

Big Island Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

March 2020



The President's Corner

Seventy-six options

Anecdotally, I believe that BIARC's repeater on Kulani Cone is the busiest amateur radio repeater on Hawaii Island. I've monitored most, if not all, of them at one time or another; there simply is no comparison.

As such, it was quite displeasing to hear that our beloved repeater is losing its home. If you haven't heard, the tower which serves our repeater is to be demolished in June. In fact, the entire site is to be returned to its natural state. To allow time for the demolition, we will have to remove the repeater by the end of May.



William Polhemus, NH6ET, BIARC president



Photos by Peggy Gentle, KE6TIS



Hams attend February BIARC gathering.

I have heard from a great many of you since this was announced at the February meeting. There is much anxiety and despair at hand over the potential loss of the repeater. I've heard a touch of panic too. Many consider the "76" repeater to be a home of sorts. Like a bar on TV where everybody knows your

name.

I myself am not worried. The Voice Repeater Committee and the BIARC board are committed to keeping the community on the air. The groundwork of the path forward was laid by the Repeater Committee during their meeting on February 13th . We counted no less

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than thirteen options to explore, just for staying on Kulani Cone. Staying on the cone is of course our desire. So, we are diligently exploring each and every one of those options. Some will undoubtedly hit roadblocks. Others, however, may bear way to a new home on the cone for our repeater.

We didn't tally up the options for replacing the coverage with repeaters in other locations. There are just too many to count. The committee did, however, outline a few, just in case. We even covered one which could be stood up in a day or less. It's good to be prepared, right? And, it's not wasted effort in any way.

Even if we don't need these plans right now, it will be good to have them in the bank for a disaster. Being able to stand up a repeater network to replace our coverage seems handy. One way or another, we will stay on the air. In June, and beyond. Of that I have no doubt.

On a happier note, it seems that we have an audience. We are seemingly the only club in Hawaii with a regularly published newsletter. Our newsletter has evidently reached other clubs, and we have received a request to broaden the distribution of our newsletter. This doesn't affect you, the member, in any way.

It's just nice to be noticed. Really, it's Leigh who toils tirelessly to publish this newsletter, who deserves the credit. Without Leigh's efforts, we'd be sending out coffee stained napkins with a few words scribbled on them, or something like that. Thank you, Leigh.

William Polhemus, NH6ET

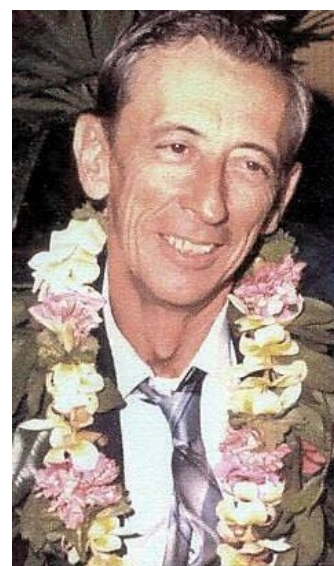
Silent Key

Hugh Fleming, KH6HRB

We note the passing of Hugh Arthur Fleming on December 26 at Life Care Center in Hilo, at the age of 84.

He was a former amateur radio operator with the call KH6HRB. His obituary was printed Feb 14 in the Hawaii Tribune-Herald. He was born in Raton, NM, and was a retired gemologist.

Among his many accomplishments, he was a U.S. Air Force veteran, owner of the former Lafayette and Spectrum



Hugh Fleming

Electronics in Hilo and a private pilot active in the Civil Air Patrol.

He was an avid fisherman with several world records.

**Bob Schneider,
AH6J**

BIARC to meet Saturday, March 14

The Big Island Amateur Radio Club will meet at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at the Keaau Community Center.

All hams, and other interested parties, are welcome.

HuskySat-1 draws lots of attention

Initial reports indicate considerable interest among amateurs in tracking and capturing data from the newly deployed HuskySat-1.

The satellite, designed at the University of Washington, was launched to the International Space Station last November and subsequently deployed into a higher

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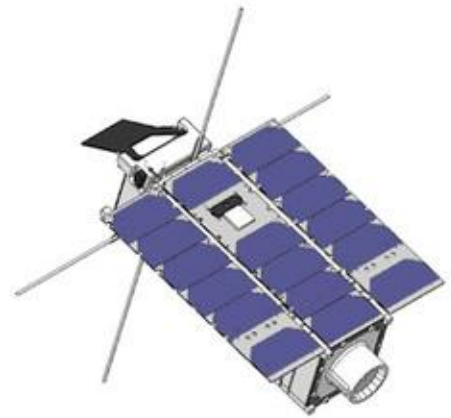
orbit from the ISS on January 31, and began telemetry transmissions on 435.800 MHz.

