

February 2022 Newsletter

Next up on Zoom
(get link on BIARC ListServe)

Saturday, February 12
Noon: BIARC Board meeting
2 pm: Membership gathering

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Hittner is new club president

Les Hittner, K0BAD, will serve as BIARC president for 2022. Other officers elected at the January 8 board meeting are Vice President Roy Kunishige, KH6KU; Secretary Jim Huntley, WH6FQI; and Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI. The slate was elected at the noon board meeting, which preceded our regular 2 p.m. get-together on Zoom.

President Hittner opened the membership session with a big mahalo to outgoing President William Polhemus, NH6ET, for a job very well done. And he encouraged BIARC members to turn in their dues for the new year.

Tony introduced our new associate member, Christo-



**Les Hittner,
K0BAD**

pher Kealoha.

John Bush, KH6DLK, thanked William and his colleague, Sonny Laier, for their great response and expertise in fixing Barbara Darling's, NH7FY, antenna that morning. The repair work allows Barbara to continue her important communications work to bridge the gap between folks in the Federat-

CAP PRIMARY MISSION SEARCH AND RESCUE

CAP AIRCREWS

PILOTS, OBSERVERS, SCANNERS

(IN HAWAII) TSUNAMI WARNING



ed States of Micronesia and Hawaii and the continental U.S. **(See story on Page 2.)**

Tony announced that the board has created a BIARC Humanitarian Fund. "We can donate to this fund like we donate to the BIARC Repeater Fund," he explained. Donors are invited to earmark their contributions for specific purposes, if they like.

Roy encouraged members to make the trip up to

Mana Road for the second annual Winter Field Day at the end of January. He promised lots of good fun. But bring a warm jacket, he advised.

Paul Ducasse, WH7BR, offered a program on Civil Air Patrol in Hawaii and, in specific, Hilo. He has been one of the volunteers active with the U.S. Air Force auxiliary program for many years. He talked about the CAP mission and



**Paul
Ducasse,
WH7BR**

service to the community, members' roles and communications setups.

BIARC Winter Field Day 2022



A good time was had by all at the Winter Field Day event off Mana Road. BIARC members and friends enjoyed the high-elevation day in the sun and a home-cooked meal of pork adobo prepared by mobile chef Paul Ducasse, WH7BR. Above, left: the WFD gang; then, in clockwise order: Jim Huntley, WH6FQI, watches visitor Mike Furrey, WA5POK, go to town on CW using Jim's new keyer; WFD Chairman Roy Kunishige, KH6KU, works at making voice contacts; and a photo showing the mountain setup. Other club members participating included Joe Rosenbaum, WH6FZH; Glenn Kadota, AH6EI, and Gary Schwiter, WH6EPS.

Photos by WH7BR



Hams to the rescue: 'House call' reopens comms between Hawaii, Micronesia, U.S. mainland

By Barbara Darling, NH7FY

Recently we had quite a wind-storm here and my antenna apparently broke loose and could not be turned to the west where I needed it to be for my Micronesian contacts each afternoon.



NH7FY

The tower and antenna have been up for 20 years now and have become quite rusty. I did not want someone to end up getting hurt climbing the tower. John Bush KH6DLK got in touch with William NH6ET to see if he could possibly get someone to go up the tower.

William NH6ET offered to bring his new partner, Sonny Laier, to climb the tower. He assured me that Sonny was the best on the island for climbing. They came on a Saturday morning (before the January BIARC meeting) and spent a couple hours turning the antenna to the west and fastening it in place so that I could continue doing my Micronesian contacts each afternoon.

On top of that, when they finished they refused to take any money for their work. As a result, since BIARC now has a Humanitarian Fund account, I was able to contribute to that instead.

Thanks again, to William and Sonny for their great work. I appreciate it, and so do our friends in Micronesia.



NH7FY:
*Thanks again, to
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'Grounding and Bonding: Part II'

BIARC outgoing President William Polhemus, NH6ET, will be doing his "Grounding and Bonding: Part II" presentation at the next BIARC Zoom activity at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 12.

"I hope to see everyone there," said club Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI. The Zoom link is below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5181360132?pwd=bTVFTG5HZXowYVJ6OHpFcEV1dHJRUT09>

"Also, I encourage everyone to check out and participate

in the Emcomm Training Organization training activities, especially their 'Winlink Thursday' exercises," said Tony. "They have been doing regular training on Winlink for some time now, and their exercises are very useful in getting everyone up to speed."

Please sign up to receive their exercise information and be a part of the group. See their website at: <https://emcomm-training.org/>

BIARC Executive Board Chair Goals and Objectives For the year 2022

As the newly elected Executive Board Chair, I thought I would start out this year with some thoughts and ideas. BIARC has a well-functioning Executive Board, and this is due in no small measure to the excellent leadership provided by William Polhemus, NH6ET, over the past three years. His active Executive Board has led to a very active club – despite the in-person meeting restrictions being imposed on us by COVID-19. I hope I can do as well.



And the gavel is passed.



President's Executive Board Goals

- 1. I would like to develop a well-planned Monthly Activity Schedule.** At least one club member has asked that we publish the subject of the Monthly Activity in advance – certainly no later than the time of the announcement and Zoom invitation for the activity. This would allow members to determine whether they are interested and wish to attend the activity in question. While we might like to think that **every** ham will be interested in the things that interest us, that is not necessarily so. We need to be considerate of their time in this regard.
- 2. I would like to see the Voice Repeaters Committee make continued progress in establishing a modern linked repeater system.** This island has more repeaters than one could even imagine would be necessary. One reason for this is that there is not a single coordinated effort to provide an Amateur Radio infrastructure across the entire island. Frankly, that might never happen. Nevertheless, BIARC should work with agents from other organizations to ensure that at the very least we are not stepping on each other's feet and that where possible these different systems can be interconnected when and if necessary.
- 3. I would like to see Field Day held at a location that is easily accessible to all club members and to the community at-large.** I suspect I will not be here for Field Day this year (I have a granddaughter in San Diego graduating from high school in June), but I hope that anybody who might want to learn about ham radio could do so at the BIARC Field Day site.
- 4. I hope we can begin in-person BIARC Monthly Activities (with Zoom backup) soon.** It would also be very nice to soon have Executive Board meetings over a cup of coffee at a restaurant as well (The size of our Board would probably allow that right now.)

Then we can finally launch our BIARC Lending Library.

Mahalo For All That You Do

BIARC has come a long way since the adoption of the new Constitution and By Laws in May of 2019. That reorganization has brought life to the club. We have many new – and younger – members. It is the Executive Board that leads the way. It is the Standing Committees that do the work. It is all of the other club members that reap the benefits.

Together, let's keep BIARC moving ...

Leslie D. Hittner

Leslie Hittner, K0BAD

BIARC Executive Board Chair

Friday lunch: It's a BIARC tradition



The intrepid BIARC lunch bunch gathered Friday, Jan. 28, at the Ponds restaurant in Hilo. Among the many reasons to celebrate, it was Bob and Esther Schneider's 55th wedding anniversary, calling for this commemorative photo taken by the group's waiter, Shawn. Bob and Esther bought ice cream for everyone, reported Barbara Darling (at front, left). Also pictured, clockwise from Barbara, are John Bush, Paul and Diane Size-love (hams from Indiana who enjoy spending their winters in Hawaii), Gary Schwiter, Jim Huntley, Les Hittner, Bob and Esther Schneider and Nancy Mills. ***(All are invited to the weekly gatherings. Just let Barbara know in advance so she has an accurate head count when making the table reservations.)*** As Bob notes, Ponds offers a picturesque setting in addition to the good food and camaraderie. It overlooks the "Ice Pond," a "popular swimming spot with an occasional paddle boarder and a population of marine life. Many times there are Nene geese in the area. It is next to a newly reopened park called Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Park."

BIARC Executive Board Meeting

January 08, 2022

A Begin Meeting

• Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm by Board President William Polhemus

• Quorum Call

Present: William Polhemus, Tony Kitchen, Leslie Hittner, James Sugg, Jim Huntley, Roy Kunishige, Paul Ducasse

Visitors: Robert Schneider, John Bush

• Secretary's Report and Minutes (12/11/2021)

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

• Treasurer's Report

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

B Officer Elections

• After much discussion, the following candidates for Board Officers emerged:

President: Leslie Hittner

Vice President: Roy Kunishige

Secretary: Jim Huntley

Treasurer: Tony Kitchen

Leslie **moved** and William **seconded** to approve this list of Board Officer Candidates by unanimous consent. Motion **passed** with no objections.

