

September 2021 Newsletter

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

NH6ET offers ground rules for long, happy life in ham radio

"From the Ground Up" was the focus of Part I of a two-part presentation on grounding and bonding by President William Polhemus, NH6ET, at the Aug. 14 BIARC membership Zoom gathering.

He'll offer Part II, "Getting Down to Earth," aka "From the Top Down," at an upcoming BIARC Zoom meeting. All together, the programs will serve as a condensed version of a multifaceted and technical course of study, William explained. The initial session was recorded, and can be viewed now via a link on our website, biarc.net.

Illustrating his technical

Continued on next page

Remember kids,



Electricity will kill you!

Why should you ground your station?

1. Safety.
 - Grounding and bonding protects you, your family, your home, and your equipment.
2. Performance.
 - Grounding and bonding can reduce noise, reduce spurious emissions, prevent many types of equipment malfunction, and even increase receiver performance.
3. RF burns suck.

First, let's talk the talk.

- Grounding, AKA earthing:
 - I like Panduit's definition:
 - "A conducting connection, whether intentional or incidental, by which an electric circuit or equipment is connected to the ground/earth, or to some conducting body of relatively large extent that serves in place of the earth."
 - This has nothing to do with your radials.
 - RF ground is a different kind of ground, and does not provide the low impedance path needed to dissipate surges.
 - Similarly, your safety ground does little to improve your RF ground performance.

More talking the talk.

- Bonding:
 1. Creating equal potential between electrical devices and its infrastructure components in a system to minimize the effects of electrical noise and electromechanical interference. (Panduit)
 2. The permanent joining of metallic parts to form an electrically conductive path that ensures electrical continuity and the capacity to safely conduct any current likely to be imposed. (Motorola)

Plain and simple

- We bond all of the equipment together to:
 - Provide a low impedance path to and into the earth so that surge energy may be dissipated safely.
 - Bring all of the equipment to the same electrical potential, and lower that potential to as close to 0v as possible.
 - Why?
 - Ground loops suck.
 - RF burns suck.
 - Electrical noise also sucks.

Next up on Zoom

Saturday, Sept. 11

Noon: BIARC Board meeting

2 p.m.: Membership gathering

biarc.net

Staying grounded

From previous page

talk with dozens of graphics, William examined a multitude of operational and safety issues, rules and regs, best practices, common myths, and examples of what TO do and what NOT to do.

"Grounding and bonding is a huge area of study," William explained, "Most electricians only know the portions they need to know for their specialty."

"This material on bonding for communication sites is a five-week class distilled down into a club meeting program," he said. "This is a long one," he warned, "which is why I am splitting this into two presentations."

Want to know more? "Come to the Tech Net and ask questions," William encouraged. (The BIARC weekly Tech Net is at 8 p.m. Wednesdays on the Kulani repeater, 146.760.)

At our Sept. 11 Zoom session, Stan Froseth, AH6KO, will preview the Sept. 19 Eighth Annual Hawaiian Islands Grid Madness event hosted by the Aulani Hui ARC. He coordinates the simplex event and invites all amateur radio operators to join in the fun. For details, visit 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 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," said Stan, the event manager, and Eric Grabowski, KH6CQ, sponsor, Aulani Hui ARC.

"Grid Madness -- it's all about radio fun and it's for you," said the duo.

Also, at the Sept. 11 Zoom meeting, additional info on simplex operating will be offered and discussed following Stan's presentation.



Let's provide that good path to earth

- A good path:
 - Keeps the surge of current from entering the building envelope, to the extent possible.
 - Is low enough impedance path to keep the energy from arcing to the structure, or other nearby objects.
 - Conducts the surge of current to where it can be dissipated, without heating to the point that it ignites itself, or anything else.
 - Maintains electrical and mechanical integrity despite the heating caused by the surge current.

By popular request, the recent BIARC presentation on grounding and bonding has been linked to the BIARC website. You may access it directly via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYBc6_syCY0 Please visit the "Recent Club Activities" web page for this and other presentations given during our monthly club activity, held on the second Saturday of each month. See <http://biarc.net/RecentClubActivity.shtml>

73 -- Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI

ARRL Board establishes program to cover initial FCC License Fee for young applicants

The ARRL Board of Directors has formally endorsed a proposed program calling on ARRL to cover the \$35 application fee for license candidates younger than 18 years old. The FCC is not expected to implement the \$35 application fee schedule until sometime in 2022. The Board approved the "Youth Licensing Grant Program" at its July meeting in Windsor, Connecticut.