HuskySat-1's 1,200 bps BPSK beacon is active and decodable with the latest release of AMSAT's FoxTelem software.

The HuskySat-1 CubeSat will demonstrate onboard plasma propulsion and

high-gain telemetry for low-Earth orbit that would be a precursor for an attempt at a larger CubeSat designed for orbital insertion at the moon.

HuskySat-1 is expected to carry out its primary mission before being turned over to AMSAT for activation of a 30 kHz wide V/U linear transponder for SSB and CW.



-- Thanks to AMSAT News Service

BIARC 2020 Budget & Operating Statement

	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>Actual- 1/1/2020 To 2/28/2020</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income:			
Dues	\$1,590.00	\$1,130.00	\$460.00
Repeater and general donations	\$275.00	\$223.00	\$52.00
Donations for refreshments	\$25.00	\$9.00	\$16.00
Total Income	<u>\$1,890.00</u>	<u>\$1,362.00</u>	\$528.00
Expenses:			
Club Liability Insurance	\$320.00	\$0.00	\$320.00
Club Equipment Insurance	\$185.00	\$0.00	\$185.00
Donations (PCC)	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Equipment	\$500.00	\$207.00	\$293.00
Field Day	\$320.00	\$0.00	\$320.00
Printing (Membership Booklet)	\$175.00	\$162.33	\$12.67
Annual Build Project	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
P. O. Box Fee	\$176.00	\$0.00	\$176.00
Monthly Meeting Refreshments	\$19.00	\$0.00	\$19.00
VOAD Dues	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
Postage/Office Supplies/Misc.	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,890.00</u>	<u>\$394.33</u>	
Excess (Deficit)	\$0.00	\$967.67	
Bank of Hawaii Balance	as of: 2/28/2020	\$3,756.67	
Deposits Pending		\$120.00	
Fund Balances:			
Repeater fund	\$653.25		
Emergency Reserves	\$1,000.00		
General Fund	\$2,223.42		
Total Funds	<u>\$3,876.67</u>		

Looking for lighthouses

Chris VE3CBK/QRP is looking to work an Hawaiian lighthouse for credit in the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) Worked all States Award program. To activate a lighthouse, an activator's permanent, portable or mobile station only needs to be in view of the lighthouse structure by day or its light at night. To make it even more challenging I like to operate at QRP power levels. I have worked Hawaii several times using QRP on 20M SSB and CW, so I believe that it is feasible. A list of Hawaiian Lighthouses is available at <http://w1ol.arlhs.com/index.php> I can be reached at whiskey1@sympatico.ca

Thank you, Chris VE3CBK/QRP Kanata, Ontario, Canada

BIARC Board Meeting

February 08, 2020

12:08 Meeting called to order

Role Call (7) Quorum (6)

Board Members:

William Polhemus – President
James Huntley – Vice President
Leslie Hittner, Secretary
Tony Kitchen, Treasurer
Mel Uchida
Bob Schneider
Paul Ducasse, Station Custodian

Visitors: Rick

Minutes of last Board meetings: Regular meeting on 01/11/20

William **moved** and Mel **seconded** that the minutes be approved as published and distributed by email. Motion **passed**.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was submitted in writing.

01/31/2020 bank balance \$ 3576.00 Complete report is attached.

There was discussion about members who have not yet paid their dues. The Treasurer will reach out to those members and William will mention it during the afternoon club activity.

William **moved** and Mel **seconded** to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Motion **passed** by a unanimous vote.

Elections: Les **moved** and Tony **seconded** that the officer positions remain unchanged from 2019. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Committee Reports:

(1) **Digital Systems:** (No written report) James noted that today's activity would be a discussion of digital systems in use by Amateur Radio operators.

(2) **Education and Outreach:** (Written report is attached to these minutes.)

William asked if anybody has reached out to the BSA or other youth organizations. He will put that question to the membership. Other board members suggested that Richard Turner WH6FLH be contacted about this concern.

