



December 2023

THE BIG ISLAND HAMGRAM

The newsletter of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club

K0BAD offers Morse Code, basic electronics class

During the November club meeting, Les Hittner, K0BAD, offered to teach a Morse Code class if there was enough interest. I

"This instruction would also include a basic electronics element," said Les. "This would NOT be a license class.

"Rather it would be focused on electronics as a subject in physics.

"Such knowledge is more useful to licensed amateurs than memorized test question answers – once they have their license.

"The class will be offered in-person only – not online," he said.

"I figure a three-hour session one night per week for 8 weeks, to start. I will need a minimum of 4 students to make it worth conducting the class. Interested people should email me at k0bad@arrl.net.

"I would like to run the class from mid-January through mid-March. The location is yet to be determined but it will be somewhere in Hilo proper."



K0BAD



Club President Alan Okinaka conducts the November semi-annual membership business meeting in Hilo.

Club holds its semi-annual membership business meeting

President Alan Okinaka convened the semi-annual BIARC Membership Meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 12, at the Kamana Senior Center in Hilo.

He invited folks to introduce themselves, circling around the room, and then welcomed those attending on Zoom. It was established that a proper quorum was present to decide on club business.

Treasurer Tony Kitchen noted that club membership currently stands at 60. Our club's financial situation is healthy. (See full report on Page 3)



William Polhemus, NH6ET, at left, Alan Okinaka, KH6ATU, and Bob Schneider, AH6J, enjoy a chat at November membership meeting.

President's message to membership: In his official report to the club as a whole, Alan focused on the three main objectives he had chosen at the start of his term in January. In taking over the helm, Alan had asked the BIARC Executive

Board, with assistance from other members, to work on continuity in board and club meetings in the face of various changes outside of the club's control; to work on developing partnerships with outside organiza-

Continued on next page

Remember: BIARC annual Christmas potluck at 1 p.m. Dec. 10 at Kamana

All are invited to the annual Christmas potluck party from 1-3:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at Kamana Senior Center.

Please sign up via the link on our website, biarc.net.

Knowing how many folks are coming, and what dishes you're bringing, assists organizers in planning and setting up for this fun, traditional club event.

Membership business meeting

From previous page

tions; and to offer more technical presentations for the benefit of members.

He has been pleased with the progress made, and thanked all who have worked toward making this a successful year for the club.

Public Service Communications, chaired by David Miller:

David noted the club's new partnership with the Hawaii Science and Technology Museum for its "Science Nights" at local elementary schools. With three events under their belt and one more set for this month, the dedicated volunteers have dealt with hundreds of students and parents in spreading the word about amateur radio. It's a hands-on presentation, and "we've had great reception," said David.

The main team has included Jim Tatar, Mark Watanabe, Joseph Rosenbaum and David, with support from others in the club.

(See committee report on Page 6)

"We're always looking for new members for this committee," he said. Other major efforts include support for VOAD, including assistance for Lahaina in the wake of the August 8 fire destruction, and support of the monthly VOAD net.

Operating Activities, chaired by Joseph Rosenbaum:

This year, the committee coordinated the ARRL Field Day in June and the CQWW SSB contest in October. Looking forward to 2024, the chairman said he wants to again offer those two programs and add a Winter Field Day event as well as a mobile fox hunt in South Hilo, along with quarterly workshops for hams.



Roy Kunishige, KH6KU, discusses the recent silent auction of donated radio equipment and the resulting purchase of a club radio, which has performed admirably in its inaugural field missions.

Programs/Digital Systems, chaired by Jim Huntley:

Official report was tabled, due to absence of chairman. President Alan stepped in to discuss recent programs offered to the membership by two former BIARC presidents. Bill Hanson, the administrative officer at the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency, had presented a well-received talk on emergency preparedness and planning for community response in the wake of disaster. And Bob Schneider had offered a multifaceted trip down memory lane, showing archival photos and discussing key points in the development of amateur radio membership and technology in Hawaii over the past six decades.

Also standing in for Program Chairman Jim, William Polhemus encouraged members to "please provide feedback" for what they'd like to see and learn at the monthly program sessions. Let the committee, or any other board member, know what type of program that interests you.

Voice Repeaters, chaired by William Polhemus:

William and his committee keep busy in planning for various upgrades, as well as new projects, for our VHF and UHF repeaters. At the top of the list: Putting up the microwave link between the Kulani and Pepeekeo towers (we have the hardware, some cus-

tom-made); E-power build projects in the works; putting up an antenna in Pahala next to the Hawaii Public Radio tower; an inventory turnover donation of surplus public safety repeater equipment from the state worth over \$100,000.

In May, a member proposed that a remote-access radio over voice system be set up for hams absent from their home setups due to travel or hospital stays. The design has been finalized, and we're waiting for the hardware, he explained. This important communication tool is expected to be in place by early next year.

Education and Outreach, chaired by Les Hittner:

The BIARC Lending Library offers a nice selection of books and DVDs on all sorts of amateur radio-related subjects, but hasn't generated the anticipated interest. Jim Tatar loyally hauls it to and from club monthly gatherings, since we don't yet have a meeting location that would allow us to house it there and pull it out on meeting days. We're still looking for a spot which would let us keep the library on site.

The trifold BIARC brochure has been distributed at the Science Nights and via other venues. Les keeps printing out new stacks of the brochures to help spread the word about BIARC and ham radio.

Les also announced that he's willing to offer a Morse Code training class, if there's enough interest. To learn more: email him at K0BAD@arri.org.

Continued on next page

	2023 Budget	Actual*- As of 11/10/2023
Income:		
Dues	\$1,200.00	\$1,303.75
Repeater and general Donations	\$1,000.00	\$455.75
Humanitarian Donations	\$300.00	\$158.75
Auction Income	--	\$1,025.00
PayPal Adjusted Donation		\$10.57
Total Income	\$2,500.00	\$2,953.82
Disbursements:		
Club Liability Insurance	\$350.00	\$323.20
Club Equipment Insurance	\$250.00	\$186.85
Donations (PCC)	\$25.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$950.00	\$2,626.92
Club Activities	\$400.00	\$493.24
P. O. Box Fee	\$250.00	\$274.00
Humanitarian Awards	\$250.00	\$0.00
VOAD Dues	\$25.00	\$25.00
Office Supplies/Bank Fee/Misc.	\$40.00	\$3.50
Website Costs	\$50.00	\$50.56
Total Expenses	\$2,590.00	\$3,983.27
Net (Income - Expenses)		-\$1,029.45
Account Balances:	as of: 11/10/2023	
BOH checking Account		\$2,920.35
BOH Deposits Pending		\$45.00
Namecheap Balance (Website)		\$1.00
Paypal Account Balance		\$834.89
Total		\$3,801.24
Fund Balances: (6/11/2023)		
Repeater fund	\$2,176.60	
Humanitarian Fund	\$413.75	
Emergency Reserves	\$1,000.00	
General Fund	\$210.89	
Total Funds	\$3,801.24	

* Income figures show dues payments and donations made for the 2023 dues year.

BIARC - Donation Funds Summary

Repeater Fund Summary:
As of: 11/10/2023

Year	BIARC Equipment Budget	Donations (Credit)	Equipment Purchases & Maintenance Costs	\$ 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	\$1,595.00	\$1,548.28	\$948.28	\$1,578.69
2022	\$950.00	\$729.00	\$0.00		\$2,307.69
2023*	--	\$455.75	\$2,626.92	\$586.84	\$2,176.60

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

Humanitarian Fund:

Year	\$ Donated	Amount Spent	Balance
2022	\$395.00	\$140.00	\$255.00
2023	\$158.75	0	\$413.75

Notes: This fund holds amounts donated.

* Of the \$2626.92 spent on equipment in 2023, \$586.84 was paid for out of the repeater fund, for equipment purchased for and to be used at the Kula and Pepeekeo repeater sites.

Membership business meeting

From previous page

Special Activities:

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) Tony Kitchen:

Tony is the assistant section emergency coordinator for ARES. Also attending the meeting was Joe Tabrah, AH6T, the new ARRL Pacific Section emergency coordinator.

Joe thanked Tony for his hard work and devotion to ham radio emergency coordination. And Joe invited input from BIARC and its members concerning ARES. Tony noted that the Big Island ARES district is divided into four parts, headed by Darrell Asuka, KH6RDO, East Hawaii; Paul Ducasse, WH7BR, South Hawaii; Dewey Proietti, NH6M, Kona; with North Hawaii an unfilled position at present.

Hams are invited to access hawaii-ares.net, hawaii-ares.io and bigisland-ares.io. ARRL membership is not necessary to get involved with ARES.

Joe added that if you sign up on hawaii-ares.net, he will get a message and, in return, will email back invitations to join the groups.io sites.

Auction of donated equipment, chaired by Roy Kunishige:

A very successful silent auction was staged by Roy over several monthly meetings. End result: Proceeds which allowed club to purchase a complete radio setup for its special activities. It performed "flawlessly" at the recent CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest in Hilo, and has been a great addition to the Science Nights outreach mission.

BIARC's new club radio is a brand new Yaesu FT-991A and ATAS-120 screwdriver antenna. This portable rig covers all bands.

Treasurer's report, Tony Kitchen:

Treasurer Tony showed the 2023 BIARC budget and its current status. (See report, at left.) He explained how the budget is developed and handled, noting that it's "not set in stone." He went over the new dues structure, a 25 percent increase approved last year.

BIARC Hamgram, editor Leigh Critchlow:

The newsletter is published early each month, available via an online link provided to members, as well as from the newsletter folder on the club website, biarc.net. Submittal of stories and photos is always welcomed. Leigh also explained the signup process for the December 10 Christmas potluck and encouraged everyone to participate.