Did you feel it? Report it, please!

If you are a Winlink user, if there is a local earthquake, you can report DYFI (Did You Feel It) template under USGS in the Winlink RMS template. USGS encourages all Ham to use the form especially, in the "donut" period, the first 30 minutes of the event. In some cases Ham radio may only be the way to get the message out.

Clem (KH7HO)

Pacific ARES SEC

Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021, 11:17:08 AM HST

Subject: [ARES-LAX-Northeast] Learning Opportunity: M 7.2 - 13 km SSE of Petit Trou de Nippes, Haiti

USGS Information

https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us6000f65h?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ENS&utm_campaign=realtime

or

<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/>

Swiss hams celebrate

Members of Switzerland's IARU member-society (USKA) with support from the Radio Amateur Club Swissair (HB9VC) will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty with special event station HB60ANT until the end of 2021. QSL via Club Log OQRS (no QSL needed).

Sunday, September 19th from 1300 to 1700 HST

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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 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!

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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

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@hawaii.ares.info**.

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

Aloha, Clem (KH7HO)

Big Island Monthly

Siren Net marks

first year of service

Aloha everyone:

Wednesday, Sept. 1, marked our 1-year Anniversary for the Big Island Monthly Siren Net! A big Mahalo goes out to the admins of the Hawaii AllStar Network: Jesse WH6AV, Dave AH6OD, Jim NH6HI & Wayne KH6IN for supporting and making this Net possible including all sysops. To all our brave and outstanding NCS(s) who stepped up to help us fine tune areas each month. And, last but not least, our dedicated Siren Reporters who took the time (literally) to monitor and pass their Siren Status reports for Civil Defense.

May we have many more years together to continue this great service.

To give everyone a look into how the monthly community service net works, here was the scenario for Sept. 1:

Net Control Stan (AH6KO), Event Manager of Hawaiian Islands Grid Madness, will start the Net with Roll Call at 11:30 a.m. and the Siren will SOUND at 11:45 a.m. If you are not able to get your Status Reports out via your radio, you are welcome to send it by email to Darrell dasuka001@... or text (808) 987-7025 by 1 p.m.

The data below is what will be collected by NCS & Net Loggers: Callsign | Name | Siren Location | Working | Nothing Heard | Malfunction (Short Description). Your Siren Location name can be found on the Adopt-A-Siren list in bold. <https://nh6tu.org/forms/BIMSN-Adopt-A-Siren.pdf> List of Sirens requested to be monitored by Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency. <https://nh6tu.org/forms/>

BigIslandMonthlySirenNet.pdf AllStar Repeaters & Simplex Nodes found around the Big Island to participate with this Net: <https://nh6tu.org/forms/>

BigIslandSirenRepeaterSimplexList.pdf

If any of you would like to take a turn as a volunteer OR become a regular NCS. Please feel free to let Darrell KH6RDO or me know what month(s) out of the year you would be interested in covering. (Visit <https://nh6tu.org/forms/BIMSNInstructions.pdf>)

**73 es aloha,
Bev Gable, KH7LM**

K3RA teaches license-prep classes for all

Roland "Rol" Anders, K3RA, has announced the starting date for this year's free Technician licensing class. Sessions will be held online via Zoom.

Classes start on Thursday, September 9, and run for seven sessions. Anders has been holding these popular classes from the National Electronics Museum for many years. He chairs the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (**NCVEC**) Question Pool Committee.

Anders has been following up his Technician exam class sessions with classes for prospective General-class and Amateur Extra-class licensees. Classes, which are available worldwide, have been recorded for later viewing.

Contact Anders via email:
roland.anders@comcast.net

Interested in Winlink? Here's good way to learn more

To all who are using Winlink, and those who are interested in Winlink, you can participate in the EmComm Training Organization Weekly ETO Thursday WL exercises.

These Thursday WL exercises will help you learn more about Winlink and the various templates (forms) in Winlink. It supplements what Van (NH7IT) sends out every two weeks. If you are interested also in joining Van's training you can email him directly at NH7IT@arrl.net. To get on the ETO group mailing list for these exercises, you can sign up at <http://emcomm-training.org/>.

After each Thursday's exercise you will be able to see who participated in the most recent exercise on the map (<https://www.qsl.net/kw4shp/ETO/WinlinkMap.html>).

They are doing these weekly Thursday WL exercise to get ready for the nationwide Fall Winlink Drill scheduled for Saturday, November 1. All Hawaii Hams are to send their Winlink messages to the Hawaii Clearing House station, ETO-HI. Not to ETO-09.

If you want additional information or help in Winlink in general there is a group in Hawaii that can help you with setting up Winlink, etc. Send your questions to support@hawaiiare.info. You can also go to the <http://hawaiiare.net> web site and click on the Training and Resources tabs for information on Winlink. You can also go to the <https://Winlink.org> web site and click on Book of Knowledge to learn more about Winlink.

**Aloha,
Clem (ETO-HI) KH7HO Hawaii Clearing House**

What is new with ARRL, ARES, and the World?

By **Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI**
BIARC Treasurer

It is probably no secret that there have been some grumblings in recent years about the role of ARES in EM-COMM and the role that the ARRL itself plays in Amateur Radio. The ARRL has continued to publish their excellent publications such as QST magazine, Get On the Air with HF Digital, The National Contest Journal, QEX -- Forum for Communications Experimenters, and many others.

However, some have wondered what happened to the "good old days" when the ARRL was THE essential resource for all amateur radio stations? Wasn't there a time when most amateur operators viewed their ARRL membership as a badge of honor, proudly worn by any serious operator? Throughout the 20th century, ARES has been respected by many as an important player in the disaster communications space. ARES volunteers loved and took pride in their ability to serve their communities. Are these days gone?

What Happened?

As the 21st century dawned, it was clear that we were entering the age of digital everything. It was unclear what would happen with analog technologies. Some wondered if it all would become obsolete. The impact on the ARRL was akin to what happened in the television and newspaper business.

Once upon a time, there was one primary source for all things amateur radio, but suddenly groups worldwide found it easy to share information, and develop communities online. Consequently, the ARRL seemed less relevant.

As competition for the hearts, minds, talent, leadership skills, and money materialized from every corner of the globe, the ARRL "customer base" eroded. One could also make the case that changes in ARRL leadership also added to the challenges experienced during the last couple of decades.

The attacks of September 11, 2001 also brought about significant changes. Relationships and operating agreements based on a verbal commitment, a handshake, and a smile became less common. Across the spectrum (no pun intended) standardized classes, cre-

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE WAY FORWARD

dentials, and background checks became much more important to both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Amateur radio both as a service and as a hobby had to figure out how to incorporate and adapt to these changes. Adapting took far longer, and was more difficult than anyone expected. Who was to blame? We all know that to fix a problem, one must admit that there is a problem. Many long-time operators took a very long time to admit it. Some still have not.

ARRL and ARES are Making a Comeback:

Will ARRL, ARES, and the Amateur Radio Service in general ever return to the heyday of its past glory?

Can it adapt to a new and rapidly changing world?

Many changes have been and are in the process of being made. In my humble opinion, the height of the amateur radio service and volunteerism, in general, will be in the future, not in the past. ARRL and ARES do have a pathway forward to a bright future. However, it has and will continue to require a serious rethinking and redesign of our attitudes, technology, training, agreements, and relationships.

What happens next?

Inevitably there will be those who prefer to reminisce about the forgone glory days of amateur radio. Some may have little or no interest in embracing the change required to be relevant in technological innovation and EMCOMM today. I believe that there is much wisdom that can be gleaned from the collective wealth of past experience.

Yet today I encourage us all to search our souls and embrace the possibilities for innovation. There are some among us doing precisely that, right now. Worldwide there are loosely affiliated groups of physicists, scientists, engineers, software developers, beta testers, and early adopters who are making the future happen.

Talented and knowledgeable people have become disillusioned with their



Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI

relationship with universities, governments, military, and for-profit enterprises. They reject the baggage associated with those affiliations and instead they choose to associate with like-minded individuals, who value innovation and building solutions over wealth.

There are significant numbers of people with a vision of the future, who dedicate their time and talent, without remuneration, to open-source projects. There are people who care about the idea of shaping a better future for us all. It really is a thing. Call me an optimist or idealist, but I know it is true. I've met them online and had the privilege of working with some of them.

What would it be like if you lived in a community made up of some of the most talented, altruistic, technically gifted, and driven people on earth, working in a common cause? These communities exist virtually. They are within our reach. Strive to find the virtual community that suits you, and let us all shape a better future together.

[Broadband internet and some assembly required.]

BIARC Public Service Communications Committee Update

August 11, 2021

Hawaii ARES

The Hawaii ARES management meeting was held on July 17th. See the following link for the meeting agenda and notes. <http://biarc.net/ares/mgmt-mtg-2021-07-17.pdf>

Hawaii VOAD Communications Working Group, Sub-Radio WG:

This sub-working group of the HVOAD Communications WG was established to bring together stakeholders in groups such as ARES, The Salvation Army, HI-EMA, BIARC, RACES, and many other groups statewide.

Mission: The mission of the Hawaii VOAD Communications Working Group, Sub-Radio WG, is to facilitate, collaborate, and promote radio communications to all Hawaii VOAD organizations.

Members: Chaired by Clement Jung, ARES SEC, there are currently 12 members from various organizations involved in EMCOMM from across the state on this working group.

Meetings: Held monthly via Zoom. BIARC members interested in participating with this group may Contact David Miller, KH6CZ. Send an email to davroyml@gmail.com Other ARES members may contact Clem Jung directly. Previous meetings were held on August 12th and July 22nd.

Current Activities Include:

Coordinating and implementing the move of the HVOAD repeater to another building on Maunakea. No firm date has been determined for the move at this time.

Documenting existing radio equipment at served agencies and organizing procedures and amateur radio operators to assist with planning, training, and deployment.

Working to further develop goals and specific objectives for this Working Group.

The monthly test net continues on the first Saturday of each month on the Maunakea repeater, from 12 Noon to 1 PM. All amateur radio stations are invited to participate. The repeater will be activated on the frequency of **146.720 MHz, 600 kHz Negative Offset, PL tone 100**. This net allows for the testing of the repeater, as well as mapping of the coverage area. Participating stations can get a better idea of the equipment needed for successful emergency communications on this repeater. This is a repeater of last resort, and any activation other than the monthly test requires an emergency declaration. A short exercise is planned for the September 4th net, if time allows.

Hawaii Island COAD, Communications Working Group

Hawaii Island Community Organizations Active in Disaster (HI-COAD) is a division of Hawaii VOAD for Hawaii County. The Communications WG currently has 10 members, from various groups around the Big Island. The WG develops deployment and operating procedures and maintains a list of Amateur Radio operators willing and able to shadow COAD organizational leaders and provide disaster communications. The monthly meetings are currently being held jointly with the HVOAD Communication WG.

The scope of this group is more than just amateur radio. This WG will address several forms of communication and collaboration used to publicize events and activities, train volunteers, and provide information to the public. Please contact the Chair, Tony Kitchen via Email at tonykitchen808@gmail.com BIARC members may also contact David Miller at davroyml@gmail.com for more information.

Big Island Monthly Siren Net:

The analog portion of the Big Island siren net was held on August 2nd, starting at 11:30 AM, on the Big Island repeaters of the Hawaii/Mainland AllStar Network. Joe Rosenbaum, WH6FZH handled net control. At the beginning of the net, KH6RDO also handled net control in parallel due to a system repeater linking problem, which caused the WH6DVI repeater in Ainaloa to not be linked to the rest of the Hawaii County AllStar repeaters. This problem has since been corrected.

Blake Stene, KH7MS holds the DMR portion of the Monthly Siren Net on talk group 31153, starting at 11:45 am. See <http://kh7ms.com/> for more information.

Siren Nets are also scheduled for Wednesday, September 1st, and Friday, October 1st. **We are still looking for NCOs to handle the future nets.** Please visit <https://nh6tu.org/forms/BigIslandMonthlySirenNet.pdf> for more information.

Upcoming Exercises Drills/Exercises:

Simulated Emergency Test. <u>Scenario:</u> Tsunami	October 2nd
Great Hawaiian Shakeout. <u>Scenario:</u> Earthquake. Send DYFI reports to USGS	October 14th

Education and Outreach Committee Report

August 14, 2021

Tribune-Herald

As far as we know the Tribune-Herald article is ready for publication. William Polhemus, Tony Kitchen, and Leslie Hittner met with Stephanie Salmons and later with a staff photographer. Stephanie and Leslie had an extensive telephone conversation the night that she completed the article in order to check on technical accuracy, etc.

Watch your paper...

Lending Library

The Lending Library table and book storage cases are all at the home of Leslie Hittner, KOBAD. He will be away until December 01, 2021. If BIARC is able to have in-person meetings by then, we will attempt to find permanent storage at the meeting location. If that is not possible the entire library including the table can be folded and placed into a vehicle for transportation to-from the meeting location each month.

