

the Wireless Dispatch



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

Volume XIV, No. 1

Winter 2013

EARC antenna makers honored

Chuck KH6HNL and Richard KH7HNL given lifetime memberships for achievement

Two members of the Emergency Amateur Radio Club were honored for an antenna project that has given the club not only financial benefits, but also international recognition throughout the amateur radio community.

At the February EARC meeting, club president **Wayne Greenleaf (KH6MEI)** awarded members **Chuck Hanebuth (KH6HNL)** and **Richard Hardy (KH7HNL)** with award certificates and lifetime memberships for their achievement.

As part of the EARC's fundraising committee, Chuck and Richard decided to build end-fed half-wave antennas. The antennas use a 9:1 UNUN to bring the feed point impedance into an area where antenna tuners could satisfactorily adjust the SWR.

Complete assembly instructions are available on the EARC website at www.earchi.org (under the link for *End Fed HF Antenna Matchbox*). However, Chuck and Richard have also made fully assembled matchbox kits available for sale, with



EARC matchbox antenna makers Chuck Hanebuth (KH6HNL, left) and Richard Hardy (KH7HNL). (Photo WH7GG)

all proceeds benefiting the EARC. Three different models are available: a 6 to 40 meter model that requires a tuner, and 20- and 40-meter models that does not require one.

Response from the ham community for EARC's antennas has been overwhelmingly positive. The club has shipped antennas to 17 different countries so far. In 2012, sales of the antennas netted the EARC \$1,560, and

the club has sold 85 antennas so far in January, with about 500 antennas expected by the end of the year.

All the antennas are handmade by both Chuck and Richard. Chuck noted that as demand grew both he and Richard became skilled in winding the toroids needed to complete the matchbox kit.

Congratulations to Chuck and Richard for their efforts!

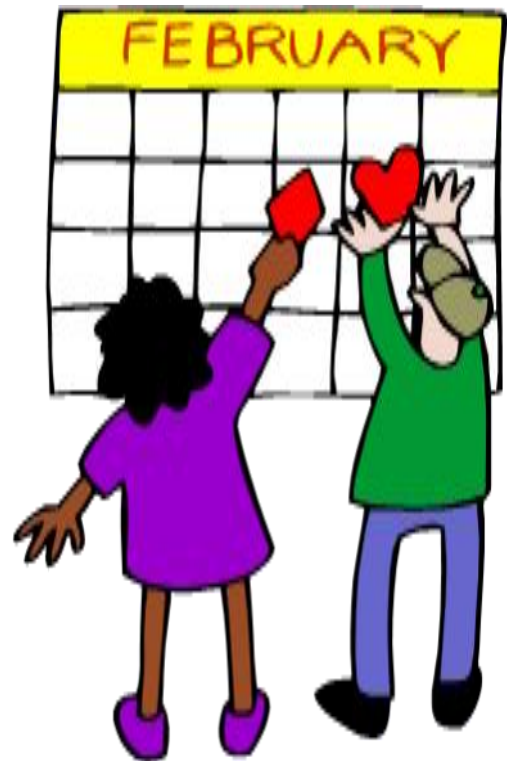
Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 1900W
 EARC General Membership Meeting
 Fleet Reserve Association

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



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:

President:
 Wayne Greenleaf, KH6MEI

Vice President:
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Secretary:
 Gloria Hall, KH6GLO

Treasurer:
 Steve Hall, NH7ZD

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 Trent Bronson, N2OBM
 Jim Connell, KH6JGK
 Ralph Miranda, WH7PD
 Darrell Omuro, KH6XL

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).

Lessons learned from Superstorm Sandy

Clem KH7HO deployed to New York City, assisted in recovery efforts

The February EARC meeting featured a presentation by **Clem Jung, KH7HO**, on his recent trip to New York to assist in the recovery from Hurricane Sandy. Clem is retired from State Civil Defense and is the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Windward Oahu.

Civil Defense deployed Clem and fellow SCD colleague Danny Tengan to New York City from November 23 to December 11, 2012. They joined the effort as part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). EMAC is an agreement between the state civil defense agencies of all 50 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Members of the compact provide assistance to each other in case of major disasters.

Clem and Danny received briefings on their roles and worked under the direction of New York City's Office of Emergency Management. They worked out of the New York OEM office for the first few days, then were redeployed to Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn to assist the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) in the recovery effort. Danny assisted the public information officer, while Clem worked with the National Guard in assessing conditions in affected neighborhoods. These included the coastal neighborhoods of the Rockaways, Coney Island, and Staten Island, among others.

In the course of their work, they saw firsthand the extent of



Clem Jung, KH7HO, talking about his experiences with helping the Hurricane Sandy recovery effort. (photo WH7GG)

damage caused by Sandy—houses moved off their foundations, mold infestations, and fire damage, among others.

Clem and Danny both found working with the New York OEM and the FDNY very rewarding. However, according to Clem, there were some lessons to be learned from their experiences.

- The New York OEM was not in charge of the recovery effort, but rather played a support role. The mayor had the city's finance director lead the recovery effort. According to Clem, it's important that politics not be a factor in coordinating the recovery. At the same time, it also underscored the importance of developing self-sufficiency in an emergency.
- The New York OEM did not

have an Incident Action Plan in place. As a result, for their first few days at the New York OEM, Clem and Danny were essentially sitting idle.

- There was a lack of coordination in providing services. Clem noticed that near a Red Cross food distribution point, there were two other groups that set up similar operations within 500 feet.

Other than that, Clem and Danny enjoyed their stay with the FDNY, and found that the mostly Irish group kept a very good sense of humor—a skill very important when disaster and destruction are part of your job description. They came back to Hawaii better prepared to handle the next disaster that comes our way, when it does happen.

JUST FOR FUN

New ham radio dating service emerges

Helping hams find that perfect 1:1 match?

Lonely Oaks, Texas; Feb. 18, 2013 – After seeing the flood of #hamentine tweets on his Twitter feed for Valentine's Day, Lonely Oaks ham radio operator and Sr. Web Developer **Bobby Grindle** had a grand idea to solve a common problem of single operators on the prowl: Finding that special YL!

Grindle's team of crack coders/hams sprung into action and the site was able to launch just two days after the lovebird holiday at www.1-to-1.perfect50ohm-YL-match.com. "We've had a huge response!" cited Grindle. "Apparently I'm not the only successful and single ham radio op out there looking for that special YL to fill my shack!"

"Maybe you don't want to go solo on the long car ride to Dayton, or perhaps you would just



like the warm company of a fine lady at the local club meeting at Denny's. If so, well then buddy, this site is for you!" claims Grindle with his used car salesman-styled pitch.

Unlike many dating websites, Grindle's matching service doesn't really use any algorithms at all. "Basically, if you're a lady, and a ham radio operator... well... that's plenty."

Users are invited to first start with a text-based "QSO"

through the site's servers. If they seem to be resonant, they're encouraged to have a live video-chat "Eyeball QSO." Those that really arc-over may even opt to meet in person.

Grindle concedes that the site seems to be a bit lacking in a vital element. "We have some 30,000 registered members since just last Monday, but only... well... we have just two YLs."

In case you're wondering...No, this isn't true, though in a way it may be. This humor feature, Ham Hijinks, comes to the Wireless Dispatch courtesy of the Noise Blankers Radio Group (www.noiseblankers.com) Used by permission. To read this and other "articles," go to www.hamhijinks.com. Copyright © 2013 Noise Blankers Radio Group. All rights reserved.

New repeaters activated on Oahu

Two new repeaters have been activated on Oahu early this year:

- Clem Jung (KH7HO) reports that he and Kimo Chun (KH7U) have set up a new repeater 147.00 (PL 103.5) on the ridge above Kalaheo High School between Kailua and Kaneohe. It provides coverage over much of the Kailua, Kaneohe, and Waimanalo areas.
- Randy Young (KH6IB) has replaced the old WH6F repeater at 145.47 with a new repeater on 147.10 with a PL of 103.5.

Check these repeaters out!

TECHNICIAN'S CORNER

Good weather for surfing the airwaves?

What do all those K and A indexes mean anyway?

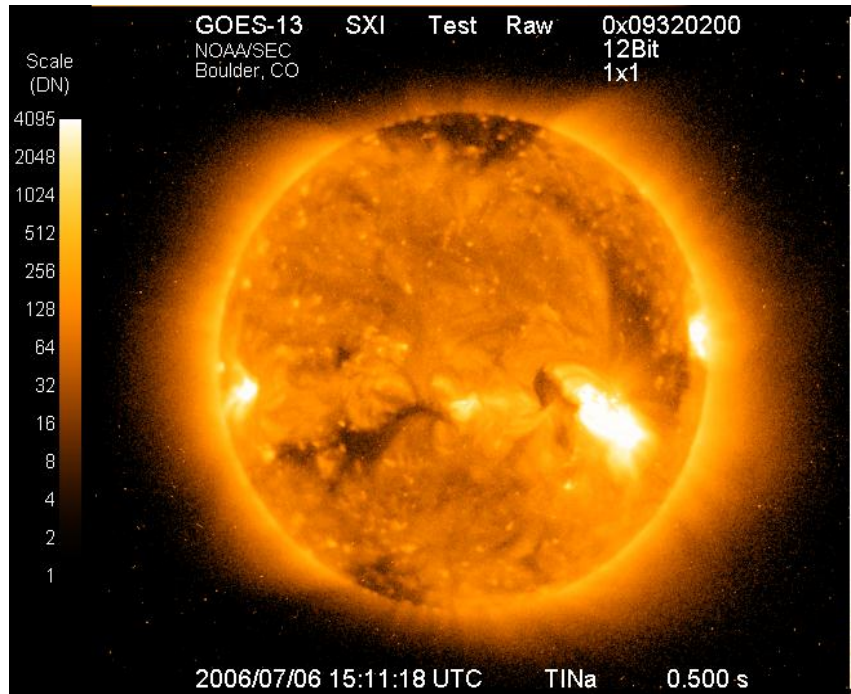
Most of us are familiar with the numbers that describe the weather—temperature, barometric pressure, relative humidity. And those whose pastimes depend on the weather pay very close attention to these figures.

If you visit websites that cater to those who do a lot of DXing (long distance communication), you will notice a lot of numbers there too. And people who do a lot of DXing will watch these numbers like a hawk—the number of sunspots, the A index, the K index, solar flux. What do they all mean to the ham radio operator, especially those who are interested in HF?

Do you see spots?

Perhaps the biggest single indicator that governs HF propagation is the **number of sunspots**. Sunspots are dark areas on the surface of the sun caused by intense magnetic activity. The number of sunspots at any time follows a rough 11-year cycle—in general, the more sunspots there are, the more ionization there is in the atmosphere. That means better HF propagation at higher frequencies (above 14 MHz).

Related to the sunspot number is the **solar flux index**. Solar flux ranges from a low of 50 to a high of around 300. Low solar flux indicates poor propagation conditions overall, especially at the higher frequencies. When solar flux is high, however,



there is improved propagation on higher-than-normal frequencies.

Storms are brewing: the A and K indexes

Just as hurricanes are more common during the warm summer, geomagnetic storms are more common during times of high solar activity. The K and A indexes are a measure of magnetic disturbances.

Measured every three hours, the K index is an integer from 0 to 9, with 0 meaning calm (and good DX conditions) and 9 meaning a severe disturbance causing a complete blackout of all HF propagation. The A index is derived from the K index via a mathematical formula and gives the average over a 24-

hour period. An A index of over 30 indicates a geomagnetic storm, with values ranging up to as high as 400.

Generally, then, for good DX conditions, hams will look for a high value for solar flux (indicating good ionization and increased likelihood of good propagation), and a low value for the A and K indexes (indicating a low level of magnetic activity that would cause signal degradation).

There are many different places where you can get space weather information: www.spaceweather.com, NOAA's Space Weather Prediction center at www.swpc.noaa.gov, among others.

NEWS SHORTS

“Uncle Joe” Hunkler, NH7WL (SK)

Longtime ham, EARC member, Red Cross volunteer

Joe Hunkler (NH7WL), a longtime member of the Emergency Amateur Radio Club and former member of the Board of Directors known affectionately as “Uncle Joe,” passed away February 8. He was 66.

Besides the EARC, he was also an active member of the Koolau Amateur Radio Club. Since 2008, he was also an active volunteer for the American Red Cross.

As a ham, he volunteered regularly to help the Transpac and Pacific Club yacht races, as well

as the Honolulu Marathon. During the marathon, he usually worked at station 8 in Hawaii Kai near Maunaloa Bay Beach Park).

EARC President **Wayne Greenleaf (KH6MEI)**, who served on the EARC board along with Joe in 2007, remembers Joe as “one of the greats, the type of person who would give you the shirt of his back if you needed it without question.”

Jennifer Walter of the American Red Cross remem-

bers Joe as “the gruffest man with the biggest heart I ever met.” Joe performed various behind-the-scenes tasks in service to Red Cross volunteers—issuing ID badges, press releases, and more. “Personally, Joe became like the second father I never knew I wanted. ... I know he felt a part of something important here. And he was,” remembers Jennifer.

No formal funeral services were held.

NH6WI weather page back online

Wayne KH6MEI revives weather page of NH6WI (SK) at nh6wi.info

You may remember the regular weather reports from **Edward Dung, NH6WI (SK)**, on the EARC nightly net. In addition, you probably also remember the simple but comprehensive Hawaii weather page that he maintained at **www.nh6wi.com**, which had all manner of weather info in one page.

With the help of the Dung family and Lava.net, Edward’s former ISP, Wayne KH6MEI, the club webmaster, was able to get the original HTML files that Edward used for his site. His goal was to revive the former nh6wi.com domain.

Unfortunately, nh6wi.com had expired and Wayne was unable to reacquire the name. Ac-



cording to Wayne, GoDaddy, which held the domain registration, demanded a prohibitively expensive fee to reacquire the domain. