

GAZING GRAZERS — Parker Ranch cattle take the intrusions in stride.

Up, up and away

Local hams assist High Altitude Balloon experiments

Launching, tracking and landing radioequipped balloons was the focus of the July 10 BIARC Zoom session. East Coast-based teachers John Garesche. KD2QII, and Richard Eason, AA1PJ, reported on their High Altitude Balloon launch in North Hawaii on July 8, and another one they planned for the following week - both with support from the Big Isle ham community.

BIARC President William
Polhemus,
NH6ET, noted
that the balloon
project has been



East Coast-based educators John Garesche, KD2QII, at right, and Richard Eason, AA1PJ, talk via Zoom from their temporary QTH in Puna.

"a lot of fun for many of us," and that he and some of the other members have been talking about doing such a launch as a club project.

"Thank you all so much for your assistance," said John. "The balloon signal was picked up by a number of your new (temporary) stations helping us locate it easily

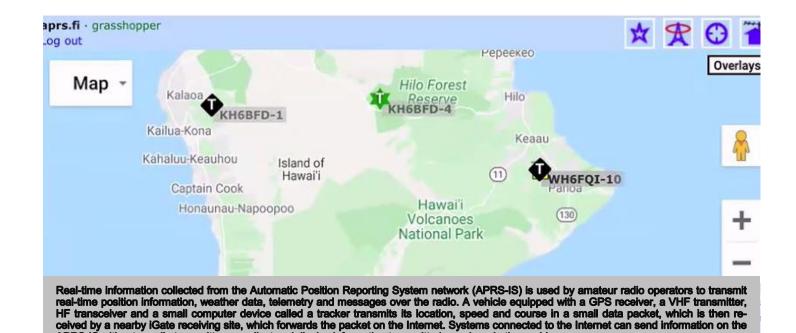
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The duo launches the first High Altitude Balloon off Mana Road near Waimea on July 8.



BIARC President William Polhemus, NH6ET, noted that the balloon project has been "a lot of fun for many of us," and that he and some of the other members have been talking about doing such a launch as a club project.



APRS-IS without a radio transmitter, or collect and display information transmitted anywhere in the world.

Balloon launch map with iGates (above).

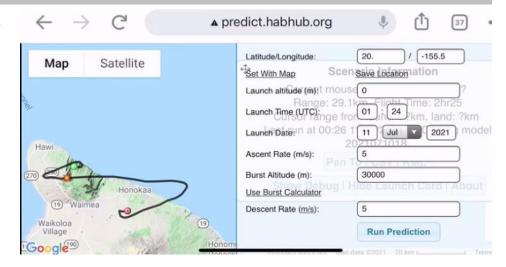
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despite the poor cell service. My poor communication was due to lack of a cell signal for much of the day.

"We launched from Mana Road just outside Waimea at 1:42. It was a little windy, but we found a good spot behind a water plant and were able to prepare and fill the balloon without too much problem -- although it was considerably later than we would have preferred. (Parker Ranch has given the balloonists access to its vast pastureland.)

"The balloon reached 80,000 feet at 2:36 and then burst and came down north of the summit of Mauna Kea. We were monitoring from Mana Road and so we were able to pick it up both independently and when we could get enough signal to download the aprs.fi updates," he said.

"Thanks to WH6FQI-10 and KH7LM-1, we were able to see where it was going to land when it was about 1,500 feet above the surface. It landed around 3:08



John Garesche, KD2QII, demonstrated how predict.habhub.org can assess variables and predict route and landing location prior to a balloon launch..

just a mile and a half north of the Mana Road in open cattle pasture. We were able to recover it around 4:30. Under the gaze of a large group of cattle who watched us warily.

"We had quite an adventure then getting out. Because we were half-way through the Mana Road to the road to the observatory access road (where we had hoped to join the evening star observing at the visitor's center) we decided to try the very rough part of Mana Road.

"Unfortunately, the lack of 4-wheel

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Willia

Tripod radio carrier lifted aloft by balloon returns to Earth on July 8.

BALLOONING: From previous page

drive prevented us from climbing one particularly steep loose gravel hill about 2.5 miles south of the Keanakolu Ranger Station (18 miles short of the Mauna Kea access road) and we had to turn around and drive the 25 miles of rough road back to Waimea -- and then drive around on the highway to Hilo.