If BIARC is still meeting remotely, Hittner will again attempt to make the library available on the Saturday morning preceding the monthly activity. If there are no users after the first couple of months, the library will remain in storage until we are able to meet in person.

Donations to the BIARC Lending Library are welcome.

New BIARC Website

Tony Kitchen reports that there are only a couple of things that he feels should be done before going live on the new BIARC website.

1. He would like the Education and Outreach Committee to meet, discuss a few things about it, and then make a recommendation to the Executive Board to go live. He asks the topic of the new website be put it on the Agenda for the BIARC Executive Board meeting in September. Tony suggests we go live on September 15th.
2. Tony sent out instructions for updating the calendar to a group of members, including Roy. He had asked a small group to update the calendar of events, mainly with information on HF nets, and he provided instructions on how to do so. No one responded and he would like to

From previous page

give a few more people access rights to update the calendar, mainly people who are active in HF nets. Tony is having a hard time keeping everything updated and needs help. It is not difficult and if he could get a couple of people to help, that would be good.

In May, Tony sent out an email to Board members and a few other people requesting comments. His only response was from Bob, AH6J.

He said: The red lettering is hard to read. I suggest some other color be used.

Based on this comment, Tony changed the color on several pages to move away from the red text but didn't eliminate red entirely.

Tony would like to send out the link to the temporary website site to a larger group, maybe even to the BIARC Listserve.

The committee is seeking guidance from the Board.

BIARC - Repeater Fund Summary
As of: 08/10/2021

<u>Year</u>	<u>BIARC Equipment Budget</u>	<u>Donations (Credit)</u>	<u>Equipment Purchases & Maintenance Costs</u>	<u>\$ Covered By Repeater Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund Balance</u>
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	\$1,505.00	\$168.39	\$0.00	\$2,436.97

Notes: This fund holds amounts donated by club members to be used for repeater maintenance & upgrades.

BIARC 2021 Budget & Operating Statement

	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>Actual– 1/1/2021 To 8/10/2021</u>
Income:		
Dues	\$1,500.00	\$1,415.00
Repeater Fund Donations	\$500.00	\$1,505.00
On-line Payment Fees*		\$16.27
Total Income	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,936.27</u>

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	\$3.50
Website Costs	\$50.00	\$45.04
Total Expenses	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$961.23</u>

Excess (Deficit)	\$1,975.04
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Bank of Hawaii Balance	as of: 8/10/2021	\$4,367.15
Deposit Pending		\$20.00
Namecheap Balance		\$1.00
Paypal Account Balance		\$1,077.78

Fund Balances: (8/10/2021)

Repeater Fund	\$2,436.97
Emergency Reserves	\$1,000.00
General Fund	\$2,028.96
Total Funds	\$5,465.93

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

From: Tony Kitchen <tonykitchen808@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 22:04
To: Bob Schneider; James Huntley; Jim Sugg; Leslie Hittner; Paul Ducasse; William Polhemus
Subject: Treasurers Report as of 8/10/2021 - Correction
Attachments: 2021-08-10 BIARC Operating Statement.pdf; 2021 RFS 08-10.pdf

(Please disregard my previous email as I had neglected to update the repeater fund balance in the summary email. The following is the corrected summary.)

Treasurer Report: (As of 8/10/2021)

- We have received 2021 dues payments from a total of 75 members. Dues and donations collected for 2021 total \$2,936.27 to date.
- The following disbursements were made since the last report:
 - BOH E-Check. DCCA Annual Report e-filing Fee \$3.50

Cash Balances:

Bank of Hawaii Balance	\$4,367.15
Deposit Pending	20.00
Namecheap Balance (Website Host)	\$1.00
PayPal Account Balance	\$1,077.78

Fund Balances:

Repeater fund	\$2,436.97
Emergency Reserves	\$1,000.00
General Fund	\$2,028.93
Total Funds	\$5,465.93

Attachments:

Repeater Fund Summary as of 8/10/21. (Adobe PDF)
Operating statement as of 8/10/21. (Adobe PDF)

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Tony Kitchen
WH6DVI

ARRL Pacific Section news

From Section Manager Joseph Speroni, AH0A

ah0a@arrl.org

FCC application fees

The ARRL published a short article confirming FCC plans to defer collecting the \$35 licensing fees until 2022. Here are the details:

<https://tinyurl.com/4bbu9wvh>

If you have plans for a vanity license, consider applying in 2021!

