

the Wireless Dispatch



The Official Newsletter of the
Emergency Amateur Radio Club
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

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April 1, 2013

FCC establishes national QRM frequency

Unprecedented move by FCC establishes designated frequency for interference

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In an unprecedented move, the federal agency that oversees the country's communications policies has established a national ham radio QRM (a.k.a. interference) frequency. The Federal Communications Commission has earmarked 14.313 MHz as the newly designated position on the 20 meter radio band.

"The Commission has taken a unique approach on this issue," says FCC spokesman **Matilda Blackburn**. "There is already so much QRM on this frequency; it seems to be a logical decision."

The Commission requests that hams desiring to create unnecessary QRM migrate to this frequency over the next few weeks. "We hope to have this frequency available to the general amateur radio community very soon." says Blackburn.

But one ham radio operator, **Johnson Thomasfeld** of Springfield, Florida, is doubtful the idea will catch on. "I enjoy tuning up on top of on-going QSOs on 80, 40 and 15 meters, too. It's an integral part of my enjoyment of the hobby. I'm



sure my friends feel the same way. If you limit us to ONLY 14.313 MHz...well, that's just not fair."

Amateur radio operator **Philip Buccolo** of Red Vine, California, objects for a different reason. "When I get on the air with one of my diatribes about the One-World government, I certainly don't want to be QRM'd by someone else. Where's my right to free speech!? IS THAT BEING TAKEN AWAY, TOO!?"

The Commission says profanity, grand-standing, self-aggrandizement, politics, religion, raspy and/or poor-quality signals will all be allowed – and

"There is already so much QRM on this frequency, it seems to be a logical decision."

Matilda Blackburn
FCC

in fact, encouraged – on 14.313 MHz. Blackburn adds that there no plans for official monitoring nor enforcement of the QRM standards; hams are expected to "self-police" the frequency.

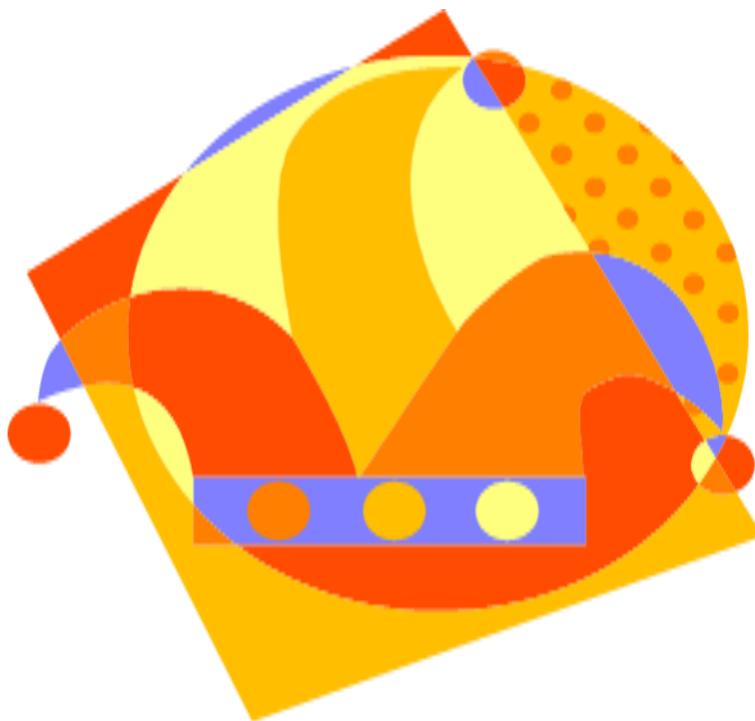
Please see QRM, page 2

Happy April Fools' Day!

Happy April Fools' Day from the EARC and the Wireless Dispatch! (Yes, QRM is still QRM, regardless of what frequency it's on. And harmful QRM is still against FCC rules.)