Election of Executive Board, chaired by William Polhemus:

Up for election: three two-year seats; the one-year slot remaining on Alan's term; and confirmation of one-year continuation of interim appointment term held by David Miller. William moved, and John Bush seconded, that members approve the following nominees: Roy Kunishige, Mark Watanabe and Thomas Avila for two years; Les Hittner for one year; and confirm David Miller to continue serving for one year. Motion passed unanimously.



Joe Tabrah,
AH6T

BIARC NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was opened shortly after noon on Sunday, November 12, 2023 by Board President Alan Okinaka. Venue: Kamana Senior Center in Hilo.

In attendance: A quorum of Executive Board members: Alan Okinaka, Tony Kitchen, William Polhemus, David Miller, Joseph Rosenbaum and Roy Kunishige; other BIARC members: Thomas Avila, Leigh Critchlow, Les Hittner.

Secretary's Report and Minutes:

William moved and Tony seconded to approve the October 2023 Executive Board minutes; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

See addendum.

David moved and Joe seconded to approve Tony's new Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Alan noted that at the beginning of the year he had asked the board to focus on three major goals: To ensure continued scheduling of board and club meetings in the face of various changes outside of the club's control; to work on developing partnerships with outside organizations; and to offer more technical presentations for the benefit of members.

"We may have to do more, but we did a lot and I want to thank all of you for that," Alan told the board.

Public Service Communications report:

See addendum.

Chair David discussed ongoing assistance with the Lahaina fire response and recovery. David and Tony are both members of the communications working group. David is the BIARC representative to VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) and Tony is the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) representative to VOAD.

And David talked about the committee's outreach work with "Science Nights" sponsored at Hilo elementary schools by the Hawaii Science and Technology Museum.

Roy complimented the "Science Night" team, saying "It's the most I've ever seen the club active with the schools."

Operating Activities report:

This year, the committee coordinated the ARRL Field Day in June and the CQWW SSB contest in October. Looking forward to 2024, Chair Joe said he wants to add a Winter Field Day event as well as a mobile fox hunt in South Hilo, along with quarterly workshops for hams.

Programs/Digital Systems report:

Report officially was tabled, due to absence of committee Chair Jim.

Voice Repeaters:

See addendum:

Chair William offered a glimpse into the multi-leveled and frustrating process of gaining access to the Kulani repeater site. But a key has been secured, clearance has been approved, equipment and parts are in hand, and in the near future the resetting and upgrades to our repeater will be done. There's "a whole bunch of rigamarole involved" just to gain access, said William. "It's not an easy process."

Another related project still on the way: Establishing the microwave dish linking Kulani and Pepeekeo repeaters.

Education and Outreach:

Chair Les reported on continued success of club informational trifold brochures.

The BIARC Lending Library offers a nice selection of books and DVDs on all sorts of amateur radio-related subjects, but hasn't generated the anticipated interest. Jim Tatar loyally hauls it to and from club monthly gatherings, since we don't yet have a meeting location that would allow us to house it there and pull it out on meeting days. New outreach effort in progress: Researching what's on YouTube and other online sources and sharing access info with members. Also underway: The search for a new meeting location.

Old Business:

Election of board members for 2024:

Alan will step down from the Executive Board. This, in addition to other earlier changes, means that at the November membership business meeting which follows this board session, the members will need to vote on 5 positions on the board: Ratification of appointment earlier this year of David Miller, and 4 to be elected to the panel. Nominations will be invited from the floor at the membership session, but if no other nominations are made, 4 members have agreed to new terms on the board. They are Roy Kunishige, Thomas Avila, Mark Watanabe and Les Hittner.

William moved and Tony seconded that board accept Alan's resignation as of today. Motion passed.

William moved and Tony seconded to appoint Les to serve 1 year to finish Alan's term. Motion passed.

William moved and David seconded that Alan will proctor the general membership meeting, then amended motion to say Alan's term would end after the general meeting. Board approved this decision.

New Business:

None.

Announcements:

Tony noted that clarification of the change of dues structure approved earlier by the membership is pending. He will discuss the necessary changes to the bylaws at today's membership business meeting.

There being no further business, Alan closed the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow, secretary pro tem,
For Joseph Rosenbaum, secretary



The BIARC Executive Board meets at noon on November 12, prior to the semi-annual general membership meeting at Kamana Senior Center.

Membership business meeting

From previous page

Alan thanked the board for all of its hard work over the past year. He encouraged all members to volunteer to help out with the club's activities and to help "make a difference." He said he's excited about getting younger folks involved in the many facets of ham radio.

"Thank you for the honor of serving as your president," he said.

Announcements:

Treasurer Tony asked the membership to approve a housekeeping measure to clarify the new dues structure for the club records. Although voted in at the general meeting a year ago, the modification had not fully been incorporated into the BIARC Bylaws. The primary clarification is regarding the proration of dues for "family members" covered in that category of membership.

It was moved by Les Hittner, seconded by William Polhemus, and approved unanimously by the members that the vote in favor be taken at this meeting, bypassing the six-month waiting period until our next meeting in May of 2024.

Meeting adjourned:

Alan closed the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Critchlow, secretary pro tem, for Joseph
Rosenbaum, secretary

ARRL's Volunteers On the Air (VOTA) operating event.

W1AW/KH6

Looking for HAWAII operators to volunteer to take over the callsign W1AW/KH6 for a few hours or more.

WHO: Hawaii Hams that can operate in CW, SSB, or FT-8 digital mode. (Lots of slots open!)

WHAT: Log Contacts with Hams from around the world! ARRL's Volunteers On the Air (VOTA) operating event. Looking for HAWAII operators to volunteer to take over the callsign W1AW/KH6 for a few hours or more.

WHERE: From Your Home Station

WHEN: December 5, 14:00 HST to December 12, 14:00 HST (Dec 6th through Dec 12th, UTC).

WHY: Fun and you get to use the W1AW/KH6 call and give others the chance to get points.

Schedules are available here:

CW: <https://tinyurl.com/3c84rmtc>

SSB: <https://tinyurl.com/4h33uvtl>

Digital: <https://tinyurl.com/zx3dn5xu>

We are looking for volunteers to run w1aw/kh6 starting 12/5/23 14:00 to 12/12/23 13:59 -- CW, ssb, & ft8 on various bands, including 2m & 70cm. The shifts are for 2 hours and you can sign up for back to back shifts if available. -- Darrell Asuka, KH6RDO

To sign up for one or more two hour slots, first view the schedule(s) and note the times and dates you want operate that are blank, meaning no one else has claimed them. Only one operator can use W1AW/KH6 on a band/mode at a time. Next, contact the mode team captain below by email and request your desired day and time slots.

CW: Lloyd, KH6LC KH6LC@hotmail.com

SSB: Kimo, KH7U kimochun@gmail.com

Digi: Darrell, KH6RDO KH6RDO@arrl.net

Your request will be processed as quickly as possible and your call will then appear in the schedule claiming those time slots.

Participants are not required to be ARRL Members. Even so, we encourage all Amateur Radio operators who are not members to consider joining the comradery with our 160,000+ current members. When joining, you'll discover support, inspiration, and advice to elevate your Amateur Radio experience.

More information: <https://vota.arrl.org/index.php>

Calling all Techs to 10-meter fun

Rick Gardner, WH6LU, aka "10-Meter Rick," shares these photos of a recent QSL card he received from a contact made with a ham in Western Sahara, Africa.

He does so in furtherance of his mission to coax more hams into the big, wide world of high-frequency communi-



S01WS QSL Card 10m/ WH6LU

cation. He encourages new hams with Technician licenses to get involved on the 10-meter band, which is open to amateur radio licensees at all levels.



BIG ISLAND MONTHLY SIREN NET December 1, 2023

Due to technical issues with the connection manager and the live roster, we were given the green light by Jim NH6HI to use HMASN during our Siren Test Net. Joe WH6JOE (NCS) managed to snag KF0MCM from Colorado, wanting to share his Siren Status Report.

We had 23 check-ins and 33 Siren Status Reports:

Two sirens, Ainaloa and Punaluu, were not working. Laupahoehoe Lookout continues to sound for 30 seconds.

Big mahalo to everyone who took the time to pass Siren Status Reports.

Happy Holidays to all!

73 es much aloha,

Bev, KH7LM



Big Island Amateur Radio Club
Public Service Communications Committee
Membership Report - November 12, 2023

BIARC Public Service Communications Committee

The **Public Service Communications Committee** is organized under the BIARC Executive Board and is charged with public support of the Club's

Goals and Objectives:

Engage and Collaborate with the Amateur Radio community.

Present Amateur Radio to the community at large in a positive light.

Pursue activities and agreements that lead to educational and collaborative success.

BIARC PSCC and the Hawaii Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster

BIARC belongs to HVOAD. The Chair of the PSCC is appointed by the BIARC Board to act as the Club's Representative to HVOAD, attend regularly scheduled meetings, and vote annually in the election of HVOAD officers. Since the occurrence of the Maui Brush Fire Disaster in August, the BIARC Representative has attended Maui Recovery video meetings twice-weekly, weekly, and now bi-weekly meetings in support of Maui and Lahaina recovery efforts.

In parallel with the Maui Brush Fire Disaster meetings, the PSCC also belongs to and attends the meetings of the HVOAD Emergency Communications Working Group.

The BIARC PSCC also participates in the monthly opening of the emergency VOA Repeater under the authority of the Governor of the State of Hawaii. A formal Net is operated out of Honolulu.

BIARC PSCC and the Hawaii Science and Technology Museum

Our BIARC President, Alan Okinaka, was approached early in the year by the **Hawaii Science and Technology Museum** to participate in interactive events with Elementary and High School children. BIARC accepted enthusiastically through the PSCC. The Hawaii Science and Technology Museum is an educational non-profit, federally recognized 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education on the Island of Hawaii.

The PSCC participated in the first event in May 2023 at the **Hilo Union High School**. The BIARC Crew consisted of Jim Tatar, Joe Rosenbaum, and David Miller.

Subsequently, the Museum invited BIARC to the **EB De Silva Elementary School** to participate in a "**Science Night**" in September. The participating Crew added a member, Mark Watanabe.

On November 3, we participated at the **Waiakeawaena Elementary School** in a second Science Night event.

The final event of the year is scheduled for the **Waiakea Elementary School**

Date: Wednesday, December 13 2023, Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm, Location: Cafeteria

The PSCC has been received well at all the events this year.

PSCC Event Program:

Set up and run a net for third-party participants (students) under one of the BIARC members licensed call signs, interacting with volunteer operators in the field via the Club Repeater.

Distribute handheld radios to demonstrate communications capabilities to students.

Sign up parents, teachers and students who are interested in pursuing Amateur Radio further.

Event Criteria:

Time: Original events were 1.5 hours in late afternoon, as of November 2023, events have been 2.0 hours. The extended timeframe provides more interaction time. "Night" events attract more parents and greater attendance.

Venue: Available facilities at each School are generally welcoming but are not always the best for radio propagation. We have visited prospective sites ahead of time to determine any potential problems.

Attendance: The May and September event attendance was over 100 each. The November and December schools have larger student enrollments. We expect higher attendance.

Participation: The BIARC Crew of four has proved adequate but more members are welcome.

Handouts:

Big Island Amateur Radio Club Trifold

ARRL Why You Should Give Amateur Radio A Try

Ham Radio Resources for Youth, Students and Teachers

ITU Phonetic Alphabet

ARRL Band plan

Future Considerations:

Produce Club Banner to fly at events.

Continued participation with the Museum is open.

Outreach to the broader community and to organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America and the Keiki Museum.

Use of graphic and immersive content on computers in conjunction with Amateur Radio. ARRL material.

Exploration of program and funding under the 501c3 organization structure.

David Miller
Chair, Public Service Communications Committee, Big Island Amateur Radio Club



A memo from our new SM, Alan, AD6E

This message is from Alan P. Maenchen, AD6E, the new Section Manager for the ARRL Pacific Section. He succeeds Joe Speroni, AH0A, who recently resigned after serving in that capacity for about a decade.

Alan writes: Unfortunately, Joe AH0A has decided to resign from the SM position. I have worked with Joe for several years as the ASM (Assistant Section Manager) for Maui county. Joe has been a tireless advocate for ham radio in Hawaii.

To fill out his remaining term of office, I have been appointed to take over as Section Manager as of Nov 1. This was rather sudden and I'm still learning the ropes of how to work with HQ in Newington to get things done. Joe has been a great supporter and I appreciate his advice.

To introduce myself for those who don't know me: I have been a ham since high school (1962), so a bit over 60 years. I am a retired Electrical Engineer (PE). I spent my career designing radios, mostly microwave radios for telecom use specializing in digital modem design.

Most of my ham radio activity is in competition and DX. I have operated HF from rare locations including the most northern Hawaiian island:

Kure atoll.

I moved to Hawaii in 2014 after retiring from Silicon Valley and I am now involved in all aspects of Hawaiian ham radio including emergency communications (ARES). I'm a Volunteer Examiner (VE) and I'm a Volunteer Consulting Engineer. I have kept my call as

7

Changes in the ARRL Pacific Section

Section Manager of the ARRL Pacific Section Joe Speroni, AH0A, has retired from the position.

Speroni served in the role for 7 years. He was active with ARRL in a variety of positions dating back to the creation of the Volunteer Examiner program in 1984. He has also been an instructor and Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC). His contributions to emergency communications and management in the Hawaiian Islands have long been recognized by the amateur radio community. ARRL Field Services Manager Mike Walters, W8ZY, said, "With 40 years of service as a volunteer, he is one of the best examples of making the world a better place through amateur radio." Speroni is an ARRL Life Member.



Retiring ARRL Pacific Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A, has been active as a volunteer with ARRL for 40 years. [Robert Schneider, AH6J, photo]

The Section Manager position is being filled by Alan Maenchen, AD6E, for the remainder of the term.

Maenchen is also an ARRL Life Member and has served as an ACC, an Assistant Section Manager, and a DXCC Card Checker.

He assumes the duties of Section Manager with experience in emergency communications and a background of assisting amateur radio clubs in the Section.



Alan Maenchen, AD6E, is the new Section Manager of the ARRL Pacific Section.

AD6E, but here I use the club call KH6TU.

The ARRL Pacific Section organization will remain the same, with the exception that Joe Tabrah, AH6T, has been appointed as the new Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC). This was done by AH0A

before he left office and I fully support this appointment. Please give Joe your support going forward.

With aloha, Alan, AD6E/
KH6TU
Section Manager, ARRL
Pacific Section,
ad6e@arrl.org

ARRL advocacy win: FCC approves request for Pearl Harbor Day crossband operations

ARRL sought a waiver on behalf of the activators, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has granted it.

The waiver allows amateur radio operators to participate in a special event commemorating the 82nd annual National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association (BIARA), with authority from the US Navy and Southwest Marine Corps Spectrum Office, will honor the sailors and ships previously homeported in San Pedro, California, who were attacked on December 7, 1941.

There will be special crossband activations of NEPM, Battleship Iowa's original call sign, on December 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2023.

Using the call sign NEPM, the club will transmit on assigned military frequencies and listen for calls from the amateur radio community on their adjacent bands. NEPM will transmit on 14.375, 18.170, and/or 21.856 MHz on J3E/USB and/or A1A/CW.

The club operator will tell participating hams where BIARA will be listening, which will be 10 KHz below the top of each adjacent band when working J3E/USB, or 10 KHz above the bottom of each adjacent band when working A1A/CW. Amateur participants are reminded not to transmit on the NEPM military frequencies. Operations on all 4 days are expected to be from 0700 to 1600 PST (1500 to 2400 UTC).



The Battleship Iowa at home port in San Pedro, California. [Photo courtesy of Battleship USS IOWA Museum].

The FCC stated the grant of the waiver meets the second prong of the waiver standard in section 1.925(b)(3)(ii) in that the event presents a unique opportunity for the amateur and military communities to practice communication skills under the guidance of military officials, which may be useful in the future and serves the public interest.

In addition to the skills gained by amateur operators participating in the test, National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day has historical significance.

It emphasizes the importance of reliable communications and the need to be vigilant in national defense.

If amateur radio operators who wish to participate are licensed in a country outside the US, BIARA advises to check the terms and conditions that govern their respective licenses.

QSL procedures can be found at <https://biara.org>. For specific questions before the operation, email w6hb@biara.org.

ARRL RF Safety Committee develops new guidelines to communicate RF safety

Radio amateurs now have a new tool from ARRL to help answer questions about their stations. Neighbors of amateur radio operators are sometimes concerned about transmissions and radio frequency exposure from amateur stations.

The ARRL RF Safety Committee, with their international counterparts at the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), and the Swedish Society of Radio Amateurs (SSA), has developed a new set of guidelines to help amateurs interact with and talk to their neighbors about RF exposure.

Chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee Greg Lapin, N9GL, said the new informational PDF found on the ARRL RF Exposure page, Helping Amateurs Interact with Neighbors Asking About Radio

Transmissions, was developed after a year of discussions about RF safety.

"Neighbors may be alarmed by some of the misinformation about RF safety that is available from a variety of sources. By following the exposure regulations from the Federal Communications Commission, we can be confident that our families and neighbors are safe," Lapin said.

Lapin added that RF exposure regulations are based on decades of trustworthy research. He also encouraged all amateur radio operators to perform exposure assessments for their stations to make sure they meet those regulations.



~ 2023 BIARC Roster ~

Executive Board officers and committee chairs

President

Alan Okinaka, KH6ATU

Vice President

James Huntley, WH6FQI

Secretary

Joseph Rosenbaum,
WH6JOE

Treasurer

Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI

At-Large directors

Roy Kunishige, KH6KU, and
David Miller, KH6CZ

KH6EJ station custodian

William Polhemus, NH6ET

Public Service/

Communications Committee

Chair David Miller, KH6CZ

Operating Activities Committee

Chair John Bush, KH6DLK

Education and

Outreach Committee

Chair Leslie Hittner, K0BAD

Programs Committee

Chair James Huntley, WH6FQI

Digital Systems Committee

Chair James Huntley, WH6FQI

Voice Repeaters Committee

Chair William Polhemus, NH6ET

Meeting Refreshments

Committee

Chair Robert Schneider, AH6J

BIARC Hamgram

Editor Leigh Critchlow, WH6LC

Club website: <https://biarc.net>

[HawaiiARES]

Winlink practice

A new Winlink practice started May 29. Please check your Winlink account for instructions.

If you are not a member of this net and are interested in joining the Winlink practice, please send me a Winlink message (NH7IT).

To learn more about Winlink, check out

<https://>

wavetalkers.com/

resources/digital/

winlink.php

-- Van NH7IT ASEC-Pac

QST, QST, QST:

A reminder, if you are an ARRL member: As of January 2024, your monthly magazine will no longer be mailed to you unless you pay an additional \$25. You will be able to read it online for free. If you want to keep receiving the printed version, you need to purchase a subscription.

Please join the:

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®)

(To Join, click the 'Members' button on the right of the menu bar, and click 'Register New Member'.)

Join the Hawaii ARES communications/discussion groups (Reflectors)

Visit: (HI State) <https://hawaii.ares.groups.io/g/main>

Visit: <https://hawaii.ares.groups.io/g/BigIslandARES>

Volcano VERT Radio Check Net open to all on second Saturday of month

Coordinator and net controller Doug Wilson, KH7DQ, invites all licensed amateur radio operators to participate in the Volcano VERT Radio Check Net on the second Saturday of each month.

The net starts promptly at **9 a.m. on the Volcano Repeater; 147.260 MHz; (pl 103.5 on the input only, i.e., transmit only).**

"At the end of the regular two-round format on the Volcano Repeater, we will QSY to our alternate repeater **442.150 MHz (Kulani Mauka; pl**

100.0) for roll call and signal reports. We will then close this portion of the Net and QSY to the Volcano VERT **146.490 MHz** simplex frequency," said Doug.

"On our Volcano VERT simplex frequency (**146.490 MHz**) we will do a roll call and exchange signal reports with each station until all stations on this frequency have been contacted. This will conclude the net.

"The purpose of this net is to 1)

check our equipment, 2) test your ability to reach the Volcano Repeater, 3) check signals from various locations in the Volcano area and the East side of Hawaii Island, 4) have a short open discussion in a "normal" two-round net format, and 5) practice switching to our alternate emergency frequencies.

"Everyone should make sure that their radios are programmed with the above frequencies, offsets and pl tones."

Summits on the Air (SOTA) is offering a 10-meter Challenge in 2024.

The challenge will run from 0000 UTC on January 1, 2024, to 2359 UTC on December 31, 2024. Solar Cycle 25 is beginning to create regular favorable DX conditions on the higher bands, and early predictions indicate the cycle peak may occur during the summer of 2024. SOTA held a 12-meter Challenge in 2013, and since then, more than 90 associations have been added to the SOTA program, including many in South America, the Caribbean, and Asia. There is excellent potential for DX SOTA activity, and activators are encouraged to consider 28 MHz for their summit operations in 2024. Scoring will be done automatically by the database software. Activations and chases should be entered as normal. The software will note 10-meter QSOs and score them according to the rules. Usual SOTA rules will apply. Multi-band activations can also be entered as normal, and all results will be updated. Qualifying 10-meter QSOs will be scored separately from other SOTA activity. There will be a special 10-meter Challenge results page, and electronic certificates will be issued for all participants with their name, call sign, association, and score. For more information, including the rules for the challenge, visit the [Summits on the Air](#) website.



The ARRL Foundation is accepting applications for scholarships through January 10, 2024.

The ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program supports eligible amateur radio operators pursuing higher education. The ARRL Foundation manages more than 100 scholarships established by generous donors ranging from \$500 to \$25,000. Scholarships will be awarded for the academic year that will begin no earlier than June 2024 following the application deadline. The scholarships vary in eligibility requirements. ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, said the scholarships pave the way for amateur radio being a hands-on pathway to STEM careers. "We are so thankful to donors who give to ARRL education programs because they are investing the future of amateur radio. The ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program provides financial support at a critical time for students pursuing a college degree and keeps these young radio amateurs active in the hobby."



Additional information and a link to the application can be found at www.arrl.org/scholarship-program.

DX calling frequencies

Frequency chart of most used modes

If you see anything on here that's incorrect or something to add, please email me, as I would like to keep this updated.

Dave, K3ASI

<https://ftp.unpad.ac.id/orari/library/library-sw-hw/amateur-radio/cw/docs/DX%20CALLING%20FREQUENCIES.htm>

First Worked All States certificate awarded for 33-centimeter band

Al Ward, W5LUA, worked for 38 years, with help from ham friends, to be first to reach monumental goal

On November 4, 2023, Al Ward's, W5LUA, 38-year quest to contact all 50 states on the 33-centimeter band ended when he received the first-ever Worked All States (WAS) certificate for (902 - 928 MHz).

Ward started collecting states on the band shortly after it was opened in 1985.

"I am extremely grateful to Peter Van Horne, KA6U, for his EME [Earth-moon-Earth] efforts. I was able to work Wisconsin for my last state [on] the 33-centimeter band on October 21.

"At the end of September, I was sitting at 32 states confirmed with cards and/or the Logbook of The World (LoTW), when Van Horne went on a 25-state expedition providing my last 18 states," said Ward. In recent expeditions, Brian McCarthy, NX9O, and Jason Baack, N1AV, also provided several states that were needed.

Ward's station consists of a 5-meter dish with 400 W of power obtained from two 300 W Motorola amplifiers in parallel. His feed is a dual polarity patch feed.

ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Information Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, was one of the first people to congratulate Ward on his accomplishment.

Jahnke stated, "Hearty congratulations! It's my privilege to confirm the ARRL Awards Department has received your WAS application, plus Card



Al Ward, W5LUA, holds his WAS certificate in front of his 5-meter dish. [Photo courtesy of W5LUA]

Checker document, and we have issued the 33-centimeter (902 - 928 MHz) Worked All States Award number 1 to you in culmination of your 38-year quest to contact all 50 states on the 33-centimeter band."

