



May 2025

# THE BIG ISLAND HAMGRAM

The newsletter of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club

## Notice of proposed constitutional amendment

Big Island Amateur Radio Club

Submitted by:  
William Polhemus, Full Member  
Date of Vote: May 18, 2025  
Submitted: April 13, 2025

In accordance with Article VI, Section 1 of the BIARC Constitution, this serves as official written notice of a proposed amendment to the club's Constitution and Bylaws. The proposal will be brought to a vote at the upcoming Semi-Annual Membership Meeting.

### Proposed Motion

**Motion:** To modify the Constitution and/or Bylaws as may be necessary to decouple the Programs Committee Chair position from the office of Vice President, thereby allowing any Member or Associate Member to be appointed by a vote of the club Board as the Programs Committee Chair.

**Purpose:** This change ensures that the individual responsible for program solicitation and development is someone with a genuine interest in curating meaningful content for the club — not assigned automatically by holding another office. It allows the Programs Chair to be selected based on interest, availability, and qualifications.

### Proposed Text Changes To Amend Constitution — Article II, Section 9

#### Current Language:

*“The Vice President shall: (1) assume all the duties of the President in the absence of the latter; (2) be the chair of the club Program Committee; and (3) arrange for meeting places...”*



**BIARC crew gives keiki a fun intro to radio ops**

Photos by  
Mark Watanabe,  
WH6FSA



Volunteers from our club's Education & Outreach Committee are busier than ever, introducing much-younger segments of the community to the fun of amateur radio. These photos are from the May 7 “Science Night” at Keonepoko Elementary. For more pix from this event, in addition to coverage from the Boy Scouts Makahiki in Hilo on May 3, see Page 4.

## May meeting moved to 18th

As discussed at the April BIARC Executive Board meeting, the May BIARC Executive Board and Membership Meetings have been rescheduled from May 11 to May 18 to eliminate a schedule conflict with Mother's Day. The board will meet at noon and the semi-annual membership business meeting will start at 2 p.m. at Kamana Senior Center in Hilo.

## Aloha 10-10 net changes frequency

The premier frequency for the Aloha Chapter of 10-10 International has been changed to 28.484, the chapter's old alternate frequency.

Irene Kubi-ca, NH7PE, the chapter head and correspondent, invites all licensed amateur radio operators, including those at Technician level, to participate.

The chapter's weekly net is at 6:30 p.m. HST on Mondays.



Continued on next page

## Proposed bylaws change: From Page 1

### Amended Language:

*“The Vice President shall: (1) assume all the duties of the President in the absence of the latter; and (2) arrange for meeting places for monthly club activities and scheduled meetings of the membership.”*

(Removes the automatic assignment of the Program Committee Chair role to the Vice President.)

### Amend Bylaws — Section 3 (Program Committee)

*“The Program Committee shall be composed of persons from appropriate interest areas and shall be chaired by a Member or Associate Member appointed by a vote of the club Board. The Program Committee is responsible for organizing monthly programs and activities, including identifying and securing speakers or content, and coordinating logistics with the Vice President.”*

### Why This Requires Advance Notice

Although this proposal includes changes to both the Constitution and the Bylaws, advance notice is only required because it amends the Constitution.

### Under Article VI of the Constitution:

- Constitutional amendments require one month’s written notice and a two-thirds majority vote at a membership meeting.
  - Bylaws amendments can be passed with a simple majority vote at the same meeting, with no advance notice required.
- Understanding this distinction helps members know how club governance works — and how they can participate in shaping it.

### Discussion Encouraged

Members are encouraged to talk with one another about this proposal before the May General Membership Meeting and bring questions or feedback to the floor discussion prior to the vote.

### Reminder

*A two-thirds majority of voting Full Members in attendance is required to adopt this constitutional amendment.*

Here's an updated link to get on the BIARC Discord server. The old one had expired.

<https://discord.gg/U3f9wsrj>



### BIARC Executive Board

Thomas Avila, KH6GG, was re-elected club president at the January BIARC Executive Board meeting. Others on the 2025 leadership team are Vice President David Miller, KH6CZ, Secretary Joseph Rosenbaum, WH6JOE, and Treasurer Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI.

The seven-member board also includes two at-large directors, Mark Watanabe, WH6FSA, and Shawn Farley, WH6GXZ, and our KH6EJ station trustee, William Polhemus, NH6ET.

Members of the club are encouraged to get involved at a committee level on one or more of the BIARC standing committees. There are many ways to help, and the committee activities vary widely.