"We got back to Hilo around 10:30, completely missing the show at the Mauna Kea Visitor's Center. A very long day! I had started that morning at 4:30 to pick my daughter and get all the supplies we needed in Hilo.

"It was certainly the group effort and the temporary iGates that helped make the recovery a success! You can see the path and who picked us up where at aprs.fi. Again, thank you all for your assistance."

The second High Altitude Balloon launch was held on Wednesday, July 14, with an 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. launch window.

In a post-event email, John noted: "I have not got a final report out to everyone, but here is a quick summary: Launched at 12:20, rose for 92 minutes, hitting 114,000 feet, and it then descended in 30 minutes. Accompanied by Jimmy Love and his dog, Happy, Rick Eason, his wife Mary Ann and I hiked in about 3.5 miles along roads and then off trail for the last 1/2 mile. We recovered it at 4:40 and then hiked out.

"114,000 feet is a fairly typical elevation we hit on the mainland, the challenge here is that we don't want it to go into the ocean. So we filled the balloon with about 50% more hydrogen gas than we would typically use (we used a full 200 cf tank -- where 130 cf would probably have been enough). This got us a faster rise (and less horizontal travel) as a result. We also used a smaller parachute, allowing for a faster descent. There are issues with that -- one being that it comes down pretty hard. But that was not a problem for us -- nothing was damaged on landing.

"One note to anyone interested in doing a HAB launch on Hawaii -- there is a new law prohibiting balloon launches in Ha-



The July 8 High Altitude Balloon unit lands in a Waimea pasture safely, thanks to good planning and preparation and a parachute which deployed after the balloon burst way, way up in the sky.

waii: targeting the polluting kind (the release of helium party balloons -- but the law inadvertently includes Amateur HAB enthusiasts. I think the ham community should work to get an exception for educational and for search and rescue practice purposes."

The July BIARC Zoom activity video is available at: https://youtu.be/XqKeoT3A0MQ

Next up on Zoom

Saturday, Aug. 14
Noon: BIARC Board meeting
2 p.m.: Membership gathering

biarc.net

EMCOMM UPDATE

Provided at July 10 BIARC Zoom session by Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI

Progress, Opportunities, and Challenges: (As of 7/10/2021)



BIARC Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI

Specific Objectives: Continued

- Enter into Resource Sharing agreements with the county, so that operators can help HCCDA and other agencies maintain and when necessary deploy and use emergency communications equipment.
- Standardize Training: Work towards a N.I.M.S compatible system of tracking and documenting capabilities.

Progress:

· BIARC is now working closely with HVOAD:

- State Radio Communications working group setup with Clem Jung, KH7HO as Chair.
- First meeting setup for July 22nd at 2:00 PM
- Goals are being discussed including ways to shadow volunteers for non-profits to provide radio communications during an emergency.

Challenges:

- On Hawaii Island there is lack of formal agreements between Amateur Radio groups and Served agencies.
- Where agreements exist they are limited in scope and do not flesh out details on how we might handle joint exercises and resource sharing.

Opportunities:

- Ideas are being discussed on how to improve interactions between the amateur radio community and the County of Hawaii. Such as:
 - How to organize joint training exercises with county agencies instead of the separate exercises we've done recently. (Makani Pahili)
 - Resource sharing arrangements, including equipment, infrastructure, and frequencies.

Opportunities:

- BIARC and Hawaii VOAD/Hawaii Island COADs are the entities with the formal legal status to enter into agreements with the County, yet we want include all FCC licensed stations in the EMCOMM community.
- We can include all amateur radio groups interested in EMCOMM via. A written MOU that expresses our desire and intent to work together, and ways that we can accomplish it.

Opportunities:

- The goal of the MOU with other groups interested is to bring us together under common principals and objectives and select someone who can represent the larger amateur radio community to the County.
- Principals of NIMS, ICS, and Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) is the overall framework that would be used to guide us.

Type classifications for Amateur Radio

- The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has lead efforts at the national level relating to the standardization of training and classification of Amateur Radio Teams.
- Several States have modeled their AUXCOMM programs based on discussions coming out of CISA.