Our April Fools' Day coverage comes to us courtesy of the **Noise Blankers Radio Club** in northwest Arkansas, and their feature **Ham Hijinks**, which publishes ham radio satire stories via their site www.hamhijinks.com. Special thanks to **Kevin Thornton, K5KVN**, for allowing us to include this in our April Fools' Day issue.

73, Keith (WH7GG)



About the

EMERGENCY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The **Emergency Amateur Radio Club**

(EARC) is an ARRL affiliated club based in Honolulu, Hawaii, committed to preparing Hawaii's radio amateurs for emergency and public service communications.



2013 Club Officers:

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Wireless Dispatch

Editor: Keith Higa, WH7GG

The **Wireless Dispatch** is the official newsletter of the EARC. It is published bi-monthly and sent to all members in good standing with the EARC. The newsletter is also available online on the EARC's website at www.earchi.org.

Articles and photos are always welcome from members and others on club events and timely issues in ham radio. Articles may be edited for length or grammar. All articles reflect the views of the respective authors, and not necessarily those of the editor or Board of Directors.

Correspondence regarding the *Wireless Dispatch* may be submitted to the editor at wh7gg@arrl.net.

Oahu VHF/UHF nets

[EARC Nightly Net]

Our flagship net, every night at 1930W on the 146.88/444.500 Diamond Head repeater. This is a directed net designed primarily as a training net for public service communications, led by our friendly NCS team. Remember to use standard ITU phonetics when checking in. New hams (and new NCSs) always welcome!

[Oahu DEM Net]

Designed as a training ground for Oahu DEM RACES, this net provides in-depth training on emergency communications. All Oahu hams welcome to participate. Fourth Wednesday of the month, 1930W, on 146.88/444.500 (pre-empts the EARC net on that day.)

[Swap and Shop]

Maintained and compiled by Dr. Frank Young (KH6CDO), this net lists items of equipment that other hams are selling or seeking. If you have something to sell, contact Frank at 988-7474. Every Tuesday night after the EARC net, at 2000W, on 146.88/444.500.

[New Ham Net]

Designed for introducing new hams to the hobby and into the world of emergency communications. Primary NCS is Kevin Bogan (AH6QO), ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. Every Sunday, 1800W, on the statewide RACES system (147.06 (+) with PL 103.5 on Oahu).

Upcoming Events

Sunday to Tuesday, April 7 to 9, 2013

Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair
(judges needed—contact KH6MEI if interested)

Monday, April 8, 2013, 1900W

EARC Board of Directors Meeting
Fleet Reserve Association

Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 1900W

EARC General Membership Meeting
Fleet Reserve Association

Sunday, April 21, 2013, 0900W

Hawaii Geek Meet
Magic Island



Hawaii Geek Meet in its 6th year

Ryan Ozawa KH6WEB invites the club to participate in this year's geek picnic

Aloha e Wayne & esteemed EARC leaders!

With a new month upon us and April around the corner, I wanted to respectfully and enthusiastically invite the club to participate in the sixth annual Hawaii Geek Meet, set for Sunday, April 21 at Magic Island.

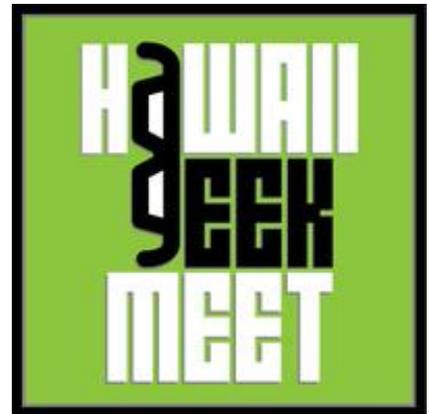
As before, this is as much an opportunity to stage an EARC family potluck picnic as it is to do outreach. Like a general meeting, but outdoors, and with a lot of curious, technically minded people stopping by!