As NH6ET noted, the committee level is where things happen. And the committees need “boots on the ground.” So, if you see a committee focus that interests you, hop aboard.

Here are the committees:

Digital Systems: Luke McKay WH6GRW(Chair), Gary Schwiter WH6EPS, Shawn Farley WH6GXZ, Trevor Manago KH6IM and Jason Estrella WH6GZZ

Education and Outreach: David Miller KH6CZ(Chair), Joe Rosenbaum WH6JOE, Mark Watanabe WH6FSA, Fred Fischer WH6HAA, Jim Tatar WH6EMN, Leigh Critchlow WH6LC, Les Hittner K0BAD

Operating Activities: Joseph Rosenbaum WH6JOE(Chair), John Bush KH6DLK, Tony Kitchen WH6DVI

Programs: William Polhemus NH6ET (Chair), Joseph Rosenbaum WH6JOE

Public Service Communications: Les Hittner K0BAD(chair), Jim Tatar WH6EMN

Voice Repeaters: Trevor Manago KH6IM(chair), Gary Schwiter WH6EPS, William Polhemus NH6ET, Joe Rosenbaum WH6JOE, Steve Brown KH6SB, Stefan Pommerenk NH6SP, Shawn Farley WH6GXZ, Luke McKay WH6GRW, Frank Roff KH6BFD

Meeting refreshments: Chair Jim Tatar, WH6EMN

The BIARC board meets at noon on the second Sunday of each month, followed by the 2 p.m. monthly membership program, at Kamana Senior Center in Hilo. All members are welcome at both sessions, and the meetings are accessible live via the Internet. Find the links on our website, [biarc.net](http://biarc.net).

## What You'll Learn by Building Antennas



- Building antennas helps you develop key radio and electronics fundamentals:
  - Understanding resonance and tuning
  - Impedance matching and transformation
  - Feedline types and behavior
  - SWR — what it means and how to optimize it
  - Real-world tradeoffs in performance vs. size vs. location
- These skills apply across almost every aspect of amateur radio — even beyond antennas!
- Bonus: You'll get a taste of RF troubleshooting and test equipment use.

## Beyond the Build: The Benefits of Homebrewing



- Deepens your understanding of how radio gear really works.
- Improves your ability to troubleshoot — even commercial rigs.
- Builds confidence to experiment and modify safely.
- Encourages self-reliance — fix it, tune it, build it better.
- Gives you freedom to tailor solutions to your exact needs:
  - Want a compact tuner for SOTA? Build one.
  - Need a narrow filter for CW? Wind it yourself.
- Great conversation starter on the air: "Homebrew? Tell me more!"

*At the April membership gathering, William Polhemus, NH6ET, encouraged members to try a simple "home-brewing" project.*

# BIARC meeting info: Past, present and future

The Big Island Amateur Radio Club, as directed by its bylaws, holds two membership business meetings each year. They are in May and November.

So our May 18 gathering at 2 p.m. at Kamana Senior Center is the members' opportunity to inform the Executive Board – in big and little ways – in what direction they'd like to see the club move.

Motions can be made, and votes will be taken, on matters of import to the membership. As usual, the board meeting at noon and the membership gathering at 2 p.m. will be shown live on the Internet. Check the club website at [biarc.net](http://biarc.net) for links to check in.

On Sunday, June 8, the 2 p.m. meeting focus will be on the annual Field Day event set for Saturday, June 28, in Hilo.

At the April membership session, President Thomas Avila, KH6GG, discussed and provided examples and tools for soldering, in general, and focused specifically how new techniques offer expanded possibilities and variety. Shawn Farley, WH6GXZ, led a show-and-tell demonstration and discussion on Meshtastic.

The main program of the day was on "home-building" projects by William Polhemus, KH6ET,

## Advanced Homebrewing



- Once you're comfortable with kits and basic circuits, it's natural to start customizing and innovating.
- Advanced homebrewing includes:
  - Designing your own circuits (oscillators, filters, mixers, amplifiers)
  - Scratch-building enclosures and front panels
  - Surface-mount soldering and multi-layer PCBs
  - Microcontroller integration (e.g., Arduino, ESP32, Raspberry Pi)
- Often includes reverse-engineering or improving commercial gear.
- At this level, many hams create tools and radios that rival commercial products!

who noted that there are a lot of "non-soldering" projects for hams.

"Home building is not the same for everybody," William pointed out. He encourages every ham to try to start a project. "Home-brewing" doesn't have to be from scratch, he stressed, as there are all sorts of kits for all sorts of uses in the radio world. There are "simple kits" all the way to "complex" projects.

Just start somewhere. "Start with a simple antenna," he suggested. Start small, build

up your confidence to "take the next bite of this elephant."

"Eat this elephant one bite at a time," incrementally building necessary skills, he urged. "Keep building; even small projects count."

William's presentation got cut short, due to time limitations on our Kamana meeting room reservation, and at a later date he will present the second half of his talk on the fun and satisfaction of building ham equipment – and tips for moving forward.





**Taking the message of ham radio on the road to the Hilo Boy Scouts Makahiki.**



**On May 3, Education & Outreach Committee volunteers added the Hilo Boy Scouts Makahiki to their busy schedule.**

*KH6CZ photos*

## BIARC Education & Outreach Committee

### Executive Board Report – April 1, 2025

#### Recent Activity

- March 1 **ARRL Pacific Division Town Hall Meeting** attended via Zoom
- March 3 Siren Test Net on VOAD Repeater (Awapui and Paradise Ala Kai sirens)
- March 7 **Hilo Union Elementary** – Education and Outreach Committee members,  
Many thanks to the following contributors:  
On site: Fred WH6HAA, Jim WH6EMN, John KH6DLK  
Remote on club Repeater: Leigh WH6LC, Linda WH6LQ, Bob AH6J
- March 9 Monthly **BIARC** Meetings attended

#### Planned Activity

- April 1 Siren Test Net participation
- April 5, 6 Participate as Facilitator/Coach in **Honokaa CERT Training**  
including Ham Radio Emergency Communication fundamentals
- April 13 Monthly **BIARC** Meetings
- April 16 **HVOAD** as BIARC rep at Combined Committee Meetings via Zoom
- May 7 **Keonepoko Elementary School** with BIARC Education and Outreach team

#### Future : Outreach to East Hawaii schools for event participation with students, teachers, parents

- Integrate Video Display and Programming
- Engage with IEEE opportunity.
- Enrich E&OC program with inclusion of suggested changes and enhancement.

#### E&OC Members

Fred Fischer WH6HAA, David Miller KH6CZ, Joe Rosenbaum WH6JOE,  
Jim Tatar WH6EMN, Mark Watanabe WH6FSA, and Les Hittner K0BAD,  
Leigh Critchlow, WH6LC has been very active on the Repeater side.

David Miller

BIARC, Chair, Education and Outreach Committee



**Keonepoko Elementary outreach event**

*Continued from Page 1*



**Photos by WH6FSA**



## **BIARC Education & Outreach Committee**

### **Executive Board Report – May 12, 2025**

#### **Recent Activity**

April 1 – Siren Test Net. Fred, Jim, Joe, Mark, Tony

April 13 – BIARC Meetings attended at Kamana Center

April 16 – HVOAD Combined Committee Meetings attended via Zoom

May 1 – Siren Test Net participation on VOAD Repeater. Fred KH6HAA, David KH6CZ

May 3 – BIARC E&OC responded to RFA from HCCDA supporting the Boy Scouts of America

Makahiki event in Hilo. Supported by fellow BIARC members including Bob AH6J,

Shawn WH6GXZ, Gary WH6EPS with thanks.

May 7 - Keonepoko Elementary School Science Fair – E&OC:

Leigh WH6LC, Mark WH6FSA, Jim WH6EMN, Joe WH6JOE, David KH6CZ

#### **Planned Activity**

May 18 – BIARC Meetings

May 21 - HVOAD Combined Committee Meetings via Zoom

May 28 – Na’alehu Elementary School Science Fair

June 2 - Siren Test Net participation

#### **Future**

- Outreach to East Hawaii schools for event participation with students, teachers, parents
- Integrate Video Display and Programming
- Enrich E&OC program with inclusion of suggested changes and enhancement.

#### **E&OC Membership**

- Leigh WH6LC, Fred WH6HAA, David KH6CZ, Joe WH6JOE, Jim WH6EMN, Mark WH6FSA, Les K0BAD

David Miller, Education and Outreach Committee, BIARC

# BIARC Operating Statement

	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>Actual 4/12/25*</u>
<b>Income:</b>		
Dues	\$1,300.00	\$1,087.50
Repeater and general Donations	\$400.00	\$265.81
Humanitarian Donations	\$100.00	\$0.00
PayPal Convenience Fees	\$26.00	\$38.44
Donated Equipment Sold		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$1,826.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,391.75</u></b>

## General Fund Disbursements:

### **Committees**

Digital Systems	0**	\$0.00
Education & Outreach	\$75.00	\$0.00
Operating Activities	\$400.00	\$38.00
Field Day (\$250)		
Programs	\$100.00	\$0.00
Public Service Communications	\$0.00	\$0.00
Voice Repeaters	0**	\$0.00

### **Club Administration**

Club Liability Insurance	\$220.00	\$0.00
Club Equipment Insurance	\$220.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$400.00	\$0.00
P. O. Box Fee	\$280.00	\$0.00
Humanitarian Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Supplies/Bank Fee/Misc.	\$10.00	\$0.00
Online Services	\$175.00	\$41.84
Paypal Transaction Fees	\$46.00	\$18.85
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$1,926.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$60.69</u></b>

**Net (Income - Expenses)** **\$1,331.06**

## Account Balances:

as of: 4/12/25

BOH checking Account	\$4,823.84
Namecheap Balance (Website)	\$1.00
Paypal Account Balance	\$1,894.53
Deposit Pending	\$25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,744.37</b>

## Fund Balances: (4/12/25)

Infrastructure fund	\$3,301.26
Humanitarian Fund	\$467.00
Emergency Reserves	\$1,000.00
General Fund	\$1,976.11
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$6,744.37</b>

\* Income figures show dues and donations received for the 2025 dues year.

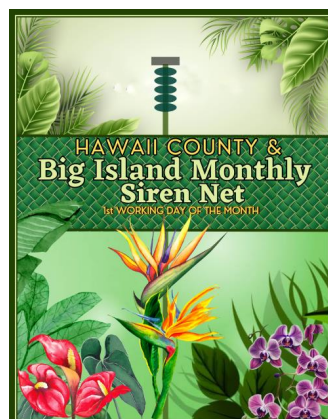
\*\* Voice Repeaters & Digital Systems Projects will be funded from the Infrastructure Fund.  
(Per Motion at February 15th Board Meeting)



# May 2025 Siren Report

From Darrell Asuka, KH6RDO, for the Big Island ARES Group

Location	Observer	Mode	Status	Notes
NOT WORKING				
Ainaloa (HA910)	WH6HAF	Allstar	Not Working	
Kolekole (HA112)	KH6RDO	Allstar	Not Working	
Leleiwi (HA101)	KI6HBZ	Email	Not Working	
Waikaumalo Park Ninole (HA123)	WH6FIQ	Allstar	Not Working	
WORKING				
Carvalho Park (HA114)	NH6WT	DMR	Working	
Downtown Federal Bldg (HA107)	WH6FDE	Allstar	Working	
Hakalau (HA113)	WH6ECX	Allstar	Working	
Hawaiian Beaches Park #1 (HA907)	KH7LM	Mauna Kea	Working	
Honomu (HA111)	KH6RDO	Allstar	Working	
HOVE Reef Blvd #3 (HA809)	WH6FC	DMR	Working	
HPP #1 Paradise / Ala Kai (HA925)	KH6CZ	Mauna Kea	Working	
HPP #2 4th & Awapuhi (HA912)	WH6HAA	Mauna Kea	Working	
HPP #3 6th & Makuu (HA913)	NH6OV	Mauna Kea	Working	
Kamehameha Park Kohala (HA503)	WH7WZ	Text	Working	
Kaumana School (HA125)	KH7BR	Email	Working	
Kawaihae Harbor (HA407)	WH6EHJ	Mauna Kea	Working	
Kehana Beach (HA916)	KH6AQ	Text	Working	
Keokea Park Kohala (HA502)	WH7RE	Text	Working	New siren
Kulaimano Ctr Pepeekeo (HA110)	KH6RDO	Allstar	Working	
Laupahoehoe Lookout (HA201)	WH6FSE	Allstar	Working	
Laupahoehoe Point (HA202)	WH6FSI	Allstar	Working	
Magic Sands Kona (HA605)	KH6OWT	Allstar	Working	
Naalehu (HA801)	WH6HC	DMR	Working	
NELHA Kona (HA611)	WH6GTD	Text	Working	
Old Kona Airport (HA609)	KH7MS	DMR	Working	
Ookala (HA304)	WH6GDC	Allstar	Working	
Paukaa (HA115)	AH6JA	Email	Working	
Puako General Store #1 (HA405)	WH6EHJ	Mauna Kea	Working	
Punaluu /.Sea Mountain (HA803)	AJ0T	DMR	Working	
Waa Waa (HA937)	NH7PE	Text	Working	
Waiaka Bridge Kamuela (HA402)	WH6EHJ	Mauna Kea	Working	
Waiakea Uka Gym (HA124)	WH6EMN	Mauna Kea	Working	
Waimea Park Kamuela (HA401)	WH6EHJ	Mauna Kea	Working	
Upper Lani Kona	WH6FVN	DMR	Working	



The BIARC channel on  
Youtube is: <https://www.youtube.com/@BigIslandAmateurRadio-Club>

# If you can, please 'adopt' a siren once a month

## More hams throughout Hawaii County are needed to listen to emergency siren tests and report results

Calling all hams: There's an orphan emergency siren somewhere on the Island of Hawaii just calling your name and call sign.

