

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

August 2015 Newsletter



Field Day held at Wailoa Center

Chairman's report: WH6ECV

Dave, with his truck, took me out to KH7E's House in Paradise Park early in the week. The club's 30-foot aluminum tower was under Wilber's house. We trucked it to my place in Hilo. Dave was a great help getting the tower, our gear, poles, and the 4-element beam to Wailoa Center on FD morning at 6:30 A.M.

Many thanks to K2GT Gus, for the Yaesu FT857,

>>> (next page)



**KH6EJ
on the air
in Hilo**



Photos by John Bush, KH6DLK, and Robert Oliver, NH6AH:

(Top) NH6AH's 4-element Mosley Tri-band Yagi on club's 30-foot tower; (At left, top) Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS, Dave Lederle, WH6ECV, and Irene Kubica, NH7PE, make contacts and record data from faraway hams; (At left) Arlen De Lima, WH6EJZ, works a station at Wailoa Center.



Pausing for a photo at 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, after a job well done, is the BIARC Field Day Antenna Committee: NH6AH-Robert Oliver, WH6ECV-Dave Lederle, K2GT-Gus Treewater, NH6AH XYL-Joe B, and KH7DQ-Doug Wilson.

Chairman's report (continued):

a 100-watt transceiver.

Many thanks to Ron KH6ESH and Roberta KH6ESI, who donated the generator.

Many thanks to Peggy KE6TIS who provided the excellent lunch sandwiches and some of our potluck dinner food. Thanks to all who donated food, as well.

Radio conditions were good.

We were on the air and made our first QSO by 8:30 AM. 15 meters was jammed, packed with stations all day, and we did not experience the CME that knocked out 20 meters most of the morning.

At night, we went to 40 meters, using an 80-meter Loop Antenna. It

worked well on 40 meters and it was easy to make contacts all night with low noise. 80 meters had too much QRN from Pacific storms.

Our total QSOs were 170 on phone and 13 on CW. This was the highest number of QSOs the club has made in the last 3 years.

We had 27 guests at this year's Field Day.

To connect a call with a face was just great.

Due to a foot injury later the following week, I have not filed the official log yet, but we have 30 days, so that will get done soon.