Technician classes

Steve Kawamae (KH6WG) reports there is still a Technician class planned in 2021 with a few seats left. If you know of anyone interested in getting a license, this may be the last chance in 2021 to save the new \$35 application fee. Here's the information about the class:

<https://tinyurl.com/yt73txzr>

Amateur license exams

With the Covid-19 situation dragging on, in-person testing opportunities may be limited. The hameducation group continues to administer weekly testing. Check out the schedule at <http://hameducation.org/register>

CW Education

Alan Maenchen (AD6E/KH6TU) reports his CW Academy September classes are closed at this point, but anyone can sign up for the next semester. If you have had the desire to add CW to your operating skills, consider signing up for this great course

<https://cwops.org/cw-academy-student-registration/>

Hawaii ARES Winlink training

Van Malan (NH7IT) is conducting bi-weekly exercises that help Hawaii Amateurs develop Winlink Express operating skills with a modest investment of about an hour per exercise. Participants have given Van's training favorable comments. If you want to follow the development of digital Amateur Radio, it is a worthwhile activity! To register, contact Van by email: nh7it@arrl.net.

Digital Nets

As Amateurs acquire digital skills, the ability to operate digital nets is becoming more important. Michael Miller (KH6ML) is a trail blazer operating a one-hour VHF net on 145.070 in the Kailua/Kaneohe north Honolulu district. It is a simplex net using VARA FM P2P. If you're interested in following this development, he shares NCS operation on ZOOM (only for Amateurs NOT participating in the net). Email Michael at kh6ml@arrl.net to get an invitation.

The Hawaii digital net is following protocols developed in the ARRL LAX North District. Use of APRS for on frequency check-ins is not yet used in Hawaii. This YouTube video of a recent LAX net is a good overview of a digital net using tactical voice, packet/APRS mapping check in and VARA FM messaging on the same frequency!

<https://youtu.be/2JKtplvUaEE>

ARRL August podcast: 'Radio email'

The ARRL just published their August podcast with an excellent interview of Oliver Dully (K6OLI). Oliver does a great job explaining the technologies involved in "Radio email" in a way that makes it relevant to the general public. It is well done and worth a listen. And you might share it with family and friends to explain why our hobby is important to them!

<https://blubrry.com/arrlontheair/78772205/arrls-on-the-air-episode-20/>

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FCC application fees unlikely to go into effect until 2022

The previously announced schedule of FCC amateur radio application fees likely will not go into effect before 2022. FCC staff confirmed during a recent virtual meeting with Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) that the agency is still working on the necessary changes to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) software and other processes and procedures that must be in place before it starts collecting fees from amateur applicants. Earlier this year, the FCC said it would not start collecting fees from amateur applicants before this summer. The new estimate is that the fees won't go into effect until early next year.

Once it's effective, a \$35 application fee will apply to new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications. All fees will be per application. Administrative update applications, such as those to change a licensee's name, mailing, or email address, will be exempt from fees. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not face the burden of collecting the \$35 fee.



"Once the FCC application fee takes effect, new and upgrade applicants will pay the exam session fee to the VE team as usual, but they'll pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC using the [FCC Pay Fees](#) system," she explained. When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate, who then will have 10 days from the date of the email to pay.

After the fee is paid and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license. The link will be good for 30 days. Licensees also will be able to view, download, and print official license copies by logging into their FCC ULS account. The FCC no longer provides printed licenses. Licensees can log into the [ULS](#) with their 10-digit FRN (FCC Registration Number) and password at any time to view and manage their license and application, [print their license](#), and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address.

BIARC Executive Board Meeting August 14, 2021

A Begin Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm by Board President William Polhemus

2. Quorum Call

Present: William Polhemus, Tony Kitchen, Leslie Hittner, Robert Schneider, James Huntley, James Sugg

Absent: Paul, Ducasse

Guests: Glen (AH6EI), Jimmy (WH6GEM), Gary (WH6EPS), Roy (WH6FYK)

3. Secretary's Report and Minutes (07/10/21)

William **moved** and Robert **seconded** that the July BIARC Board Minutes be approved as published. Motion **passed**.

4. Treasurer's Report

William **moved** and James H. **seconded** that the Treasurer's Reports be approved subject to audit. The motion **passed**.