(3) **Operating Activities:** (No written report) There was some concern about whether BIARC should actively support Puna Emergency Radio Club's (PERC) Fox Hunt training to be conducted on Feb 22, 2020 at the Edon Rock "Golf Course." There was

a discussion about the importance of building a meaningful relationship with PERC, which was initially organized because of dysfunction within BIARC.

A brief discussion of Field Day took place. Roy Kunishige (WH6FYK) informed the Board that he was obtaining a Hy Gain Explorer 14 Tribander with the optional 40-meter element from a friend on the mainland and that he would make it available for the club's use in Field Day.

- (4) **Program:** (No written report) upcoming programs include: March-DMR (William); April-RF Propagation (Les); May-Stub Filters (William); June-Field Day (Operating Activities); July-<blank>; August-<blank>; September-C4FM/Fusion (Les);
- (5) **Public Service Communications:** (No written report) Tony noted that the committee is seeking MOUs with each organization with which the club wishes to partner. A ZOOM meeting of the committee (Tony, Les, Paul) to discuss a proposed HCCD MOU was set up for Friday, Feb 14, 2020 at 1900. William noted that there is a new Radio Systems Manager at HCCD and that he is "ham friendly."

There was a brief discussion of the EMCOMM forum at the winter hamfest – specifically as relates to the publication of a small EMCOMM frequency reference card.

- (6) **Voice Repeaters:** (Written report is attached to these minutes.) William announced important news that was not included in his report. On Friday, Feb 07, he was informed that the Kulani tower that the 146.76 repeater is on will be taken down in June 2020 and that **all** systems have to be off the tower by the end of May 2020 (This includes Spectrum, the principle occupant.)

William is looking at alternative sites including a tower spot on the Hawai'i County tower. The County's initial response was "no" but there is an off-line system that could possibly be replaced with our repeater antenna. This will be a touchy agreement to obtain, but it may be possible. More news to follow.

A discussion followed concerning alternative arrangements including the positioning of more repeaters with less range that would be interconnected, but no action was taken at this time.

- (7) **Records Retention Ad Hoc:** (Written report is attached to these minutes.) Les **moved** and William **seconded** that the Records Retention Policy be approved with the following changes: READ WRITE BACKUP terminology in the policy would be replaced with the same words that DropBox uses. The motion **passed** and the amended policy is attached to these minutes.

New Business:

- (1) **BIARC Participation in Winter Hamfest:** William opened the discussion by what sort of help KHRC is asking for. One result of the ongoing discussion was that BIARC could propose to combine Winter Field Day with the Hamfest. Since the Hamfest venue is reserved for the entire day, the Hamfest could continue as it normally does and then a Winter Field Day operational event could continue through the afternoon – possibly with a pot luck dinner.

A simpler offer to help was to propose that BIARC take over and expand the refreshments that are offered during the Hamfest itself.

The idea of BIARC and KHRC corroborating more often on operating events was referred to the Operating Activities Committee.

With respect to committees generally, William **moved** and Tony **seconded** that the Board would approve standing committee Chair assignments while committee Chairs could bring members onto their individual committees as needed. The motion **passed**.

- (2) **Hamfest EMCOMM Discussion – Centralize emergency calling frequency 146.52 MHz and make cards to encourage its use:** William **moved** and Tony **seconded** that BIARC adopt this recommendation from the EMCOMM Discussion., Motion **passed** with 1 opposed (Les).

Creating information cards for BIARC was passed on to the Education and Outreach Committee.

- (3) **Hamfest EMCOMM Discussion – Centralize publication of activities:** No action was taken.

- (4) **Hamfest EMCOMM Discussion – Formation of island-wide council to coordinate activities and information:** William **moved** and Les **seconded** that BIARC will support the formation of an island-wide EMCOMM Council and that the President (primary) and Vice-President (secondary) will represent BIARC at such a council. Bob moved to amend to expand council representation to the entire Board. There was no second. The original motion passed with 1 opposed (Bob).

- (5) **Dropping members for non-payment of dues:** Les **moved** and William **seconded** that members will be dropped from the club membership list on March 1, if they have not paid their current-year membership dues. During the discussion it was noted that dues become due at the time of the Annual Membership Meeting (November) and that a cutoff of the end of February, with a drop date of March 1 was more than enough time to collect dues from existing members. The motion **passed** by a unanimous vote.

- (6) **Time commitments for program presentations at monthly activity meetings:**

William proposed a 45-minute minimum allocation for the program, a 45-minute minimum for introductions, announcements, etc. and a 30-minute time allocation for pupus. Presenter could then ask in advance of the meeting for more time. Bob moved to table the discussion and Tony **seconded** the motion to table. The motion **failed**. William **moved** and Mel **seconded** to allow presenters 45 minutes for presentations unless they asked for more time in advance of the presentation date. The motion **passed**.

Old Business:

- (1) **Records Retention Policy:** This item was handled under the Records Retention Ad Hoc Committee.
- (2) **Offer to help Waimea Club with their Hamfest:** This was handled under New Business.

Other Business:

- (1) William stated that he has been asked that the Board explore the idea of ordering club shirts with the BIARC Logo. After some discussion, William **moved** and Bob **seconded** to create a T-Shirt Ad Hoc Committee to return with a plan for creating

and taking orders for Club T-Shirts with the Club Name, Logo, and individual's name, and call, with William to be Chair. The motion **passed**.

(2) **Members have asked that BIARC accept Payments by PayPal:** William moved and Les **seconded** to refer this issue to the Treasurer. The motion **passed** with a unanimous vote.

Adjourn: There being no further business, William adjourned the meeting at 13:49.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie D. Hittner

Leslie Hittner, Secretary

Enc: Treasurer's report
Education and Outreach Committee Report
Voice repeater Committee Report
Records Retention Ad Hoc Final Committee Report
Records Retention Executive Board Policy

All hams invited to help with comms for Hilo Marathon

There's still time for hams to volunteer to assist with communications along the route of the annual Hilo International Marathon the morning of Sunday, March 15.

Each year, the Puna Emergency Radio Club coordinates communications between aid stations along the 26.2-mile route and headquarters at the Hilo Bayfront.

Volunteers get to put their radio

skills to work and help out the community at the same time.

"It's a fun way to get in some practice, meet other radio operators and help race volunteers and the athletes that morning," said Bob Gomez, KB6EGA, the PERC president.

For more information, contact Bob at 430-6001 or email him at bbg691@yahoo.com.

10-10 International Aloha Chapter is open to all

Local hams active on 10 meters encourage amateur radio licensees at all levels to join in the fun.

[More info on the world of Ten-Ten is available on Facebook and at <https://www.ten-ten.org>]

PERC Feb. 22 Fox Hunt a hit

Stay tuned for upcoming events

Hams gathered for a fox hunt Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Great Organic Lavalinks Farm, or GOLF, sponsored by the Puna Emergency Radio Club.

The event was the second sponsored by PERC, both under the coordination of Sean Fendt, KH6SF, and response dictates other such activities will be announced in the not-too-distant future. (The first PERC Fox Hunt was held at BIARC Field Day three years ago at Wailoa Center.)

Sean opened the event with a short tutorial on just what a fox hunt is. Throughout the activity he and other veterans offered tips to newbies.

Various configurations of direction-finding antennas were demonstrated and explained by their operators and tips and info were shared back and forth, between and during the exercises.

"The weather cooperated and the fox hunting went well. We got a lot of positive comments and requests for additional events," said Sean. "We want to give a big mahalo to our host, GOLF owner Kim Pinkerton."

Fox hunters also included Roy Kunishige, WH6FYK; Jim Huntley, WH6FQI; Gary Schwiter, WH6EMS; Mel Uchida, WH6EKD; Joe Rosenbaum, WH6FZH; Cory Allen, KN6ZU; Bob Gomez, KB6EGA; Rick Gardner, WH6LU; Jim Tatar, WH6EMN; Jimmy Love, WH6GEM; Malury Silberman, KI6HBZ, and Leigh Critchlow, WH6LC.



Inside the fox box: battery pack, radio, and raspberry pi to provide code message at 2-minute intervals.

Photos by Mel Uchida, WH6EKD

PERC President Bob Gomez with his homemade "Moxon Rectangle," a simple and mechanically robust two-element parasitic array antenna named for Les Moxon, G6XN.



Re: 60-meter rule-making (RM-11785)

The ARRL filed RM-11785 in November last year asking for rulemaking for the new 60-meter allocation of 5351.5-5366.5 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service (a sixth channel agreed to by the international WRC-15 conference).