Many thanks to all who participated.
73 and aloha,

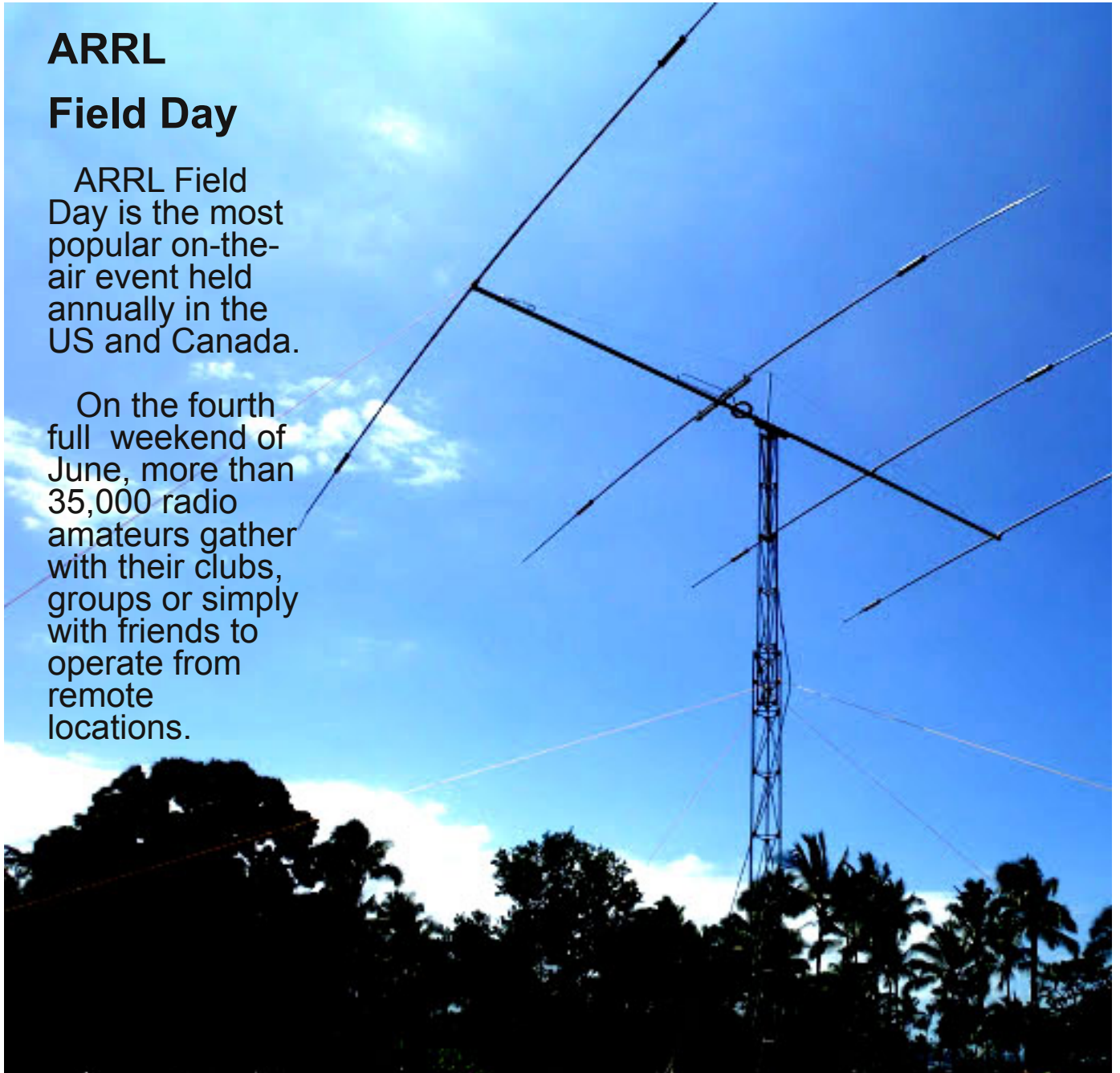
Robert Oliver, NH6AH

ARRL

Field Day

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada.

On the fourth full weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.



From left, Leigh Critchlow, WH6DZX; Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS; Dave Lederle, WH6ECV; and Irene Kubica, NH7PE, enjoy interacting in person and on the air.



ARISS initiates fundraising effort, offers "Challenge Coin" keepsake

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program has kicked off a fundraising program, and it's offering an ARISS Challenge Coin as a token of appreciation to those who contribute at a certain level. ARISS relies on resource support from NASA, ARRL, AMSAT, and individual donors and volunteers to ensure day-to-day operation of its programs and to pay for spaceflight equipment certification. In light of budget cutbacks at NASA over the past 2 years, the funding needed to cover operational expenses down the road has become more uncertain, however, and ARISS leadership initiated the fundraising effort with the goal of securing greater financial stability.

"To assure the future of the program, we are looking to individuals and corporate sponsors to provide the resources we will need to sustain operations and to acquire needed equipment upgrades," said ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

Plans are under way to develop a new, higher-power Amateur Radio station for the ISS Columbus module. The current radio is a lower-power unit that sometimes results in weak signals during ISS-to-Earth educational contacts. A new radio system will improve communication capability for students scheduled to participate in ARISS educational contacts and related activities. The new system also would allow greater interoperability between the Columbus module and the Russian Service Module. ARISS said that integration of the equipment



ARISS announces a "Challenge Coin" as a token of appreciation to those who contribute at a certain level to its new fundraising campaign.

into the ISS infrastructure and the necessary testing and certification require hours of engineering resources that it cannot afford.

"Each ARISS contact offers the opportunity to inspire young people through ARISS's unique window into space exploration activities, opening the horizon of possibilities of a career in a STEM field," said ARRL Education Services Manager, Debra Johnson, K1DMJ. "Each contact also introduces students and their communities to Amateur Radio. The program needs your help to secure these opportunities for the future." Individuals may donate to ARISS online via the AMSAT website (select the "ARISS Donate" button). AMSAT is contributing the necessary personnel resources to handle gifts to ARISS. Individuals contributing \$100 or more will receive the new ARISS Challenge Coin. Corporate donors should contact Frank Bauer. -- (ARRL) ***Thanks to AMSAT News Service, ARISS, and Debra Johnson, K1DMJ***

Dayton Hamvention reports 2015 attendance up over 2014 count

The official attendance at the 2015 Dayton Hamvention® was 25,621. That's an increase from the official count of 24,873 visitors last year -- or an additional 748 attendees.