Future Opportunities:

- The "AUXCOMM" programs in various jurisdictions involves the agency having jurisdiction (AHJ) "Sponsoring" EMCOMM groups.
- The AHJ develops a "Task Workbook" where individual operators document their training and proficiency in drills and actual EMCOMM experience to prove their capabilities.

Future Opportunities

- EMCOMM Operators that have completed their Task Workbook to a specified level, are then eligible to be a part of a sanctioned EMCOMM team.
- A Type 1, Type 2, Type 3 team may then be formed, which classifies under the NIMS structure exactly what equipment, training, and the types of personnel required to make up a team of each given type.

NIMS

- Under NIMS, once an AHJ has classified and put together and typed an EMCOMM team, that team may be deployed locally or shared with other County or States, under the Resource Sharing Agreements entered into by the County, State, and/or NGOs according to their agreements.
- National ARES supports these efforts. It is a means to achieve official accreditation and recognition. (i.e. ID Badges)

Conclusions:

- These are long term goals being explored by various groups, including ARES.
- Only a small percentage of operators would have the ability, means, and time to participate.

Hawaii QSO Party Aug. 28-30

Joseph Speroni (AH0A, ah0a@arrl.org), section manager of the ARRL Pacific Section, reports:

Event Chairman Alan (AD6E/KH6TU) reminds us the Hawaii QSO Party is very soon

This is an HF event that has stations pointing their beams towards us. Even modest stations will perform well. There have been 10-meter openings recently giving Technician licensees an opportunity to work the world.

Here's Alan's message:

"Please save the dates: Aug 28-30 for the Hawaii QSO Party https:// www.hawaiiqsoparty.org/ The HQP will run from 0400Z 28 August to 0359Z 30 August. Work as many stations on as many bands and modes as you can. I still hear it: "Where were all the Hawaii stations?" We really need YOU to get on the air and make some QSOs.

"This is our one big HF event of the year and there will be a LOT of folks out there looking for HI. This event will be active for 48 hours, but no one has to be active the whole time. Think of it as a 48 hour window of opportunity.

"Play radio as much as you like during those hours. Make one QSO, two QSOs, 10, 100, 1,000 ... whatever. Just get active! Then send me your log. This is a contest but it's also an emcomm activity. Test your station and your operating. Most important: Have FUN. A map of the Hawaii multipliers can be found here: https://www.hawaiiqsoparty.org/mult-map/

"While most QSO parties use their counties as multipliers, here in Hawaii we only have five counties so we've expand-

Sunday, September 19th from 1300 to 1700 HST



Put it on your calendar!

All info at gridmadness.blogspot.com

Grid Madness is a FUN event for all hams in the State of Hawaii. Test your equipment, coverage and operating skills using simplex FM on **2 meters**, **70 cm**, **1.25 meters and 6 meters**. Talk to as m stations as you can, in as many Grid Squares as you can, using SIMPLEX ONLY. See who you can contact on your island, or across the water!

coverage and operating skills using simplex FM on 2 meters, 70 cm, 1.25 meters and 6 meters. Talk to as many stations as you can, in as many Grid Squares as you can, using SIMPLEX ONLY. See who you can contact on your island, or across the water!

New for 2021

Make Contacts on 50 and 220 MHz -- Six meters is new, 1.25 meters returns!

Contest Scoring -- Your log will be checked using traditional amateur radio scoring ... go for accuracy!

Comments and questions: AH6KO@arrl.net

ed the multiplier list to use "districts" instead roughly following the ancient Moku. All digital modes (RTTY, FT8, FT4, PSK, whatever) are considered "digital" so there are three modes to use: CW, Phone, Digital.

"Using grid squares has been a problem in the past but I think we now have a pretty good way of accepting them instead of the traditional QTH names. https://www.hawaiiqsoparty.org/gridsquares/ As a result, for FTx modes, use the normal signal

strength and grid square mode. DO NOT use the Field Day mode. We tried that last year and it simply didn't work very well. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or suggestions.

M

D

N

"Also, please let other hams know about this Party. My list of hams with HF ability is quite limited.

