

May 2016 Newsletter

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Where *IS* that sneaky fox holed up, anyway?

The club's focus on direction finding continued at the April meeting with a presentation by Sean Fendt on transmitter hunting. He discussed and demonstrated short range use of a directional antenna and portable/hand-held receiver. He showed us how to get oriented toward a remote transmitter and get a feel for the merits of a hand-held yagi.

Members are enjoying the attention being paid to the ham radio sport of "fox hunting," aka competing to be the first to locate a hidden radio transmitter. A fox hunt will be staged during the club's annual Field Day at the end of June. In preparation, Les Hittner and Sean have been talking about and demonstrating techniques and simple gear leading up to the big event.

BIARC meets at 2 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Keaau Community Center. All are welcome. If you'd like to volunteer to help in planning or facilitating Field Day, please contact Vice President Peggy Gentle, who is chairing this year's event.



Sean Fendt gives direction-finding directions inside and out, then helps members test their intuitive and technical skills. It doesn't take long for the intrepid hunters to realize that Sean hasn't cached the fox onsite, for us to physically locate and win The Big Prize, but way off over the horizon.



Photos by Linda Quarberg

AH6J retires as ARRL Pacific Section manager

*By Ron Hashiro, AH6RH
ARRL Pacific Section*

Bob Schneider was born in Riverside, California and grew up in Northern California along with two sisters and a brother.

Active in scouting, in 1957 he was licensed as a novice KN6ZBZ and attended his first Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air at Valley Forge, PA along with 50,000 other friends. He got a Conditional license.

In May 1964, his parents retired and they moved to Hawaii. He got his KH6FNB call from the Honolulu FCC office while also testing for the Commercial Radio Telephone license. He later obtained AH6J when the FCC made available the 2x1 calls to Hawaii Extra class licenses in the 1980s.

Bob started out with running phone traffic for Army MARS. That later grew into a fascination with 6 meter and VHF repeaters. (See the story on the EARC DH repeaters; <http://www.qsl.net/ah6rh/am-radio/hawaii/earc-dh.html>)

Bob worked with the UH and RCUH as an electronic technician, then as a radio technician for Federal Electric, AMFAC before joining Hawaiian Electric Light Company (HELCO) on the Big Island. Bob retired in January 2001 after 29 years of service with HELCO.

Bob got his start as the ARRL Section Manager from the previous SM, Army Curtis AH6P. Army worked for Hawaiian Electric Light Company on the Big Island when he was the Section Manager. As Army began preparing for retirement and



Bob Schneider and his wife, Esther, at home on the Big Island, enjoy a visit to the Volcano area.

moving to the mainland, he tapped Bob as SM. Bob served as SM in 1992-1996, 2002-2004, and 2006-2016. Bob has also served as the President of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club (BIARC).

Bob's key accomplishments during his terms were obtaining amateur radio support from ARRL for Kauai during recovery from Hurricane Iniki, and in getting ARRL to speed up distribution of the QST magazine to Hawaii. In 2002, the QST magazine was delivered via bulk mail and Hawaii ARRL members would often about the schedules for the upcoming events after the events have passed. Bob worked tirelessly with the ARRL QST staff on improving the production and delivery to the point where the magazine is received in the prior month.

Bob notes that amateur radio is a vast multitude of hobbies, with the common



theme of having a transmitter. Interests range from HF to VHF/UHF to Microwave; direction finding; satellites; digital modes; public service and emergency communications; experimenting and building. Different clubs specialize in different things. So trying to paint amateur radio with a one brush stroke is a difficult thing. And, interests change over time allowing for personal growth. It's the social element (such as the amateur radio clubs) that keeps us united.

Bob likes to chase DX. Among his awards include the Bicentennial WAS in 1976.