C The Secretary's minute book was turned over to James Huntley.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie D. Hittner, Secretary

2022 officers



President Hittner



Vice President
Kunishige



Secretary
Huntley



Treasurer
Kitchen

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BIARC Executive Board Meeting (Continued) January 08, 2022

D Committee Reports

● Digital Systems –

- No written report
- James indicated there was no activity in the past month and no meetings.

● Education and Outreach -

- No written Report.
- No additions to the goals and objectives, in a holding pattern currently.
- Continuing to add to lending library. Waiting for the opportunity to present it to the membership, once we move past Covid-19 restrictions.

● Operating Activities -

- No written Report.
- Winter Field Day at the end of the month. Location will likely be back up on Mana Road where we had ARRL Field Day.

● Program –

- No written Report.
- Today's Program is on Civil Air Patrol, presented by Paul Ducasse.
- March Presentation will be Part 2 of William's grounding program.
- Tony Kitchen offered to do a presentation on EMCOM

● Public Service Communications –

- Written Report submitted and attached

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From previous page

- Changing to quarterly meetings of the committee.
- Goal for 2022 is to focus on improving relationships with the county and getting the word out as to good things the amateur radio service is doing here in the county.

● **Voice Repeaters –**

- No written Report.
- Replaced Pepeekeo repeater with a Quantar, as part of the recovery of the site after the cooling system failed. The broadcaster has repaired the cooling system.
- William corrected the Repeater's incorrect CW ID, after it was reported by Les.
- Discussion of repeater ID type ensued and the board would like the Committee to have the repeaters ID with just the call sign (KH6EJ) in CW, but with each repeater using a unique tone for the ID.
- Gary will pass the DR1X to Les at the next ham lunch he attends
- William has all the serial numbers to give to Tony to update the insurance policy.
- The DR1X from Pepeekeo will be reinstalled with a directional antenna facing up the Hamakua Coast.
- A motion was proposed by William and seconded by Tony to add Les Hittner to the Voice Repeater Committee. The motion passed without objection.

E Old Business

- **There is no Old Business**

F New Business

● **2022 budget**

- William presented a motion to create an over the general fund line item for humanitarian efforts. The motion was seconded by Tony. Motion passed.
- William moved to table the Budget discussion and decisions until February's meeting, to allow Tony to make the discussed changes. The motion was seconded by Jim (AH6AE).

● **Girl Scout Camp Repeater**

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From previous page

- Jim (AH6AE) said KHRC is in favor of re-establishing linking. The permit for the site expired in 2019 and a new permit needs to be obtained. There is a question as to who will be on the permit. Jim will coordinate communication with KHRC.

G Member Input and more

- John Bush would like restricted / non restricted funds listed out. A motion to accept the Barbara Darling donation was made by Tony Kitchen and was seconded by William. Motion passed without objection.
- Bob Schneider is working on the repeater history and should have something by next meeting.
- William made a motion that the repeater committee chair and the club trustee be listed on the Girl Scout camp permit for access to the site, seconded by Tony Kitchen. Motion passes without objection.
- Tony Kitchen made a motion that the publication of the repeater history be referred to the Education and Outreach committee. Seconded by Paul Ducasse. Motion passed unanimously.

H Adjourn

There being no further business, Les adjourned the meeting at 13:24 pm HST.

Respectfully Submitted,

James R. Huntley, Secretary



**Meet new
associate
member**

At the January Zoom get-together, Treasurer Tony Kitchen introduced our new associate member, Christopher Kealoha, at left.

Product Review

ATS25 Shortwave Receiver

By Hank Kaul, KH6HAK

I love my radio "toys."

This one has some real good performance. The ATS25 is a miniaturized DSP receiver built around the Si4732 receiver chip that appears to be produced by several Chinese electronics houses.

I got mine from eBay for about \$110 and it was shipped from a USA warehouse. They are also available on Amazon. There is an earlier version called the ATS20 that has a smaller monochrome touchscreen that I deemed was almost too small to see or touch. Even the ATS25 with a 2.4 inch color touchscreen is quite tiny. I recommend getting a small touchscreen stylus to easily work with this small screen.

The radio tunes 100 kHz to 30 MHz in all modes, SSB, AM, FM, & CW. It also tunes the FM broadcast band with (RDS) Radio Data Systems decoding on the FM band. It comes with a whip antenna and USB charging cable for the internal battery and an internal speaker with a headphone jack.