The 2013 attendance was 24,542. Hamvention attendance peaked in 1993 at 33,669, before the 1996 change in date from April to May.

While attendance has fluctuated over the years, the event has grown to international proportions, attracting members of the worldwide Amateur Radio community each spring.

The sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) already has begun counting down the days to the next Hamvention, which will take place May 20-22, 2016.

-- (ARRL) ***Thanks to Henry Ruminski, W8HJR***



HF privileges open to all hams on 10 meters

All Technician Class Licensees have 10-meter privileges, so try your hand on HF!

The Aloha Chapter of Ten-Ten International Net, Inc. meets on 28.490 MHz, with an alternate frequency of 28.487MHz, every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. HST. If you don't hear me, don't just listen, call "CQ!"

Help keep 10 meters in amateur radio hands.
Thanks and aloha.

—*Irene, NH7PE*

Ten-Ten Summer Phone QSO Party Aug. 1-2

Ten-Ten's Summer Phone QSO Party will be Aug. 1-2, which begins for us on that Friday at 2:01 p.m. HST (for Saturday's 00:01 UTC start) and runs 48 hours until 23:59 UTC, or 1:59 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 2.

The regular exchange is of call sign, name, 10-10 number, or 0 (zero) if you don't have a 10-10 number (yet), plus your QTH (state, province or country).

Be sure to log all of your contacts, and with a list of 10 members contacted and \$15 dues for the first year, you, too, can obtain your own 10-10 number for life. We'd LOVE to have you!

Note: There is a quiet zone between 28.490 and 28.510 MHz during QSO Parties to allow others to use the band.

The postmark deadline for submitting the Summer Phone QSO Party Logs is Aug. 17. Every QSO Party has an Entry Classification of Individual, QRP, Mobile or Club where you need to list all operators and 10-10 numbers operating as a Club Station.

September is left for you to fill. The next QSO Parties to prepare for will be



October's Sprint on Oct. 10 and Fall CW QSO Parties Oct. 17-18.

10-10's two daily nets (every day except Sunday) run at 8 a.m. HST on 28.380 and 28.800 MHz. Listen, and if you can hear them, join in! The Aloha Chapter meets at 6:30 p.m. HST Monday on 28.490 MHz. If you cannot hear me, go ahead and call CQ. Let's all use 10 meters!

Aloha,
Irene, NH7PE

NEW QTH



Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC, recently stopped by to visit longtime Puna and Ocean View operator Fred Honnold, K6IJ, at left, at Fred's new QTH in Pine Grove, California.

Party balloon carrying ham radio payload circles Southern Hemisphere a second time

After traveling for more than 110,800 km (68,696 mi) aloft, the record-setting pico balloon PS-46, carrying an Amateur Radio payload, completed its second circumnavigation of the Southern Hemisphere, before descending into the Indian Ocean on July 18 due to bad weather. The helium balloon and its solar-powered 25 mW payload were launched on May 23 by Andy Nguyen, VK3YT.

"It was an exciting but also an exhausting eight weeks for many hard-core trackers," Nguyen said. "Their perseverance ensured the balloon was tracked almost around the clock. It was hard work, and the little party balloon was becoming part of the daily routine for many of us."

More than 20 "regulars" were among those who tracked the high-altitude flight, monitoring the payload's 20 meter signals in WSPR and JT9 modes. Stations in Virginia and Florida, as well as in Peru and Argentina were among those hearing the balloon's beacon.

The last station to hear the balloon was Vince, ZS6BTY, in Pretoria, South Africa. The balloon had been at an altitude of about 9000 meters (29,530 feet), but quickly descended into the ocean.

PS-46 had circumnavigated the Southern Hemisphere the first time in 12 days, and it was starting its third trip around when it went down. -- (ARRL) Thanks to Jim Linton, VK3PC

Hawaii QSO Party Aug. 22-24

The 2015 Hawaii QSO Party is scheduled - 04:00 UTC Aug 22 to 04:00 UTC Aug 24, 2015.

The contest web site <http://hawaiiqsoparty.org/> lists BIARC as a supporter of the event.

This year awards will be on-line certificates avoiding the need to fund certificate printing, postage and special plaques. A continuing focus will be promoting HF activity from Hawaii – new and old.

-- Joe Speroni/AH0A
Coordinator

Want to
build a
simple
kit
radio?



There's been some conversation recently among a few members about getting together to build some simple kit radio equipment. If you are so inclined, please help research what's available and share comments and recommendations on kits, tools, logistics, etc.

For those who might want to fire up a soldering iron and build something, here's a link to YouKits, <http://youkits.com>.

The company offers small QRP radios and accessory kits reported to be nice products.

Have any other products you'd like to recommend? To contribute to a list of QRP kits available, send info to the newsletter at lcritchlow@mac.com by Aug. 23, or thereabouts.

We'll print the comments and list in next month's newsletter.

Amateur Radio Parity Act: Politicians do listen, says ARRL prez

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said in the July ARRL Legislative Update Newsletter that Washington politicians are paying attention to League members who have contacted lawmakers to urge their cosponsorship of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. Essentially identical bills have been introduced in both the US House (H.R. 1301) and Senate (S. 1685). Both measures would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions.

"Many visits have been made to the offices of Senators and Congressmen on behalf of H.R. 1301 and S. 1685 by members of the ARRL Board and ARRL Headquarters staff," President Craigie said. "ARRL Section Managers have encouraged members to speak out. ARRL members around the country have talked with your elected officials in their home-district offices and town hall meetings. This is a full-team advocacy effort." To date, H.R. 1301 has attracted 86 cosponsors; the just-introduced Senate bill, S. 1685, has one original cosponsor.

Craigie said the legislation is aimed at helping to ensure the future of Amateur Radio, as more and more neighborhoods impose deed restrictions that prohibit Amateur Radio antennas and keep today's youngsters from becoming active radio amateurs.

"What if their parents have bought houses in neighborhoods with deed restrictions prohibiting antennas?" she speculated. "Those kids' interest in ham radio gained from school, Scouts, or family friends will have no way to blossom into the life-changing experience of being radio amateurs."

ARRL members, she continued, "are working together so that both today's amateurs and the kids who will be amateurs in the future have the chance to operate from their homes." Letters from members urging support of the bills are what make the difference between being ignored and being heard on Capitol Hill.

"Earlier this year, I visited a North Carolina Congressman's office and got a friendly reception -- but no cosponsorship," President Craigie recounted. "More recently, another ARRL person followed up at the same office, with the



**ARRL
President
Kay Craigie,
N3KN**

same staff member, but with about 40 letters in hand. The Congressman became a cosponsor."

The newsletter suggested several ways ARRL members can get involved in the Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots effort.

One idea is to have a "letter party" at your next club meeting.

Take pre-addressed copies of letters to all three of your lawmakers -- one in the House, two in the Senate -- and have club members add their names, addresses, and signatures to letters for each Member of Congress. Have enough copies, so that each individual can sign his or her own letter. In some cases, club members in a given area may reside in more than one Congressional district.

Names and addresses of US House and Senate members are on the ARRL website. Mail the collected letters to the ARRL (c/o The Amateur Radio Parity Act, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111), which will collate them for hand delivery on Capitol Hill.

Members also may e-mail their lawmakers, post comments on their US House or Senate member's website, or call their lawmakers on the telephone. Be courteous, make your points, and be brief. In all cases, thank lawmakers for considering your point of view.

"Grassroots politics is about you -- the individual -- making your voice heard," the July Legislative Update pointed out. "It requires a good deal of preparation and effort to achieve the end results."

The League now has a combined web page to accommodate activities on behalf of both the House and Senate bills. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is H.R. 1301 in the US House of Representatives and S. 1685 in the US Senate. The web page provides a clearing house for all information on these identical pieces of legislation.