Bob's most memorable QSOs included a one hour 20 meter HF MARS QSO at midnight where he talked with a YL in South Africa where it was 12 noon. Even though Bob was running a six element beam, he pointed it in every direction and still could not get the signal to peak -- the YL was on the other side of the earth and radiating equally in all directions! Another time, he was atop Mauna Loa during a tropoduct opening with California and made an FM QSO with Vandenberg AFB using only 100 milliwatts. Bob also made a two way contact with ISS astronaut Bill McArthur KC5ACR in March 2006.

Bob currently resides in Keeau with his wife Esther and looks forward to traveling to see his son, daughter and grandkids who live in Colorado.

'Discover the HF Experience' aims to dazzle Technicians, newcomers

Concept stresses 'shortwave' radio is as compelling today as it was 100 years ago in its infancy

Contesting clubs in Canada and New England have joined forces to invite non-hams, new hams and oldtimers to discover HF radio in the 21st century firsthand by operating remote stations. Beta test "Discover the HF Experience" events debuted in April in Manitoba and Massachusetts, with a major rollout expected at Dayton Hamvention® in May, with four operating positions at ARRL EXPO.

The "Discover the HF Experience" concept stresses that "shortwave" Amateur Radio is just as compelling now as it

was 100 years ago.

"Amateur Radio is complementary to new technology, not in competition with it," said Gerry Hull, W1VE, who came up with the idea and has been working with Cary Rubinfeld, VE4EA, in Manitoba to flesh it out into a program.

"Ham radio is so experiential," Hull told ARRL, "so a key part of this process is getting hams to experience HF, if they're unfamiliar with it. As part of these events, we are going to have remote HF stations on the air. We will have Elmers to help participants through a contact, so they can see how HF really works," he added.

"Our amateur population is at an all-time high, but most new hams are getting a Technician ticket, getting on VHF and UHF, and hanging out with like-minded friends," Hull said.

The limitations on what Technician licensees can do often leads to boredom, Hull said, "and they drop out of the hobby. They never get the exposure to HF ham radio, and as any veteran radio amateur can tell you, that's a lifelong exploration."

Radiosport Manitoba and the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club hosted the inaugural events.

"Today there are not as many HF Elmers," Hull said. "Who better to be the ambassadors of HF than testers? We're passionate about HF!"

New ARRL Pacific Section Manager Joseph Speroni offers ARES update

Aloha, all,

The startup of our new organization has been daunting; the change of SEC has required Clement Jung, KH7HO, Pacific Section emergency coordinator, and me to spend a lot of time meeting and talking to each other and to other ARES members around the state.

We wanted to take the first step of adjusting DEC appointments on the Big Island. I have informed the ARRL HQ of the following changes:

Kim Fendt, WH6KIM, has been appointed DEC of the East Hawaii ARES district.

She brings an excellent resume in EMCOMM training and direct experience to the position. I'm confident she will help us develop a strong and active ARES group in the Hilo area.

Bob Schneider, who was acting DEC, will continue as ASM for the Big Island. I will continue to lean on his knowledge and advice for all amateur radio matters in Hawaii.

Dewey Proietti, NH6M, will relinquish his post as Kona DEC and continue his roles as technical coordinator and technical specialist for the section. His role in a new ARES digital mode for the



Joe
Speroni,
AH0A

section will be the subject of a separate announcement in the future.

For now, the Kona side DEC position will remain open.

Best 73, Joe/AH0A

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The ARRL Pacific Section  
webpage is at:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/pacific-section>