Other stations on the hunt for the 33-centimeter WAS certificate that are nearing completion include AC0RA, K0DAS, and N1AV.

In 1985, the Federal Com-

munications Commission allocated the frequency band between 902 and 928 MHz to Part 18 industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) equipment. In that proceeding, the band was also allocated to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis, meaning amateurs could use the band if they accepted interference from and did not cause interference to primary users.

FCC Replaces Many Amateur Radio Symbol Rate Limits

As urged by the ARRL, the commission instituted a bandwidth limitation instead

BY PAUL MCLANE ·

PUBLISHED: NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Editor-in-chief, Radio World

The Federal Communications Commission has removed certain restrictions on ham radio operators, acting on a request that the ARRL made a decade ago.

"The amateur radio community can play a vital role in emergency response communications but is often unnecessarily hindered by the baud rate limitations in the rules," the commission said in its order.

We previewed this change a couple of weeks ago; now the commission has made it official. It said the changes to the technical rules for data communications will "incentivize innovation and experimentation in the amateur radio bands by removing outdated restrictions and providing licensees with the flexibility to use modern digital emissions."

The report and order eliminate the baud rate limitation — the rate at which the carrier waveform amplitude, frequency and/or phase is varied to transmit information — in certain amateur bands.

The change was requested in 2013 by the National Association for Amateur Radio (ARRL), and the FCC released a notice of proposed rulemaking about it in 2016.

David Siddall, general counsel for ARRL, told Radio World last month:

"This is a very simple change. In 1980, at the inception of digital technologies that could be used

by radio amateurs, the FCC adopted a speed limit of 300 baud for the stated purpose of limiting the amount of spectrum occupied by any single signal," Siddall said.

"Radio amateurs, being tinkerers and experimenters, worked to develop faster and faster speeds that still fit within the standard spectrum bandwidth. Eventually their innovations to the technology significantly increased spectrum efficiency but ran up against the FCC baud rate limit."

Bands with a 300 baud rate limitation eliminated by this order are the 160 meter band; 80 meter band; 40 meter band segments 7.000–7.100 MHz and 7.100–7.125 MHz; 30 meter band; 20 meter band segment 14.00–14.15 MHz; 17 meter band segment 18.068–18.110 MHz; 15 meter band segment 21.0–21.2 MHz; and 12 meter band segment 24.89–24.93 MHz. The 10 meter band segment 28.0–28.3 MHz has a 1200 baud rate limitation, which is also lifted.

Baud

Symbol rate measurement in telecommunications /
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

ARRL Hails FCC Action to Remove Symbol Rate Restrictions

11/13/2023

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® reports that earlier today, the FCC Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Amateur Radio Service rules to replace the baud rate limit on the amateur HF bands with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit to permit greater flexibility in data communications.

"The Federal Communications Commission today adopted to incentivize innovation and experimentation in the amateur radio bands by removing outdated restrictions and providing licensees with the flexibility to use modern digital emissions," announced the FCC.

"Specifically, we remove limitations on the symbol rate (also known as baud rate) -- the rate at which the carrier waveform amplitude, frequency, and/or phase is varied to transmit information -- applicable to data emissions in certain amateur bands," concluded the FCC Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (DA/FCC # FCC-23-93; WT Docket No. 16-239) adopted November 13, 2023. "The amateur radio community can play a vital role in emergency response communications, but is often unnecessarily hindered by the baud rate limitations in the rules."

Consistent with ARRL's request, the amended rules will replace the current HF restrictions with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit. "We agree with ARRL that a 2.8 kilohertz bandwidth limitation will allow for additional emissions currently prohibited under the baud rate limitations while providing sufficient protections in the shared RTTY/data subbands," concluded the FCC Report and Order.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, hailed the FCC's action to remove the symbol rate restrictions. Roderick stated that "this action will measurably facilitate the public service communications that amateurs step up to provide, especially at times of natural disasters and other emergencies such as during the hurricane season. Digital technology continues to evolve, and removing the outmoded data restrictions restores the incentive for radio amateurs to continue to experiment and develop more spectrum-efficient protocols and methods while the 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit will help protect the shared nature of our bands. We thank Congresswoman [Debbie] Lesko (AZ-08) for her efforts on behalf of all amateurs to get these restrictions removed."

In a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), the FCC proposes to eliminate similar restrictions where they apply in other bands. "We propose to remove the baud rate limitation in the 2200-meter band and 630-meter band... and in the very-high frequency (VHF) bands and the ultra-high frequency (UHF) bands. Additionally, we seek comment on the appropriate bandwidth limitation for the 2200-meter band, the 630-meter band, and the VHF/UHF bands."

ARRL has previously expressed its support for eliminating the symbol rate limits in favor of bandwidth limits where they apply on the VHF and UHF bands but suggested that the bandwidth limits themselves be reviewed in light of today's technology and tomorrow's possibilities.

Similarly, when eliminating the baud limits on the 2200- and 630-meter bands, consideration should be given to what, if any, bandwidth limits are appropriate.