B Committee Reports

1. Digital Systems – Written Report and Voice Repeaters – No Written Report

The committees met jointly.

William **moved** and James H. **seconded** to approve the WSPR Beacon project. The motion **passed**.

2. Education and Outreach - Written Report

There were no action items

3. Operating Activities – No Written Report

There were no action items

4. Program – No Written Report

There were no action items

5. Public Service Communications – Written Report

There were no action items

6. Voice Repeaters – No Written Report

There were no action items

C Old Business

1. Mercer Equipment List Update

No action taken.

D New Business

1. Bringing the new BIARC website On-Line

The Board offered guidance to Tony Kitchen. Tony encouraged Board members to use the new site and evaluate.

E Other Business

1. In-Person Meetings

Zoom meetings will continue for now.

2. Framework for BIARC Board Meetings

William **moved** James H. **seconded** that the procedure for BIARC Board meetings shall be to cover all agenda items up to a final agenda entitled "BIARC Member Input" prior to adjournment, and that if Board action is required, such action will appear in the agenda(s) of future Board meeting(s). The motion **passed**.

During the discussion, it was suggested that emergency items be discussed with individual board members prior to the Board meeting.

F Member Input

Jimmy (WH6GEM) discussed an upcoming 2-day event at the Fern Forest Community Center in order to rebuild the Fern Forest CERT organization and emergency support organizations in general. The event will include newspaper and other publicity.

G Adjourn

There being no further business, William adjourned the meeting at 12:44 pm.

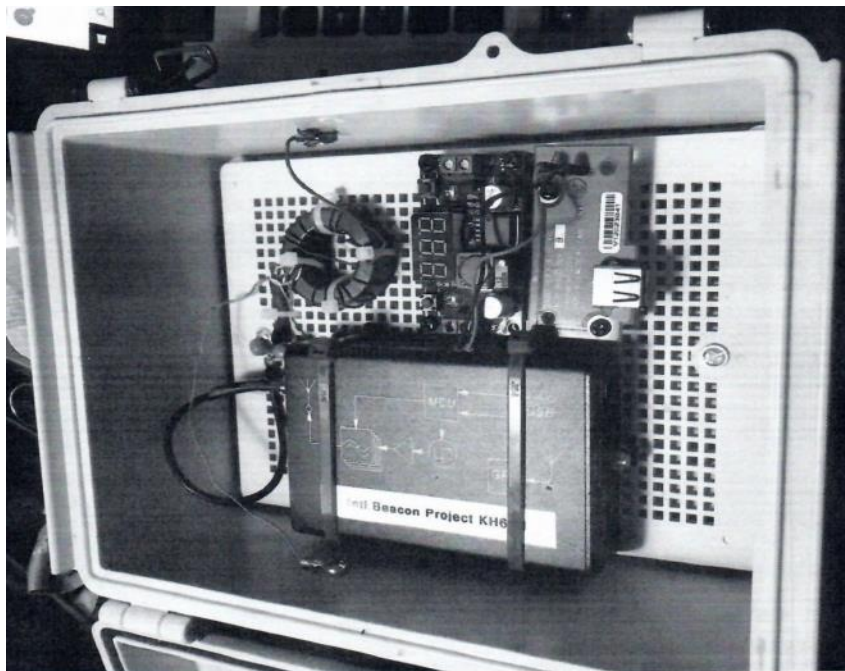
Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie D. Hittner

Leslie D. Hittner, Secretary

Attachments:

2021-07-10 BIARC Operating Statement



WSPR unit as of 8/12/21

**BIARC Digital Committee
Report for
August 2021
Board meeting**

The Digital Committee and Voice Repeater Committee had a joint meeting on July 22nd. Discussed were the following topics:

1. WSPR hardware arrived.
 - a. Antenna location
 - b. Coax, long run low power, a concern?
 - c. Location of transmitter
2. APRS DigiPeaters to fill in gaps in local coverage
3. Digital training/recommendations needed to improve EMCOM readiness.
 - a. basic computer needed knowledge, like device manager to look for comm ports and sound devices.
 - b. Setting up Vara, Soundmodem, Winlink, APRS, SSTV.

It was decided to move forward on the WSPR project since the group sponsoring it was only asking for shipping costs. I paid for this and other items needed out of my own pocket. I will donate it to the club.

There may have been other things discussed, but this is what I recall.

Jim Huntley
Digital Committee Chair