# Hurricane Watch Net seeks net control operators

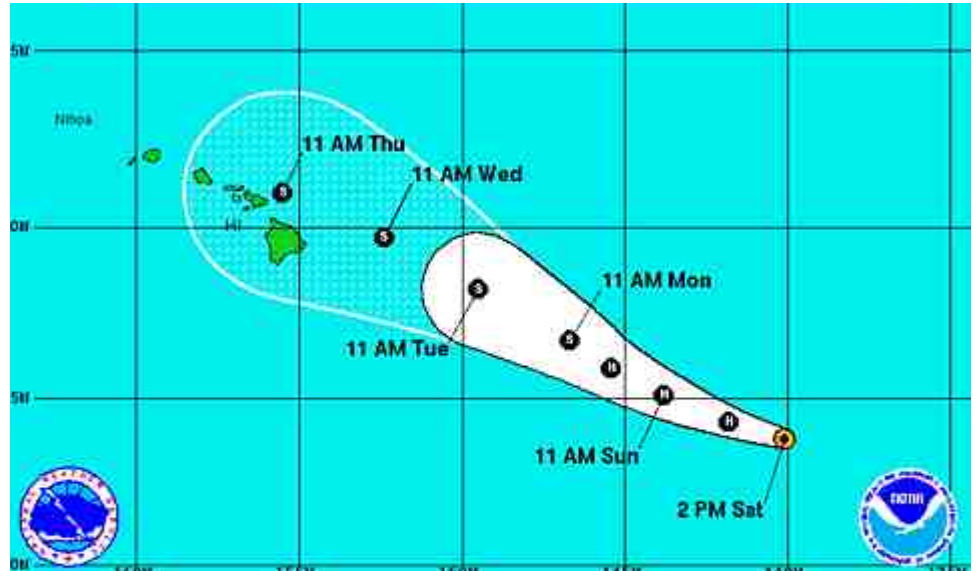
The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) is looking for additional net control operators.

Hurricane Season in the Atlantic begins on June 1 and ends on November 30; in the Eastern Pacific, it begins on May 15 and ends on November 30.

Hurricanes can form at any time of the year, however, as witnessed by Hurricane Alex in January.

"With the 2016 hurricane season rapidly approaching, the Hurricane Watch Net is preparing for what looks to be an active season," HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, said.

"It has been a long time since the US has seen a major hurricane make



landfall." He believes the US may be overdue for one.

Graves said the HWN is always on the lookout for well-qualified, experienced net control operators who can effectively communicate with hurricane-prone areas from eastern Canada, the US East

Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. He said bilingual (English and Spanish) operators are a valuable asset.

Visit the HWN Membership Information Page, if you're interested in becoming a member of the Hurricane Watch Net.

## World Amateur Radio Day celebrates hams' many contributions

World Amateur Radio Day on April 18 marked the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) in 1925. Radio amateurs worldwide took to the airwaves to celebrate Amateur Radio's contribution to society.

"April 18 is the day for all of Amateur Radio to celebrate and tell the world about the science we can help teach, the community service we can provide, and the fun we have," the IARU said in announcing this year's event, saying to all hams: "We hope you will join in the fun and education that is World Amateur Radio Day!"

Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that -- far

from being a wasteland -- the shortwave spectrum could support worldwide propagation. In the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, Amateur Radio was "in grave danger of being pushed aside," the IARU's history has noted. Amateur Radio pioneers -- ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, among them -- met in Paris in 1925 and created the IARU to support Amateur Radio worldwide.

As Maxim and his counterparts envisioned, the IARU is an international confederation of national Amateur Radio organizations that allows a forum for common matters of concern and collectively represents matters to

the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Just 2 years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, Amateur Radio gained several allocations still recognized today -- 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. Since its founding, the IARU has worked to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio.

From the 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925, the IARU has grown to include 160 member-societies in three regions. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia.

## Guy workers to the rescue

On April 6, three guardian angels descended on our yard in Hawaiian Paradise Park with tools, equipment and materials.

Within just a little over an hour, our QTH had new guy wires on our big tower, courtesy of this Good Samaritan SWAT Team.

Many thanks to Lloyd KH6LC, Curt AH6RE and Stan AH6KO. We can now rest easier at night knowing the tower has been newly guyed.