The ham radio presence at the Hawaii Geek Meet is always a highlight and greatly appreci-

ated, and I know for a fact that it's driven at least a handful of local geeks to get their license over the years. Indeed, this will be my first geek meet as a licensed ham. So... while I could do a passable job spreading the word, I would really appreciate it if the EARC could participate and really fly the ham flag high once again!

Mahalo for your consideration. If there's any information or assistance you require, please let me know.

Ryan
KH6WEB & Proud EARC
Member!



Hawaii Geek Meet

Sunday, April 21, 2013

09:00 to 15:00W

Magic Island, picnic area #40

Working Europe from the comfort of home?

Joe Speroni AH0A demos remote HF operation using RemoteHamRadio

Attendees to the March EARC General Membership meeting got a real treat as **Joe Speroni, AH0A**, arranged a demo of remote HF operation.

Joe first arranged a call with the co-creator of RemoteHamRadio, **Lee Imber, WW2DX**, a 26-year veteran of ham radio who took the time to explain the project (at 1:00 a.m. his time). He and several of his fellow local upstate New York hams maintain a contesting station in the Catskill mountains that is ordinarily dormant 45 weeks out of the year, so they came up with an idea to use the Internet to put the equipment to good use.

Up to this point, remote operation usually involved using software interfaces such as Ham Radio Deluxe and VOIP

software such as Skype. While it serves its intended purpose, Lee found it to be clunky.

The RemoteHamRadio system uses an Elecraft K3/0 (with the RF parts stripped out) to tune the radio, to which CW paddles and a microphone can be attached. It, in turn, is then attached to an Internet-equipped computer. The user can then use a web console to remotely access one of four sites located in upstate New York maintained by RemoteHamRadio with excellent HF conditions, amplifiers, and towers full of rotatable antennas, capable of working DX with Europe with one kilowatt or more of power.

The interesting aspect is that all interactions with the remote site are done via the Elecraft K3/0, giving it a real radio feel.

Response was also very quick, with very little delay.

Joe then set up the RemoteHamRadio equipment for the demo. Veteran contester **Eran Agmon, WH6R**, couldn't resist the chance to play with the remote equipment, and within minutes made contacts with stations in four European countries, using 1200W of power.

Unfortunately, the RemoteHamRadio system does have a hefty price tag, with annual costs starting at \$2,999. Lee did mention that he was looking for other sites, including the West Coast and possibly Hawaii. Perhaps a generous ham may be able to host hams from around the world?



Top left: Joe AH0A setting up the Elecraft K3/0 used in the Remote Ham Radio setup. Bottom right: Is Eran WH6R working Europe from Hawaii or from the East Coast? (photos WH7GG)



TECHNICIAN'S CORNER

Public service: giving back, one event at a time

Serve the community, sharpen your skills, and have a lot of fun doing it

By Keith Higa, WH7GG

Okay, so you're a new ham, you've got yourself a brand spanking new radio, and you're itching to do something with it. A good way to get yourself some on-the-air experience is to volunteer at a public service event. Hams are called upon to provide communication services at events throughout the year. I've done a few myself.

Fun on the run (or, rather, while someone else runs)

For me, before ham radio, there was running. I've run the Honolulu Marathon many times, but only last year, in 2012, did I finally get the chance to volunteer as a ham. I worked along with **Rick Kimitsuka, KH6OM**, at the Hawaii Kai aid station...and we most definitely had our share of excitement. Yes, we did have a medical emergency happen just steps from the aid station, and yes, we had to call in an ambulance. Fortunately, the runner survived.

Besides the Marathon (coordinated each year by **Greg Amancio, NH6ZS**) and the Great Aloha Run (coordinated by **Jonalynn Sing, NH6UO**), there are other events during the year that hams are asked to assist at.

Oh, the people you'll meet!