This was one of the positive results for the worldwide Amateur Radio Service. It usually takes the FCC time to finalize rules for new amateur allocations especially if other US radio services are affected.

The ARRL raised the desire to allow use of VFOs instead of a 2.8 kHz channel. The primary reason for this would be to allow narrow band digital stations to share the allocation. It would be of significance for FT8 and other new digital modes.

At the same time the league asked that the entire US 60-meter band retain the 100-watt power limit rather than follow the 15-watt limit agreed at the WRC-15 conference.

"At WRC-15, a non-channelized allocation was recommended worldwide with a power limit of 15 watts.

We petitioned for a non-channelized allocation last year plus keeping the existing shared channels.

We also requested to keep the 100-watt ERP limit instead of dropping to 15 watts. There is no information on when the FCC will act on RM-11785. No R&O has been issued yet."

With the growing use of 60 meters in Hawaii because of 40-Meter propagation issues, Hawaii has a unique requirement to depend on this band for EmComm and interisland communications.

If you have an opinion about Hawaii retaining the 100-watt limit, make your voice heard by filing a comment to RM-11785. The link to submit comments is https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/filings?proceedings_name=RM-11785&sort=date_disseminated,DESC

If you think about it, please email me a copy of your comment. I'd like to submit an ARRL Pacific Section comment representing opinions of our members.

**ARRL Pacific Section
Section Manager:
Joseph Speroni, AH0A
ah0a@arrl.org**

Undersea expedition planned to retrieve Titanic's radio gear

The company with sole rights to salvage artifacts from the RMS Titanic has gone to court to gain permission to carry out a "surgical removal and retrieval" of the Marconi radio equipment on the ship, a Washington Post article reports.

The Titanic sank in 1912 on its maiden voyage after striking an iceberg in the North Atlantic. As the radio room filled with water, radio operator Jack Phillips transmitted, "Come at once. We have struck a berg. It's a CQD, old man," and other frantic messages for help, using the spark transmitter on board. CQD was ultimately replaced with SOS -- which Phillips also used -- as the universal distress call.

The passenger liner RMS Carpathia responded and rescued 705 of the passengers.

As might be expected, the deteriorating Marconi equipment is in poor shape after more than a century under water.

The undersea retrieval would mark the first time an artifact was collected from within the Titanic, which many believe should remain undisturbed as the



A recreation of the Titanic radio room.

final resting place of some 1,500 victims of the maritime disaster, including Phillips. The wreck sits on the ocean floor some 2 1/2 miles beneath the surface, remaining undiscovered until 1985.

A just-signed treaty between the UK and the US grants both countries authority to allow or deny access to the wreck and to remove items found outside the vessel.

"This momentous agreement with the United States to preserve the wreck means it will be treated with the sensitivity and respect owed to the final resting

place of more than 1,500 lives," British Transport and Maritime Minister Nusrat Ghani said in a statement.

The request to enter the rapidly disintegrating wreck was filed in US District Court in Eastern Virginia by RMS Titanic, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia, which said that it hopes to restore the Titanic radio transmitter to operating condition, if it is allowed to go forward.

The company plans to use a manned submarine to reach the wreck and then deploy a remotely controlled sub that would perforate the hull and retrieve the radio equipment.



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AMATEUR RADIO™

The ARRL Letter

Public Service

Advocacy

Education

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Membership

President signs PIRATE Act to combat illegal broadcasting

On January 24, President Donald Trump signed into law the "Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act," or the PIRATE Act.

The measure, which amends the Communications Act of 1934, authorizes enhanced penalties for violators.

Under the new law, pirate radio broadcasters would be subject to a fine of not more than \$2 million, and violators could be fined up to \$100,000 for each day during which an offense occurs. The new law stipulates that the FCC "shall not decrease or diminish the regular enforcement efforts targeted to pirate radio broadcast stations for other times of the year."

The FCC is to submit to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and Senate Committee on

Commerce, Science, and Transportation a report summarizing the implementation of this section and associated enforcement activities for the previous fiscal year. The new law also requires "annual sweeps," during which FCC personnel will be assigned to "focus specific and sustained attention on the elimination of pirate radio broadcasting within the top five radio markets identified as prevalent for such broadcasts."

The Commission also "shall conduct monitoring sweeps to ascertain whether the pirate radio broadcasting identified by enforcement sweeps is continuing and whether additional pirate radio broadcasting is occurring."