**73 and mahalo, Barbara, NH7FY, and Richard, AH6G, Darling**



*Photos by Barbara Darling*

## Kingman Reef, KH5, RIP

*Iconic DXCC spot gets the Pluto treatment*

The ARRL Awards Committee has deleted Kingman Reef (KH5) from the DXCC List, effective March 29, 2016. Kingman Reef was added to the ARRL Deleted Entities List on that date and the total number of entities dropped from 340 to 339.

This downgrading process is described in DXCC Rules Section II DXCC List Criteria, Part 5(a) Deletion Criteria: "An entity may be deleted from the List if it no longer satisfies the criteria under which it was added. However, if the entity continues to meet one or more currently existing rules, it will remain on the List."

Kingman Reef's original addition by virtue of separate administration has changed (separate administration by the US Navy has been removed), and the reef does not meet any current criteria to remain on the List.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) administers Kingman Reef and Palmyra Island.

The reef is too close to Palmyra Island to count as a separate entity and now will be considered a part of the Palmyra/Jarvis DXCC entity.

Prior to its deletion, Kingman Reef was the seventh most-wanted DXCC entity, according to ClubLog. It was last activated as K5K in 2000.

## National Parks On The Air update given

National Parks Week was celebrated April 16-24, with NPOTA activity described as being "through the roof!" Saturday, April 23, offered two events: International Marconi Day (IMD) and the National Park Service's "Instameet" on the social media site Instagram. People enjoyed posting photos of themselves in an NPS unit, using the hash tag #FindYourParkInstameet.

The ARRL is looking for high-quality photos and video

of NPOTA activators in the field for display at the Dayton Hamvention® NPOTA booth! Photos and video should be high-resolution and tell a story that includes both ham radio and details about the park unit.

Details about upcoming activations can be found on the NPOTA Activations calendar. Keep up with the latest NPOTA news on Facebook. Follow NPOTA on Twitter (@ARRL\_NPOTA).

### ~~~~~ 2016 BIARC leadership ~~~~~

**Board:** President Bob Schneider, AH6J; Vice President Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS; Secretary Beau Mills, NH7WV; Treasurer Doug Wilson, KH7DQ; Directors Bill Hanson, N0CAN; Barbara Darling, NH7FY; Richard Darling, AH6G; Ted Brattstrom, NH6YK, immediate past-president; and returning Directors Gus Treewater, K2GT; Dennis McCartin, WH6ELY, and Paul Ducasse, WH7BR. **Program Committee:** Co-chairs John Bush, KH6DLK, and Les Hittner, K0BAD. **Repeater Committee:** Chair Bill Hanson, N0CAN, with Paul Ducasse, WH7BR; Paul Agamata, WH6FM; Bob Schneider, AH6J; and Lopaka Lee, WH6DYN. **Field Day Committee:** Chair Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS, with Robert Oliver, NH6AH.





## JOTA patch design introduced

The countdown to the 2016 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is under way, and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) are hoping for a more resounding turnout than last year's for this fall's 59th JOTA. Radio Scouter Don Kunst, W3LNE, told ARRL that the JOTA committee has expanded, along with efforts to

get the word out and raise awareness of JOTA through news and social media outlets. In addition, he said, the JOTA organizers will be making it easier for participants to register and to file their post-JOTA activity reports. JOTA introduced its 2016 patch earlier this year.

## Youth Rally to highlight Hamvention

The first-ever ARRL Youth Rally will be a feature of the League's menu of activities at Hamvention® 2016.

The event is May 21, and requires advance online registration.

Hamvention takes place May 20-22, and the centerpiece of ARRL Hamvention exhibits and activities is ARRL EXPO, a

huge exhibit area.

The Youth Rally is open to ages 11 to 26, with hands-on ham radio activities.

"ARRL is especially excited to introduce a way for young hams and soon-to-be hams to meet each other and experience some cool activities," said ARRL EXPO Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R.

### ***'Uti' Gandy, KS6FO, SK***

Rose "Uti" Gandy, of Pago Pago, American Samoa, died on March 25. She was 69 and had been an ARRL member. Uti Gandy was the widow of the prominent contester and DXer Larry Gandy, AH8LG (SK). Uti Gandy helped with the Swains Island DXpeditions and hosted the W1AW/KH8 operations during the ARRL Centennial.