My all-time favorite ham radio story happened in April 2008, when I and **Mike**



You'll meet lots of different people at events—maybe even Miss Hawaii contestants. (photo WH7GG)

Mathews, KC6CBB, worked the March of Dimes March for Babies. We worked the Hilton Hawaiian Village aid station...along with the Miss Hawaii contestants for that year. I have the picture to prove it (*above*). I do have to say, they were a very friendly, interesting bunch. No, I didn't get their phone numbers—they most definitely weren't my type.

What can I expect?

In most cases a handie-talkie will suffice, though in some cases a mobile radio into an external antenna may be needed. Before your event, you'll be given a list of assigned frequencies that will be used during the event. Sometimes a local repeater may be used; other times the stations may be close enough to go simplex. Be prepared to operate either way.

In addition to your radio, bring a bag with water, snacks, sunscreen, rain gear, and spare batteries and parts in case

something happens during the event. A folding chair may also be helpful if there's no place to sit.

Generally, an event will be run as a directed net, with a net control station (NCS) handling traffic. You may be given a tactical call sign (such as your location) to use during the event. Maintain net discipline at all times and always remember that when using tactical callsigns, **you must still ID with your FCC callsign when you have finished transmitting.**

Finally, if (heaven forbid) a medical emergency does happen, remain calm, let net control know that you have an emergency and describe the situation.

Most of all, enjoy yourself, while knowing that you're practicing your skills for when a real emergency situation happens. Hope to see you at the next event!

Membership Application Form

Time to renew your membership, or to become a new member? Here's the perfect opportunity to do either. Just fill out this form and turn it in, along with your annual dues (see form for amount due) at the next general membership meeting OR mail it in to us at the address shown at the bottom of the form.

You can also apply for or renew membership online at <http://www.earchi.org>. Follow the link for the Online Membership application form.

Membership has its privileges! Here are just a few:

- free subscription to the *Wireless Dispatch*
- free EARC-sponsored test sessions for first-time hams and upgraders alike
- prize at the end of the year for the member that recruits the most new members
- an opportunity to do community service through club-sponsored events (i.e., the Great Aloha Run)
- a network of incredibly helpful, friendly, knowledgeable people who share your enthusiasm for amateur radio

And that's just the beginning. As a member, you'll have opportunities to present your ideas, as well. So fill out the form below, and get started!

✂-----

NEW MEMBERS JOINING IN: JAN-MAR \$20.00, APR-JUN \$15.00, JUL-SEP \$10.00, OCT-DEC \$5.00.
Renewals: \$20.00 for the calendar year.

New Member Renewal Address Change (if this only, do not include payment)

CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ LICENSE EXP DATE _____

NAME _____
Last, First MI

(Family: Name _____ Call _____ Name _____ Call _____)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ - _____

HOME PHONE: (____) _____ WORK: (____) _____

PAGER: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

- I am willing to read the *Wireless Dispatch* online instead of receiving a paper copy (saves the club \$\$).
- I am a current member of the ARRL.
- I need a new or replacement EARC badge.

If you wish to submit this form by mail, please remit it, as well as a check for the amount specified to the EARC to the following address:

Emergency Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 30315
Honolulu, HI 96820-0315

Welcome!

Welcome to the EARC's newest members:

- Debra Gochros, NH7UQ
- David Olenjack, WH6ECO
- Nobert Paiva, KH7GAS
- Gordon Rezentes, KH7IL
- Larry Sandbo, WH6CQX
- Ryan Ueoka, AH6JD

Associate members:

- Jason Rezentes, KH7IO
- Russel Streiber, WH6NE

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2013! \$20.00 for the year. Contact Steve Hall, NH7ZD to renew, or renew online at earchi.org.



Members' r e c o r d s

Changed your call sign? Gotten an upgrade? **The EARC and Wireless Dispatch congratulate you and want to hear from you.** First, send a note to Steve NH7ZD so he can update your records. Then drop a note either on the reflector or directly to Keith WH7GG so your name can appear here!



WIRELESS DISPATCH

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