"If you can, please kokua," said Darrell Asuka, KH6RDO, the Big Island ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Group facilitator for Hamgram coverage of the monthly siren test. At 11:45 a.m. on the first working day of each month, Hawaii County officials sound each of the sirens located in communities throughout the Big Island. Dedicated monitors of these All Hazards Sirens report back to the county right afterward to let officials know whether a particular siren is in good working order.

Coordinators are actively seeking more siren "spotters" to adopt one of the unclaimed emergency sirens and report in after the monthly test.

"We take reports on both the Mauna Kea repeater and the Allstar system, due to coverage limitations," Darrell explained. "There are about 82 sirens on the island and we usually get reports covering about 30 of them. For instance, we lack reports in Kailua Kona, Kealahou, Milolii, Holualoa, Waikoloa and Pahoa areas.

Darrell serves as the ARES district emergency coordinator for East Hawaii. He is responsible for the coverage area stretching from Laupahoehoe to Volcano. His immediate supervisor is Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI, our BIARC treasurer, who is the ARES assistant section emergency coordinator for the Big Island.

"When the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency asked us to monitor the sirens back in 2019, Blake (KH7MS) and I started to send them the reports. Currently, Blake also sends his report to me along with Tony and I compile their observations plus what I get on the Allstar system and text and email messages. There are some participants that cannot bring their radios to work or they are out of range, so they text me their observations.

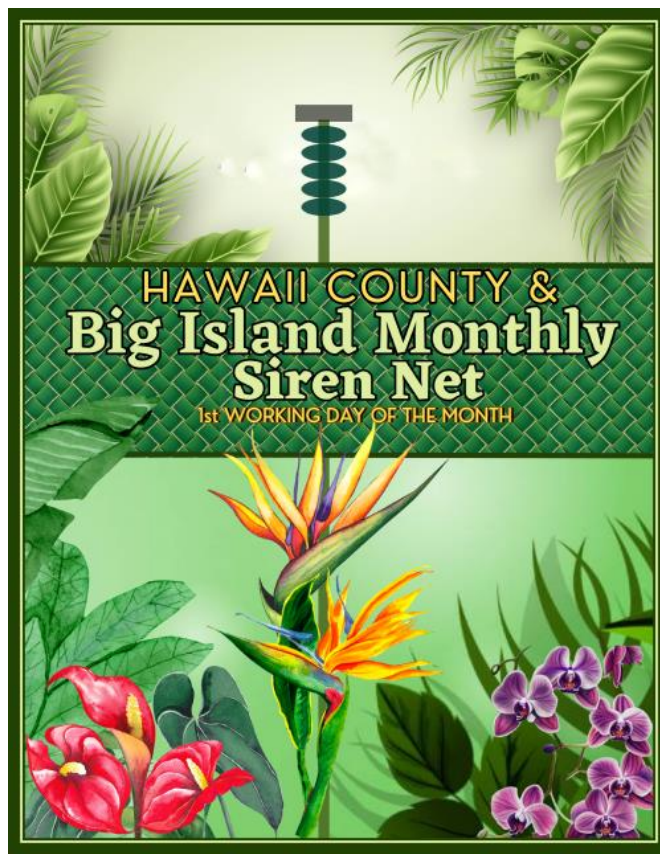
The Hamgram publishes each month's results, and Darrell offered tips on how to decipher the listings.

"If you look at each month's report, there is a column called 'mode'. That shows how the observation was reported, indicating if the report came in via Mauna Kea repeater (Tony), Allstar, dmr (Blake), text, or email."

Here is the list of sirens that are not covered. The ones with asterisks have been reported on and off.

"If there are any hams in these areas who willing to give 15 minutes a month to help offer protection for their community, please contact Tony or me," said Darrell.

The sirens needing to be adopted include (in the lower Puna area): Pahoa Bypass / Hawaiian Beaches intersection, Pahoa High School, Pohoiki, Kaimu\*, Nanawale, and Leilani Estates\*; (Keeau area): Shipman Park\*, Mountain View; (Hilo area): Kings Landing\*, Baker Avenue\*, Onukahakaha\*, Mamaki Park, Kawaiilani / Kanoelani, Lanikaula\* (County base yard), Kaumana / Iiwipolena, Mohouli Park, Hilo Hillside subdivision; (Hamakua area): Papaikou's Kala-niana'ole School, Lowe store in Pepekeo\*, Honokaa\*, Waipio, Kukuihaele; (South Kohala): Waikoloa, Waikoloa



Beach, Mauna Lani, Spencer Beach. (North Kona in Kailua area): Alii Kai subdivision, Banyan, Keauhou, Magic Sands\*, Kainaliu and Kealahou, which straddles the North and South Kona districts, then continuing through South Kona into Napoopoo, Milolii, Pali-poko, Hookena, and Hoopuloa.

As he does each month, Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI, explained the siren testing process, below, prior to the May test.

"Please join us on the air today (Thursday, May 1) for the monthly Maunakea Repeater Test net and Siren Net. We will be activating the Hawaii County ACS Net at 11:30 a.m. on 146.820 MHz, negative offset. Use a PL tone of 123.0.

"If you can hear my transmission clearly, there is a good chance that you will be able to successfully access this repeater," he explained. "An HT radio may not be sufficient, depending on your location.

"If you add a gain antenna or move to a higher location your chances will improve. Stations may have better success when using a transmitter with an output of 25 watts or more. Please check in when requested by net control. If we do not acknowledge your call sign when you check in, make more than one attempt when the frequency is clear.

"At the beginning of the net we focus on the check-ins of Hawaii County stations who have adopted an All Hazards Siren to report on. After the sirens sound at 11:45 a.m., we will take siren reports.

"We are looking to increase the number of check-ins on the Maunakea repeater and take signal reports. If you try but are unable to transmit into the repeater, please let me know via email at [tonykitchen808@gmail.com](mailto:tonykitchen808@gmail.com).



### Donated Fund Summary:

As of: 4/12/2025

<u>Year</u>	<u>BIARC Equipment Budget</u>	<u>Donations (Credit)</u>	<u>Equipment Purchases &amp; Maintenance Costs</u>	<u>\$ Covered By Fund</u>	<u>Repeater Fund Balance</u>
2017	\$600.00	\$273.00	\$932.75	\$332.75	<del>-\$59.75</del>
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	\$950.00	\$455.75	\$2,626.92	\$586.84	\$2,176.60
2024		\$858.85	\$0.00		<b>\$3,035.45</b>
2025		\$265.81			<b>\$3,301.26</b>

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

### Humanitarian Fund:

<u>Year</u>	<u>\$ Donated</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u>	<u>Balance</u>
2022	\$395.00	\$140.00	\$255.00
2023	\$158.75	\$0.00	\$413.75
2024	\$53.25	\$0.00	\$467.00
2025			

## **BIARC Executive Board Regular Meeting April 13, 2025 Kamana Senior Center**

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm by Board President Thomas Avila. A quorum of 6 board members were present.

### **Attendance:**

Board members: Thomas Avila, David Miller, Tony Kitchen, William Polhemus, Shawn Farley and Joseph Rosenbaum.

### **Secretary's Report and Minutes:**

- David moved and Shawn seconded to approve the March 2025 Secretary's report. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- See attached. The most recent expenditure was \$88 for the rental of a pavilion at Wailoa State Park for Field Day. We expect to receive \$50 of that back as a deposit return. William moved and David seconded to approve the Treasurer's report, subject to audit. Motion passed.

### **Committee reports:**

#### **Digital Systems:**

- Nothing new to report.

#### **Education and Outreach:**

- See report.

### **Operating Activities:**

- Secured a reservation for the Field Day pavilion rental. The check-in will be at 8:30 am and the event will last at the most till 8:00 pm.

### **Programs:**

- The April program will be on soldering and Meshtastic. In May we will instead have the semi-annual membership meeting. June will be a pre Field Day preparatory discussion including set-up, filtering techniques and information about the foxhunt.

### **Public Service Communications:**

Nothing new to report. Discussion was held to explore working with the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency(<https://hawaii-county-civil-defense-agency-hawaiicountygis.hub.arcgis.com/>) to gain support from the HCCDA and others planning for the SET(Simulated Emergency Test) and the Great Hawaiian Shakeout exercises.

**Draft minutes, subject to approval  
at next BIARC  
Executive Board meeting**

## ***Executive Board minutes: From previous page***

### **Voice Repeaters:**

- Nothing new to report. Working on transition from old to new committee members. Will be prioritizing installation of a VHF repeater on Mauna Loa.

### **Old Business:**

- Jim Tatar proposed doing a club raffle. Discussion was held on this subject and Joe moved with William seconding, to table this discussion until the May meeting.

### **New Business:**

- Audio and video recordings, publishing and retention. Discussion was held on publishing recordings on a public forum, such as Youtube. We will advise those present that the meeting will be recorded and published and to take appropriate measures if they don't want to be recorded.

William moved and Shawn seconded that Biarc policy shall be that all meetings may be recorded and may be published online. The retention policy will state that the minutes will become the official record of the board meeting and the retention policy of videos is dictated by the platform the board chooses, currently YouTube. The original recordings may be deleted, regardless if they've been published or not. Motion passed.

Discussion was held to put notice on club events that they will be recorded. The board also spoke about the possible legal issues with taking pictures and/or video/audio recordings of minors at Education and Outreach events at schools and other venues. Tony moved and Shawn seconded to refer this matter to the Education and Outreach committee for exploration and recommendations and to table this matter until the May meeting. Motion passed.

Discussion was held on email approvals for items such as the minutes and emergency motions.

Joe moved and Thomas seconded to allow for a simple majority of board members to approve publishing of the minutes and other non-emergency votes. Motion failed. According to Hawaii Revised Statute 414D-145, requirements for email voting are unanimous written consent. All directors must agree to the proposed action in writing which can be achieved by signed documents or electronic communications which can be retained and reproduced. The board approved an interim action allowing a simple majority of board members to vote on email approval of the minutes that gets formalized in the next board meeting, subject to confirmation. Emergency motions require unanimous approval of all board members. Out of scheduled meeting motions, in compliance with Hawaii Revised Statutes must be unanimous, in a physical or electronic written form which must be kept with club records. The board policy is to copy the club email account ([biarc.board@gmail.com](mailto:biarc.board@gmail.com)) which is the official repository for the records. For provisional votes such as the draft minutes a majority approval of board members is sufficient.

William moved and Tony seconded that the board codify a policy that in accordance with the Hawaii Revised Statutes, that all motions that occur between regularly scheduled board meetings must be in written physical or electronic written form and all the emails to seated board members shall also include the club's current official email address. That email account is the official repository of these actions. Motion passed.

William moved and Tony seconded for items not being a true motion but are more of a group consensus, such as a provisional review of the executive board and general membership meeting minutes shall be conducted in the same manner, however since it is subject to confirmation by an actual motion at the next meeting the threshold is a simple majority of the seated board members and shall otherwise follow the same process of including all emails to all board members and the club's official email address for retention. Motion passed.

William moved and Shawn seconded that the records retention policy shall be as dictated by the Hawaii Revised Statutes for any other applicable law or rule, and if none such exists, shall be two years except that records may be retained beyond that time. Motion passed.

William moved and Tony seconded to table the discussion on setting meeting dates to accommodate room availability until the May meeting.

William moved and Shawn seconded to table discussion of adherence to meeting agenda until the May meeting.

Tony moved and Thomas seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 pm. William voted nay, motion passed.

### **Next Meetings:**

- The next meeting will be held on May 18, 2025 at the Kamana Senior Center in Hilo. The executive board meeting will be at 12:00 pm and the semi-annual membership meeting will be at 2:00 pm.

***Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Rosenbaum,  
Secretary***

## **Radio World** article... *Ham community frets in “Delete, Delete” comments*

Many commenters worry about the future of ham radio under the FCC's deregulatory effort

By **Randy J. Stine**

Published: April 5, 2025 · Updated: April 6, 2025

Nearly 300 commenters have already flooded the FCC's website since Chairman Brendan Carr asked for public input on ways to eliminate burdensome regulations.

Experts say much of the FCC work will likely focus on commercial broadcast, but it could bring changes for amateur radio too. A number of comments received so far have focused on amateur radio and the fear that ham radio could be at risk. Possible loss of spectrum is among the concerns.

There are approximately 700,000 licensed U.S. ham operators. Supporters say amateur radio operators are a valuable asset during times of emergency response, when other forms of communication may be compromised.