### ***UK to sell off 750 MHz of Radio Spectrum***

The Amateur Service in the UK currently shares significant spectrum with the public sector. The government has committed to sell 750 MHz of valuable public sector spectrum in bands below 10 GHz by 2022, of which 500 MHz will be made available by 2020. Previous spectrum sell-offs have adversely impacted the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services.

## ARRL VHF Contest Revitalization Committee calls for comments on proposed UHF and Up event

The ARRL VHF Contest Revitalization (VCR) Committee has drafted rules for a proposed new UHF and Up Contest and now is seeking input from the contesting community. The invitation follows the Committee's review of "considerable input from the amateur community."

"In proposing the new rules, the Committee sought to respond to some of the most frequently received comments and to provide a 'test bed' for changes that might be considered for other non-HF contests in the future," ARRL Central Division Vice Director and VCR Chair Kermit Carlson, W9XA, explained. "At this time, everything is a proposal -- open for comment, and definitely in flux."

Comments thus far:

~ Use distance-based scoring, not geographic multiplier system.

~ The August timing is

too close to other VHF+ contests, and/or it's too hot for roving.

~ More incentive is needed to invest time and effort in making higher-band contacts.

~ Existing rover rules are too complicated and too restrictive.

~ Current VHF+ contests have too many entry categories.

~ Scoring potential varies widely among geographic regions.

The draft contest proposal uses distance scoring, with point multipliers for contacts made on higher bands. To encourage roving, it simplifies rover rules to include those who do not travel great distances, and mobile stations. It includes just three entry categories and features regional, rather than national, competition. It adds team competition for small groups of operators not part of a contest club.

### ***~~~~Free classified ads~~~~***

(Send text for ads by 20th of month to [lcritchlow@mac.com](mailto:lcritchlow@mac.com))

**Kenwood TS-450SAT**, 100 watt HF rig, Original owner, antenna tuner, digital readout, loaded with CW filters, mobile mount. Matching SP-23 speaker, owner's manual, service manual, original boxes for both. Excellent condition. \$600 firm. Lloyd, KH6LC, 966-7782.



Irene Kubica, NH7PE, is an avid participant in 10-meter activity and encourages hams at all levels to join in the fun.

## Technician licensees invited to enter HF world

The world of HF radio is open to all licensed amateur radio operators, including Technicians, on the 10-meter amateur radio band.

From the website of Ten-Ten International, here are the basic answers to the overriding question:

Just what is the Ten-Ten International Net?

The Ten-Ten International Net, Inc. was formed back in 1962 as the Ten-Ten Net of Southern California. Its purpose was to promote activity and good operating practice on the ten meter amateur band. During the first few years the organization grew slowly, but by 1975 there were 10,000 members, and the word "International" had crept into the name. There have now been over 75,000 10-10 numbers issued world wide.

The Ten-Ten International Net is a non-profit entity incorporated under the laws of the State of California.

Ten-Ten (or more commonly "10-10") has no paid employees. All of its officers and managers serve on a

voluntary basis, and are reimbursed for necessary expenses only. With the great expansion of the organization in recent years, it has been necessary to employ computer processing for membership records and mailing labels. This has also permitted publication of a Membership Roster at suitable intervals and has facilitated mailing the quarterly 10-10 International News, which is sent to all paid-up members.

Ten-Ten's principal expenses are for printing, postage, and computer processing. Annual dues are \$15 for US members and \$18 for DX members to provide funds for expenses.

A membership card, certificate of membership and other items are sent to new members when membership is granted. Each new member is assigned a unique "10-10 Number" which is retained for life, regardless of a change of callsign. A 10-10 number is never re-issued. When one becomes an SK (Silent Key), his/her number is still listed in the membership records and Membership Roster.

