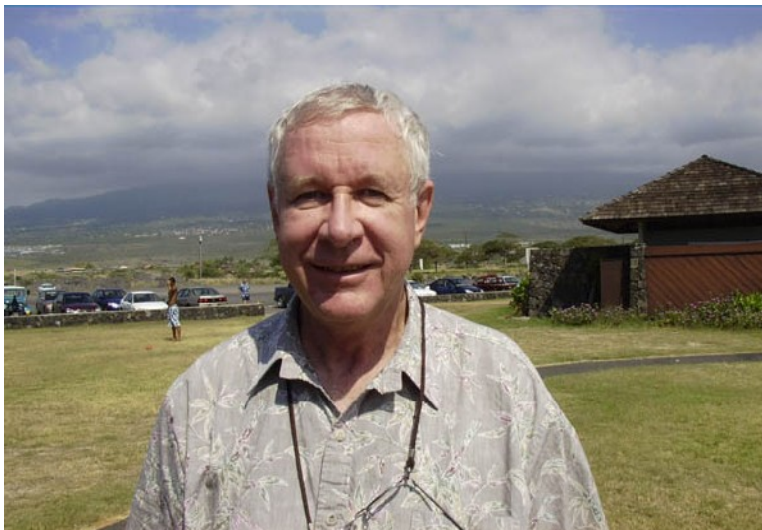
Remaining one Year Board is - Beau Mills, NH7WV; Richard Fetchen, KH6WE; Kile Golden, WH7FB; Elizabeth Yoes, WH7CU and Chuck Epperson, AH6SC. Barbara Darling remains on the Board automatically as Past President. Dave Broyles moved the nominations be closed. Richard Darling seconded and the vote was unanimous.

It was moved by Ron Phillips and seconded by Bob Schneider that we pay Ralph Fontaine, AF7DX, \$500 toward the purchase of our new repeaters. It was passed unanimously.

Barbara reported we received \$686 for SK Larry Iwami's equipment.

We adjourned at 4:25PM.

Respectfully, Bob Schneider, Acting Secretary for 10/10/09



John Buck KH7T

BIARC Biographies – John Buck KH7T

Fanciful recollections

I remember my best friend was a big old Collie. My two brothers were 10 and 12 years older, My father was the youngest of 5 and my mother an only child. We lived in a big old farmhouse in the flat country in central Ohio. There were no children my age anywhere nearby except for Sunday school. I did not learn to remember many names because I met very few people.

Shortly after we moved to this house, some significant remodeling was done. There were bees in the walls between the plaster and the wood outside. The workmen smoked the bees as the siding was removed. Large trash barrels were used to collect the filled honey combs. The workers hauled away dozens of 30 gallon tubs. My mother canned hundreds of quarts of honey. We had an infinite supply of honey that lasted for at least 15 years. I also remember that an indoor bathroom was added to the house during that remodel.

There was a large tree about 20 feet from the dining room. The tree often got hit by lightning. Once during a family gathering at the dinner table, the tree was struck, and a ball of energy about the size of a volley ball popped though the wall at an electric socket, bounced around on the floor a bit and went back out through the wall and exploded with a bang like a firecracker outside. Ball lightning I suppose. Another time, I was sent to my brother's room across a front entry hall to get something during a storm. Just as I passed the front door way a big flash and jagged streak went right behind my head. I ran into my brother's room, pulled the covers over my head and did not come out till the sun did. There was a fuse box on the outside wall that had flashed due to a lightning hit. The tree eventually died.

I remember getting lost when I took a shortcut to where my dad was working in a wood lot on the other side of a 100 acre corn field. The corn was tall and dry, nearly ready to pick. I had to be careful not to be cut by the razor sharp dry corn leaves at my face height. I heard something coming, closer and closer. The

monsters were after me. I ran and ran. It got closer and closer. I finally fell down and it got me. It was the Collie, come to take me home.

I learned to read from the family stash of National Geographic magazines and my parents subscribed to Popular Mechanics for me. They thought I was just looking at the pictures.

One spring they took me to the local school open house. I was so wild about it that they let me attend the last couple of months of first grade that year. There was no kindergarten or other preschool. This was about 1944. I read all the available books in the school room while listening to the lessons being taught to the first and second graders. They all thought I was just looking at the pictures.

Next fall when I started school, I got in trouble when I insisted I could read already. The teacher knew I couldn't. I thought reading out loud was silly anyway. I would silently read the lesson and go on to something else. I obviously was not paying attention. We finally got that straightened out.

In third or fourth grade, I decided I would be a chemist. One of my grandfathers had been a Pharmacist and my older brother gave me a cast off chemistry set. My mother would sometime go to a local drugstore and get me a small bottle of some critical chemical. One of these was a small vial of liquid mercury. I was warned very effectively by the Pharmacist of the dangers of heating the mercury. But it was neat to rub it on copper pennies to make them slippery and silver colored. They tasted slimy too.

Next summer, I got in trouble with the librarian at the book mobile. I would take my bicycle with a big basket on the front along the gravel road about a mile to the town on the book mobile day and fill the basket. Two weeks later on the next book mobile day, I returned those books and got new ones. The Librarian thought I was just playing with the books. I couldn't possible read them all. She finally drew the line when I started taking books off the top shelf about physics and Alexander Graham Bell and others. I was obviously too young for those books. My Mother and I quickly got that straightened out.

We moved to a different town to start 6th grade. I got glasses so I could see beyond a few feet and discovered that the stars really were points of light and not just blobs. Now Keck shows us that many of the points of light really are blobs of stars. Things change.

This school had grades 1 and 2 in one room with one teacher. Grades 3,4 and 5 in a second room and grades 6, 7, and 8 in the third room. A fourth room was the cafeteria and recreation room. There were 12 people in my 8th grade graduating class. The teacher was very good. He introduced elements of calculus and trigonometry to the 7th and 8th graders. We had a flying start when we started at the consolidated high school in a larger town 5 miles away.

Somewhere along here, I had left a buzzer I had made with cut up pieces of a tin can, some wire and a couple of nails on the kitchen table. The new novice who was the owner of the local frozen meat locker and a butcher had been at the farm butchering a hog for my dad and came inside to settle accounts. He spotted the buzzer, told my mother that he was interested in helping a group get started with radio. We needed several friends to start the group. We soon knew more radio than he did but his support, help and encouragement taught us how to work together, run a group with Robert's Rules loosely applied. His car took me to Dayton where I passed my General. This mentor was a Navy Reserve officer and he took us to the communications center in Fairborn, Ohio and introduced us to the CW operators who could talk to us for a few minutes then turn around and pound out several messages received while talking to us. There were 10 or 20 Collins receivers in the room and 3 or 4 operators listening. No pencil and paper in evidence. We also got to visit WLW Cincinnati post war but before the super high power station was disassembled. Now those were transmitters! The final capacitor was larger than my ham shack today. The coil was in another similar room.

In high school, I found a job with one of the local TV Stores after I discovered that my thick glasses and lack of athletic ability would preclude me from even bench warming practice with the HS

basketball team. This fortunate failing allowed me to get an after school job with an outstanding and honest local businessman, learn radio and TV repair, and learn some of the trials and tribulations of working with over the counter customers. My respect for this man grew when I discovered he was providing and maintaining tv sets for the shut in people in the community. They were not the latest sets, they were often old traded in units, but they worked. This town was in a fringe area and needed an outside antenna on at least a 20 to 30 foot pole. Their repair calls got higher priority than the paying customers. Guess who got to install and repair many of these. Another learning experience was learning how many homes in the town had hidden people who had no other window into the world other than that little box. This was before the infirm, or retarded, or crippled, or deformed were mainstreamed. This was perhaps one of my biggest lessons.

I became the black sheep of the family when I went to Albion College in Michigan instead of commuting to Ohio State. It got even worse when I went on to the University of Michigan for my engineering degrees and then moved to California and eventually got an MBA at University of Southern California. I really had to lay low during Rose Bowl game season.

I found Southern California on the bulletin board offering work study jobs for the student engineers on the co-op work study. So I landed at Northrop, worked there 3 terms before graduation at Michigan then joined them for 32 years. In that co-op time, Carol and I found each other and have just celebrated our 48th. Our daughters are in Phoenix and Ireland so some travel continues to happen.

I came out of Michigan knowing quite a lot about vacuum tube technology. I had one course in solid state physics and quite a bit about electronic amplifiers and servos. I went right to work at Northrop designing solid state switching circuits. Later I got into some low-power, precision, miniature instrumentation for airborne voice warning systems, engine health monitoring and wing crack growth monitoring.

I finally found a little company called Intel. They had this thing in the back room that they had almost abandoned. It was called an

8008 processor. It was just what I needed for Northrop at the time. I got the first 5 of those processors that went outside the company. By the way, the 8 bit 8008 came a bit before the 4 bit 4004. That is another story. My group also got 10 of the first 8080 chips. Well, you know where that went. I wanted to buy some of their stock but they were privately held at the time.

I was in an electronic development research engineer role for Northrop. I got to pick and play with the latest toys as they came out and got to reinvent my expertise every 3 years or so when production caught up with our developments. There was some skill in deciding which toys to develop, and which to avoid like the plague. These were the fun years.

A number of years were spent in various levels of engineering management. I announced that I was going to retire early at 55 and gradually worked out of management and back in to a Senior Research Engineer Position usually filled by PHDs. As a technical generalist, I had several degrees, Bachelor of Art with Physics, Math and Communications majors, Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering, another Bachelor of Science in Engineering Mathematics and a Masters in Business. But no PHD. Anyway I pulled it off and the PHDs working with me felt they were being effectively supported by management and I could talk to them and provide effective leadership. I also had a few patents of my own.

On my 55th birthday our house sale closed, and the container left for Hilo port will call. Just about then Northrop was absorbing Grumman and I heard that a parachute was perhaps going to be offered to help reduce the number of senior managers. Carol left for Hawaii to rent a house and receive our container. I rented an apartment and stayed around for 3 more months until the program was announced. It turned out that it would have been retroactive, but I had no way of knowing, and it was worth the wait.

Since that time, we have not been able to figure out how I ever had time to work for a living. We both do quite a bit of volunteer work. And finally I have been able to devote serious time and some resources to my first avocation, Ham Radio. About 20 or 25 years ago I was asked to write a white paper on the application of

digital technology to radio. I described the specifications for critical parts being developed, but not yet production items, that would build radios with better performance than any being built.

So when the Orion met my specifications, I had no trouble justifying getting one. It clearly had the best receiver going. But the firmware did not evolve quickly enough and so when the Elecraft K3 was announced, I was ready. Last year Bill Graham's 2 meter beams and Katashi Nose's KW 2 meter amplifier, courtesy of Harvey Motomura, were combined with the K3 to do moon bounce. This year, a big Steppir beam was added and my dream HF station exists. There are 280 QSL countries in hand and another 10 or so that I hope to get cards from. I am just 70 and still climbing the hill. More will follow.



Rich KH6WE

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

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