Under the new law, the FCC will change its rules so that it proceeds directly to issuance of a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) without first issuing a Notice of Unlicensed Operation (NOUO).

The FCC will develop and publish a database of all licensed AM and FM



broadcasters, accessible directly from the FCC home page.

The FCC is also required to publish a list of "all entities that have received a Notice of Unlicensed Operation, Notice of Apparent Liability, or forfeiture order," as well as "each entity... operating without a Commission license or authorization."

The law defines pirate radio broadcasting as transmitting within the AM and FM bands without an FCC license, but excluding unlicensed operations in compliance with Part 15.

Official 2020 BIARC roster

2020 BIARC Paid Member List-
File Edit Insert Format Help

	A	B	C	D	E
2	Allen	Cory	KN6ZU		
3	Asuka	Darrell	KH6RDO		
4	Benevidas	Francis	NH7SY		
5	Besse	Donald	WH6BES		
6	Blas	Francis	WH6CVG		
7	Bowen	Richard	AH6RK		
8	Bush	John	KH6DLK		
9	Caesar	Sid	NH7C		
10	Carr	Bryce	KH6AT		
11	Chu	Pat	KH6KL		
12	Critchlow	Leigh	WH6LC		
13	Daak	Mike	Affiliate		
14	Darling	Barbara	NH7FY		
15	Darling	Richard	NH7G		
16	Dowling	Terry	KH6L		
17	Ducasse	Paul	WH7BR		
18	Epperson	Chuck	AH6SC		
19	Erickson	Robert	WH6EXM		
20	Fischer	Tom	KH6TD		
21	Froseth	Lynn	WH6ETX		
22	Froseth	Stan	AH6KO		
23	Gable	Bev	KH7LM		
24	Gardner	Richard	WH6LU		
25	Gentle	Peggy	KE6TIS		
26	Hittner	Les	K0BAD		
27	Huffman JR	Harold	AH6UV		
28	Huntley	Jim	WH6FQI		
29	Kadota	Glen	AH6IO		
30	Kao	David	WH6GCJ		
31	Kaul	Hank	KH6HAK		
32	Kingston	Michael	WH6GGS		
33	Kitchen	Marvin	WH6DPO		

2020 BIARC Paid Member List-
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	A	B	C	D	E
34	Kitchen	Nancy	WH6DVH		
35	Kitchen	Tony	WH6DVI		
36	Kubica	Irene	NH7PE		
37	Kunishige	Roy	WH6FYK		
38	Last	Mike	NH7JT		
39	Love	James	WH6GEM		
40	Malury	Silberman	KI6HBZ		
41	Matsuda	Kyla	WH6FQQ		
42	Mazurowski	Paul	WH6GGT		
43	McCartin	Dennis	WH6ELY		
44	McCartin	Sharon	WH6ELV		
45	Miller	David	KH6GZ		
46	Motomura	Harvey	AH6JA		
47	Ockert	Bill	ND0B		
48	Okinaka	Alan	KH6ATU		
49	Pierson	Coco	NH6GG		
50	Polhemus	William	NH6ET		
51	Powell	Denning	WH6GDC		
52	Punsalan	Jeremy	KH7CN		
53	Quarberg	Linda	WH6LQ		
54	Robbins	David	K1TTT		
55	Rosenbaum	Joe	WH6FZH		
56	Schneider	Bob	AH6J		
57	Schneider	Esther	Affiliate		
58	Schwiter	Angelina	WH6EVK		
59	Schwiter	Gary	WH6EPS		
60	Silberman	Malury	KI6HBZ		
61	Sims	James	KJ6YSG		
62	Sizelove	Diane	KC9AM		
63	Sizelove	Paul	N9CCT		
64	Sugg	Jim	AH6AE		
65	Talaro	Ed	NH6WT		

66	Tatar	James	WH6EMN		
67	Telio	Nonda	KE7LWN		
68	Treewater	Gus	K2GT		
69	Turner	Richard	WH6FLH		
70	Uchida	Mary	N0ZSJ		
71	Uchida	Mel	KH6EKD		
72	Urban JR	Carl	WH6GFX		
73	Walp	Bernie	WB6PIO		
74	Watanabe	Mark	WH6FSA		
75	Wilson	Doug	KH7DQ		
	Carnett, William		AH6FC		