In a review of responses from the ham radio community in the docket, many advocate for keeping the current licensing requirements for amateur radio in place. Note that some of the replies spelled out below have been edited for brevity and clarity. *[Related: “What’s Up With the FCC’s ‘Delete, Delete, Delete’ Initiative?”]*

Shaun P. Carlson (KF0IBC) told the commission that the reduction of regulations and easing of administrative burden is admirable and important. It's also important, however, to maintain some regulations to ensure efficacy and prevent the abuse of shared resources.

“In the case of amateur radio, I would strongly encourage the commission to keep the license structure in place and retain the frequency allocations provided to amateur radio operators today,” Carlson wrote.

John Fiske, a licensed amateur since 2006, says ham radio is more than a hobby, it is a community. He requests the FCC to consider keeping all license testing requirements in place.

“All of us who hold any level of license worked hard to achieve each one. To remove the licensing requirements could create an issue similar to the CB Band and render the amateur radio frequencies nearly useless,” he told the commission.

Fiske also asks the FCC to keep the current band plans — especially in the HF and VHF spectrums. He says the recent disasters throughout the United States and the world have highlighted the need for Amateur Radio Operators.

“We spend a large amount of time and resources to make sure our stations and systems are ready to operate at any time. In closing, remember that amateur radio provides an essential communication tool for our nation and our communities. To reduce or eliminate the parts of the radio spectrum we use would reduce our ability to serve our nation and communities in times of need,” Fiske said.

Jim Reed from “Ham Radio Prep” said on a recent episode that certain ham bands, like 900 MHz, could be at risk of being repurposed and put up for auction for wireless services. He said he doesn't believe it will happen, but the 220 MHz band is another area for the ham radio community to watch.

Florida resident Carl Brink said he understands the value of having a dispersed, robust communication network. He wrote:

“Deregulating amateur radio bands is not in the best interest of the public. Commercially available bands have more bandwidth than they need, and this would reduce a vital free public service staffed by trained volunteers.” *[Related: “Six Ideas for the FCC to Consider”]*

Not all commenters are in favor of maintaining the current licensing structure for amateur radio in the United States. Rusty Shackelford says he is in favor of opening up ham radio.

“There should not be a license requirement. It should be seen as free speech, and also, federal agencies don't make law. Bureaucrats and their rule-making is unconstitutional. Congress must be the only ones who make law, and executive agencies enforce the law, and then the courts judge it when it is enforced.

“The FCC is unconstitutional when they make, judge and enforce their own rules. I like ham radio, but the requirement of a license is wrong,” Shackelford told the commission.

Comments to the commission from Peter Gill (KJ5EGO) indicate he has reached a similar conclusion. “The three-tiered license process is a burdensome regulation for amateur radio operators, and the current license structure limits innovation and prevents licensed operators from serving their country and community in times of disaster.” Gill proposes streamlining licensing so that the number of license tiers be reduced to two: General and Amateur Extra, and to convert all current Technician, Novice Advanced, and Technician Plus license holders to General status: “These people make up 51% of the licensed amateurs in the U.S.,” said Gill. “Making the change will level the playing field for 80% of the licensed people to access the same frequencies, while the remaining 20% in the Amateur Extra license class will have additional frequency allocation to use for the advancement of telecommunications science.

“This will open up more modes of communication to qualified, licensed citizens and encourage innovation across the radio spectrum which drives America forward,” Gill commented.

However, the majority of comments in the docket appear to echo those of Joseph Frailey (AA5EA): “While I understand and support the goal of eliminating unnecessary regulatory burdens, I caution the commission against any deregulatory action that would impair, limit or reallocate resources, especially spectrum currently reserved for amateur radio. Amateur radio is not a legacy system, it's a living, breathing national asset.

“It operates at no cost to the taxpayer while providing immense value in terms of public safety, technical innovation, emergency communications and educational outreach,” Frailey said.

Frailey concluded his comments by telling the commission that one of the benefits of ham radio is the new innovations it can bring to communication technology. “Countless careers in electrical engineering, communications, cybersecurity and aerospace trace their origins to amateur radio. It's often a gateway to American innovation and far from being obsolete, hams today are experimenting with mesh networks, SDR, digital modes, satellite relays and weak-signal propagation.”

Comments to GN Docket 25-133 were due April 11.

**Randy J. Stine**

Randy J. Stine has spent the past 40 years working in audio production and broadcast radio news. He joined Radio World in 1997 and covers new technology and regulatory issues. He has a B.A. in journalism from Michigan State University.

Initial Radio World article on Delete, delete, delete by Gregg Skall ·

Published: March 19, 2025

<https://www.radioworld.com/columns-and-views>