All this in a package about the size of four cigarette packs in a bundle that is easily hand-held.

My unit advertised on eBay rather humorously stated that an instruction manual was NOT included, and said "... if

you are not a Professional, Do Not Order." Any radio operator should be able to figure out the labels on the touch-buttons, though.

I spend a lot of time at elder Papa's home and do not have access to my big ham rig at the home QTH, so I wanted something small I could monitor the ham bands with. This unit really exceeded my expectations.

We have a solar PV system with micro inverters that gives me an S9 noise signal on the HF bands. Despite that noise level, and with only a 2-foot whip antenna inside under the metal house roof, I was amazed that I was able to monitor the inter-island 40-meter net on good propagation days. Even weak signals from distant islands were discernible out of the noise levels. I think it would be even better in a low-noise environment.

If you are looking for a spare HF ham receiver to use as an extra monitor, or at remote locations other than your ham shack, this little receiver is a real gem. Besides the general tuning mode, the touch menus include selectable ham bands and international broadcast bands. It will tune in 1 kHz steps, and for those signals "in between" you can easily adjust the BFO out 500 Hz to bring them in.

It brings a lot of fun and portability to my ham radio arsenal.

73 & Aloha!
—Hank Kaul
KH6HAK



ATS25 Shortwave Receiver

~ Classified ad ~

Gear for sale

Greetings and Aloha,

I have a few items to sell ... Have been holding on to these too long and decided I need to start clearing things out. If anybody is interested.

Down East Microwave 144 Mhz transverter, 25 watt I believe. New price was \$575. Used once to see if it works, and it does, I used in on FM and SSB. Would like to sell for \$400. Delivery on island, otherwise standard airmail.

Also have a SteppIR DB-11 3 element yagi, with remote control (Wireless). New in box; never unpacked. I was going to use it, but it turned out it was a tad too big for my baby tower, so had to change path. New price with wireless control and 100-foot cable is about \$4600. Asking \$3700. Will deliver on island. If need to ship, will work something out.

Also have a fall arrest harness, used twice. It was \$150+ new, will sell for \$45.

Just time to clean a few things out, hi hi.

73, Bill
AH6FC
Kamuela
ah6fc@startmail.com



The CW-only **Maritime Radio Day 2022** is set for 1200 UTC on April 14 until 2200 UTC on April 15. Bands will include 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Certificate and QSL. This will mark the 11th anniversary of the event, held to commemorate the many years

of CW wireless service for seafarers. Former US Merchant Marine wireless operators, fisheries, and coastal stations may register and participate. Radio amateurs and shortwave listeners are welcome. Former maritime radio officers should [register](#) in advance by April 1. Operating frequencies will focus on 1824 kHz; 3520 kHz; 7020 kHz; 10,118 kHz; 14,052 kHz; 21,052 kHz, and 28,052 kHz. The primary working frequency is 14,052 kHz. There is no power limit.

Serious grant money for radio clubs

ARRL Foundation to Create Club Grants Program

A new [ARRL Foundation](#) Club Grants program, funded by a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications ([ARDC](#)), will make \$500,000 available to radio clubs. The program will provide up to \$25,000 for worthy club projects. Requests for more than that will be referred back to ARDC.

[ARRL](#) has long recognized that it is in the best interests of amateur radio to encourage and support amateur radio clubs. Clubs historically have recruited, licensed, and trained new radio amateurs and have provided the community setting for radio amateurs to continue their education and training. The new Club Grants program will help clubs to more easily provide and expand their important services.

Beginning in April 2022, amateur radio clubs will be able to apply for these grants by filling out a simple form on the ARRL website. The ARRL Foundation will evaluate the grant proposals. The Foundation was established in 1973 to advance the art, science, and societal benefits of the amateur radio service by awarding financial grants and scholarships to individuals and organizations in support of their charitable, educational, and scientific efforts.

A key criterion for determining awards will be how the project will advance amateur radio in the grantee's community. In most cases, this process should take no longer than 90 days.

ARRL Foundation President David Woolweaver, K5RAV, shared his enthusiasm about this new program. "This program will substantially contribute to the growth of amateur radio clubs and their efforts to expand and support the amateur radio community," he said.



AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

ARDC is a California-based foundation that awards grants to projects and organizations that follow amateur radio's practice and tradition of technical experimentation in both amateur radio and digital communication science. ARDC Executive Director Rosy Schechter, KJ7RYV, noted that this program

will streamline the process for getting club projects funded, so that clubs can get started on these projects more quickly.

"We're very excited about working with the ARRL Foundation on this program," said Schechter. "We can't wait to see what kinds of creative things clubs will do with these grants." -- Thanks to ARDC



Barbados ham turns 107



A Barbados ham is among the world's oldest, if not *the* oldest, operators. Winston A. "Woody" Richardson, 8P6CC (ex-VP6WR), has turned 107 years old, placing him among the world's oldest radio amateurs. Jim Neiger, N6TJ, told *The Daily DX* that Richardson hosted his 1980-82 operations (as 8P6J) from his home during the CQ World Wide DX Contest (CW). The Woody Richardson Communications Room at the Amateur Radio Society of Barbados headquarters is named for him. Above: Richardson visits the headquarters in 2020.

ARRL: New Technician Question Pool will become effective July 1

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2022 - 2026 Technician Class FCC Element 2 NCVEC Question Pool Syllabus & Question Pool into the public domain. It's available as a Word document or PDF. The three graphics required for the new Technician question pool are available within the documents, or separately as PDF or JPG files. The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2018 - 2022 pool. Its 257 questions were modified slightly to improve wording or to replace distractors; 51 new questions were generated, and 62 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 11 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool from 423 to 412. The difficulty level of the questions is now more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated. The new 2022 - 2026 question pool is effective July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2026, and *must* be used for Technician-class license exams administered on or after July 1, 2022. -- Thanks to NCVEC Question Pool Committee

ARRL: Comments are invited on a new Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument Management Plan

The ARRL reports that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have invited comments regarding a new Monument Management Plan for the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (KH1, KH3, KH5, and KH9).

The monument encompasses approximately 495,200 square miles in the central Pacific Ocean. It includes seven islands and atolls: Baker, Howland, and Jarvis islands; Johnston, Wake, and Palmyra atolls, as well as Kingman Reef.

Don Greenbaum, N1DG, serves as the appointed Citizen-at-Large Representative for the NOAA/USFWS Community Group, providing input on drafting the new management plan. This notice is the culmination of 2 years of drafting that plan, with input from NOAA, USFWS, and the Community Group participants.



QRP operator logs one contact per day for nearly 30 years

From August 5, 1994, through December 20, 2021 -- a span of nearly 10,000 days -- ARRL member John Shannon, K3WWP, of Kittanning, Pennsylvania, made at least one CW contact while running 5 W or less to simple wire antennas. That includes one that's in his attic.

Over the course of said 10,000 days, Shannon made 72,190 contacts with 20,098 unique stations. For at least 2,099 of his contacts, his signal traveled 1,000 or more miles per W, while another 24,098 were DX (non-W/VE) contacts made in 224 DXCC entities. He contacted all 50 states "many times over" -- he made 3,819 contacts with stations in Pennsylvania and 63 contacts with stations in Wyoming.

Shannon reports that the DX country he contacted most often was Germany, with 1,934 contacts. By continent, his contact totals ranged from 52,639 with stations in North America to 325 with stations in Oceania, plus 18 with stations in Antarctica. The number of contacts he made on each band used includes 19,279 on 40 meters; 15,459 on 20 meters; 28 on 60 meters, and 39 on 6 meters.

Within his first UTC hour of operation each day, Shannon logged nearly 73% of his daily contacts.

He also experienced a DX streak from March 1, 2013 through August 1, 2018, which was a total of 1,980 days. During this time, he contacted at least one DX station per day.

Shannon said that the greatest satisfaction he's derived from his operating streak is that other hams express that he inspired their interest in, and enjoyment of, CW and/or QRP operating. Shannon said that his greatest satisfaction derived from his lengthy operating streak was having other hams express that he inspired their interest in operating CW and/or QRP, and that they really enjoyed it.

In the early 2000s, he wrote for the "QRP with John Shannon, K3WWP" column in *The Key Note*, the [FISTS](#) CW Club's newsletter. Additionally, his article, "The Streak: 23 Years of Daily Contacts," was published in the August 2017 issue of *QST*.

Shannon said his streak is not over. He intends to continue making daily contacts for 11,000 or 12,000 days.



ARRL member John Shannon, K3WWP, of Kittanning, Pennsylvania.