Paid-up (ACTIVE) members receive a copy of the 10-10 International News, 10-10's own magazine which is published each quarter, and are eligible to participate in various 10-10 activities.

### Questions and Answers

The following questions are most commonly asked by those interested

in 10-10 or by new members.

### 1) What are the benefits in belonging to 10-10?

10-10 is like any other ham radio organization, a group of hams who are interested in promoting 10 meters. In order to keep interest up on the 10 meter band, the idea of collecting "10-10 numbers" as an incentive in keeping the 10 meter band occupied was developed. The ultimate benefit is to keep the 10 meter band for Amateur Radio. Personally, each member enjoys the camaraderie of kindred spirits, whether the activity is informal rag chewing or numbers chasing or a more formal 10-10 QSO party.

### 2) What does it cost to belong to 10-10?

The dues are \$15 per year for members with a US zip code, and \$18 per year for all DX members. There is also a Life Membership available for \$500 for US members and \$650 for DX members. A Senior Life membership, with proof of age over 65, is \$150 US and \$200 for DX members.

There is also available a Family Membership for members of a family, who are 10-10 members, in addition to the prime member. Family memberships are \$5 per year for each additional family member. Family members do not receive copies of the 10-10

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International News, but do vote in elections, and participate in all other 10-10 activities, awards and contests. Family members must all reside at the same address as the primary member. Family membership runs concurrently with primary membership.

### ***3) How do I join and where do I get my 10-10 number?***

Any licensed amateur authorized to operate on the 10 meter band can join 10-10. It is required that you contact 10 10-10 members (on 10 meters), listing their information as noted on the Membership Application form available on the 10-10 website.

### ***4) What do I do with my 10-10 number now that I have received it?***

You can exchange it with other 10-10 members (on 10 meters, of course) and keep a record of their number. There are numerous awards for collecting 10-10 numbers. Or, you can just give your number to others when asked for it and not participate in any of the 10-10 Awards, Contests, etc. It is strictly up to you as to how involved you want to get in 10-10.

### ***5) What happens to my 10-10 number if for some reason I lose***

### ***interest in 10-10 or do not wish to continue my dues each year?***

Once you are issued a 10-10 number, it is yours for life. If you decide to not participate in 10-10 and do not continue paying your dues each year, your number is still yours. You can still give it to other 10-10 members and you can still collect numbers yourself. Non-dues-paying members cannot participate in the "BAR" award program, cannot receive awards for contests and other 10-10 awards such as the Worked All States Award, the DX Award, the Worked All Continents Award, etc. You will also be removed from the list of those receiving the 10-10 International News each quarter. As you must recognize, it is the dues paying members that are the backbone of any organization.

### ***6) Who runs the 10-10 Net?***

The Ten-Ten International Net is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. All Officers, Committee Chairmen, Award Managers, and other function leaders associated with 10-10 serve the organization on a voluntary basis. These dedicated 10-10'ers devote a great deal of their spare time to the

operation of 10-10.

### ***7) What is a 10-10 Chapter?***

Local groups of 10-10 members get together and form a "10-10 Chapter". These Chapters, of which there are approximately 200 active internationally at this time are authorized by the 10-10 Chapter Coordinator and make regular reports as to their Chapter activities. Usually Chapters meet once each week and hold a "Net Meeting". Each member checks into the net and non-chapter members are also invited to check in. One important activity of each net meeting is to exchange 10-10 numbers with new members or new check-ins. Any net business is discussed, such as the Chapter participation in an upcoming 10-10 contest or discussion of any other items of interest.

Many Chapters issue Certificates for contacting other members of their Chapter.

### ***8) How many 10-10 numbers are there?***

10-10 has issued, at the time of this printing, over 75,000 10-10 numbers. 10-10 has members worldwide with members in almost every country in which ham radio is authorized. 10-10 also has approximately 200 authorized 10-10 Chapters around the world.