> With Aloha, Alan AD6E / KH6TU HQP Chairman"

The QSO Recorder Indexing Service lets you hear your con-

tacts. Developed by Vasiliy Gokoyev, K3IT, the QSO Recorder Indexing Service (QSORDEX) allows radio amateurs to share their contest and DXpedition contact audio recordings. Users then can search the site to retrieve them by call sign. Audio files are in .mp3 format, saved according to the system's naming convention, and then uploaded to the Dropbox.com file-hosting service. The site itself does not store any files; it only indexes them. To add your own contacts, register at Dropbox.com and download and install the Dropbox PC client. A free 2 GB Dropbox account can store approximately 12,000 contacts, although users may purchase additional space above what is provided with a free account. See the QSOrder website for additional details.



104 webinars cover 71 topics

Check out recordings of informative preparedness seminars

BIARC Vice President Jim Huntley, WH6FQI, passes on the following information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and encourages folks to access recordings of some informative preparedness seminars presented this year by FEMA Region 2, aka R2.

According to officials, "R2 has spent the first half of 2021 diligently working to support federal CVCs (Community Vaccination Centers) and our state, territorial and tribal nation partners to expedite the equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to those who wanted to be vaccinated.

"Additionally, the FEMA R2 EVCTF (Equity and Vaccine Confidence Task Force) leveraged and amplified HHS,

www.fema.gov

CDC and Ad Council messaging, distributed five special edition vaccinefocused bulletins and provided webinars to address COVID-19 vaccine concerns.

"At FEMA, our primary goal is to build a culture of preparedness. The R2 Individual and Community Preparedness Program is focused on helping people prepare for disasters, including our most vulnerable populations: people with access and functional needs, older Americans, children, and the LGBTQ+ community.

"Our work has focused on protecting and preparing these communities in

the face of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, pandemics, and more. To reach these populations and others in a socially-distanced environment, the R2 Individual and Community Preparedness Program conducted 104 webinars covering 71 topics targeting institutions of higher education, small businesses, non-profits, faith-based organizations, municipal governments, volunteer organizations, individuals and families. These audiences received relevant and timely information delivered by subject matter experts from our partner agencies and other relevant organizations and are now better prepared for all hazards.

ARRL HQ working to improve communication with its field units

Aloha all:

You know that as of September last year, David Minster (NA2AA), became the new ARRL CEO. He has been addressing many of the issues related to improving communication with the field organizations.

(Recently) the ARRL section managers were briefed directly via Microsoft Teams about steps being taken to strengthen Field Support Services.

One of the things they have been working on is the directory of where to get help at the league based on just what function you are looking for. Several Section Managers as well as members have asked about this.

Mike Walters (W8ZY), the new ARRL Field Services manager, made us aware of the new Contact List on the ARRL website. Members are encouraged to bookmark this link to know whom to contact for help from any of the more than 30 departments. There is a link from the ARRL home page to ABOUT ARRL (the second last tab on the top row). Then near the bottom of the left column there is a link to CONTACT ARRL. You can also bookmark the direct link to this page.

Members are free to contact any of these departments for issues of interest (www.arrl.org/contact-arrl) Section managers will meet at least monthly for updates on ARRL activities. Look for more frequent information in this fast-moving digital environment.

Section Manager Joseph Speroni, (AH0A ah0a@arrl.org), ARRL Pacific Section

Trouble with Winlink? Get help now

To all:

There is now in Hawaii an email where you can get help on Winlink problems.
The email is: support@hawaiiares.info.

The support team consists of four technical individuals who will be able to assist you.

Aloha, Clem (KH7HO)

Update: Mauna Kapu VHF VARA FM Winlink Gateway

For users of the Mauna Kapu VARA FM Gateway, the gateways call sign has been changed from KH6FHI to KH6CE.

Aloha, Joe KH6FHI

BIARC Executive Board Meeting July 10, 2021

A. Begin Meeting

- 1. Call to order by President William Polhemus at 1213 HST
- 2. Quorum Call

Board Members: Robert Schneider, Leslie Hittner, Tony Kitchen, Jim Sugg, James Huntley, William Polhemus

Non-Board Club Members: Roy (WH6FYK), Jimmy (WH6GEM), Tony (WH6GPD), Glen (AH6EI)

3. Secretary's Report and Minutes (06/12/2021)

William **moved** and James Huntley **seconded** to approve the Minutes of the June Board meeting as published. Motion **passed** with no objections.

4. Treasurer's Reports

William **moved** and Jim Sugg **seconded** to approve the Treasurer's Reports subject to audit. The Motion **passed** with no objections.

B. Committee Reports

- 1. Digital Systems No Report and no action items
- 2. Education & Outreach Committee Written Report and no action items
- 3. Operating Activities No Written Report
- 4. Programs Committee No Written Report
- Public Service Communications Committee Written Report and no action items
- 6. Voice Repeaters No Written Report and no action items

C. Old Business

- Mercer Insurance Equipment Update No action was taken.
- 2. Local Emergency Planning Committee no action taken.

D. New Business

1. Equipment/Cash donation - Jim Tatar

William **moved** and Tony **seconded** to accept the donation of \$600 cash, a Motorola repeater, and a 4-can vari notch duplexer. Motion **passed** with no objection.

August club Monthly Activity in-place Zoom meetings for August.

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The Board agreed by **consensus** to conduct the August meeting and BIARC Monthly Activity remotely by Zoom.

E. Other Business

There was no additional business.

F. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by James at 1303 HST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie D. Hither Leslie D. Hittner, Secretary

Attachments:

2021-07-10 BIARC Operating Statement

2021-07-10 BIARC Repeater Fund Summary

2021-07-10 Education and Outreach Report

2021-07-10 PSCC Report

Jim Tatar Donation Letter

BIARC - Repeater Fund Summary As of: 07/08/2021

Year	BIARC Equipment Budget	Donations (Credit)	Equipment Purchases & <u>Maintenance Costs</u>	\$ Covered By Repeater Fund	Repeater Fund Balance
2017	\$600.00	\$273.00	\$932.75	\$332.75	-\$59.75
2018	\$1,000.00	\$235.00	\$266.98	\$0.00	\$175.25
2019	\$500.00	\$255.00	None	\$0.00	\$430.25
2020	\$500.00	\$501.72	\$436.78	\$0.00	\$931.97
2021	\$600.00	\$1,495.00	\$168.39	\$0.00	\$2,426.97

Notes:

This fund holds amounts donated by club members to be used for

repeater maintenance & upgrades.

BIARC 2021 Budget & Operating Statement

	2021 Budget	Actual- 1/1/2021 To 7/8/2021
Income:		
Dues	\$1,500.00	\$1,385.00
Repeater Fund Donations	\$500.00	\$1,495.00
On-line Payment Fees*		\$17.34
Total Income	\$2,000.00	\$2,897.34
Expenses:		
Club Liability Insurance	\$325.00	\$323.20
Club Equipment Insurance	\$200.00	\$186.85
Donations (PCC)	\$25.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$600.00	\$168.39
Field Day	\$370.00	\$96.25
Printing (Membership Booklet)	\$100.00	\$0.00
Annual Build Project	\$50.00	\$0.00
P. O. Box Fee	\$190.00	\$113.00
VOAD Dues	\$50.00	\$25.00
Office Supplies/Bank Fee/Misc.	\$40.00	\$0.00
Website Costs	\$50.00	\$45.04
Total Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$957.73
Excess (Deficit)		\$1,939.61
Bank of Hawaii Balance	as of: 7/08/2021	\$4,370.65
Deposit Pending		\$0.00
Namecheap Balance		\$1.00
Paypal Account Balance		\$1,058.85
Fund Balances: (7/08/2021)		
Repeater Fund	\$2,426.97	
Emergency Reserves	\$1,000.00	
General Fund	\$2,003.53	
Total Funds	\$5,430.50	

^{* 10%} Convenience fee for on-line dues payments minus processing fees.

Education and Outreach Committee Report

July 10, 2021

Tribune-Herald

Several of us will meet with Stephanie Salmons (Hawaii Herald-Tribune) next week via Zoom. I have asked Doug Wilson (Cert), Tony Kitchen (PSC Chair), William Polhemus (BIARC Infrastructure expert), and Robert Schneider (Historical Expert) to join me.

I am open to suggestions for others. I prefer people who are closely connected with BIARC.

Stephanie's boss would like to publish the article soon – before the up coming hurricane season warms up.

I think it may be possible to have a third story published later in the year that could discuss the diversity of the hobby and its continued value to society. That story could also serve as a pitch for a future licensing class...

Lending Library

Need I say more?



BIARC PSCC Meeting Agenda/Minutes/Notes:

7/05/21 from 19:00 to 20:00 HST

Present?	<u>Name</u>	Callsign
Х	Paul Ducasse	WH7BR
Х	Les Hittner	KOBAD
Х	Tony Kitchen	WH6DVI
Х	David Miller	KH6CZ
	Mark Watanabe	WH6FSA

PSCC 2021 Goals:

- Objective 1: Bring together stakeholders in the Amateur Radio community and encourage other clubs and EMCOMM groups to develop common principles, goals, and tactics consistent with NIMS, ICS, and the goals of served agencies.
- Objective 2: Collaborate and cooperate with other clubs and EMCOMM groups to develop operational capabilities, resource sharing agreements, training opportunities/exercises, shadowing plans, and drills.
- Objective 3: Represent the Amateur Radio Community to County and State Agencies and the general public in a positive light.
- Objective 4: Pursue activities and agreements that lead to regular collaboration in training exercises and resource sharing agreements with County and State government and served agencies.

PSCC Tactics:

- Organize and operate under the principles of NIMS, ICS, and existing organizational structures, by entering into MOUs, MOAs, resource sharing agreements, and mutual aid agreements. (As approved by the Executive Board.)
- Publicize and encourage our members to attend meetings and participate in the activities of other EMCOMM and disaster preparedness and response groups.

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- Encourage ARES and other EMCOMM groups to design Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) consistent exercises.
 - O HSEEP is:
 - A set of guiding principles for planning exercise and evaluation programs.
 - A common approach to exercise program management, design and development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning.
 - HSEEP consistent exercises do the following:
 - Guide planners as they identify exercise objectives and align them to capabilities for evaluation.
 - Document strengths, areas for improvement, capability, performance, and corrective actions in an After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP).
 - Through improvement planning, organizations take the corrective actions needed to improve plans, build and sustain capabilities, and maintain readiness.
 - Amateur Radio exercises consistent with HSEEP may help to remove barriers that prevent State and County Agencies from collaboration in exercise planning with the Amateur Radio community. HSEEP encourages best practices and sets good examples for all to follow.
 - See the following links for more information:
 - Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
 - HSEEP 2020 Revision Information Sheet
 - HSEEP Frequently Asked Questions 2020
- Action Plan and Timeline.
 - Develop a draft MOA that expresses:
 - A statement of common principles, and expresses our intent to work together towards stated goals.
 - Defines methods by which amateur radio clubs and other EMCOMM groups may succeed in working together.
 - Describes guidelines on how the Hawaii Island Amateur Radio Community will designate a single POC to Hawaii County, which can foster closer collaboration on joint exercise planning, interoperability, and resource allocation and sharing. (July 2021)
 - Draft an exercise update letter to HCCDA and the County Fire Chief summarizing amateur radio exercises and activities Islandwide. Express

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our desire to collaborate.

(July 2021 - Submit for EB Approval and send in August.)

- Draft EMail to Hawaii County ARES DECs with a CC: to our SEC expressing our intent to seek consensus and work together with all stakeholders to designate a representative for the Hawaii Island Amateur Radio Community to the County along with a draft of the MOA. (August 2021)
- Meet/Communicate with the leadership of other clubs and groups to express our intent and share a draft of a proposed MOA.
 (August 2021)
- Seek input from other clubs and groups and modify MOA as needed.
 (September October 2021)
- Build consensus and encourage stakeholder groups and their members to support and sign on to the MOA.
 (October - November 2021)
- Publicize the MOA and list the groups who have joined in.
 (November 2021)
- Choose a person to represent the participants in the MOA to the County.
 (November December 2021)
- Make a formal request to the appropriate County Government and/or agencies to have a "seat at the table" in regards to planning joint exercises, and developing SOGs Re: Amateur Radio Stations roles and participation in Disaster communications. (Possibly via the Emergency Planning Committee.)
 (December 2021)
- The potential Amateur Radio groups identified so far for inclusion in the MOA are KHRC, PERC, ARES, HealthCom, the Hawaii Island/Hawaii State VOAD Communications Working Group, and the NWS - Skywarn Program. This effort is intended to be inclusive of all stakeholders. The PSCC will make our best effort to contact all stakeholders and negotiate a path forward.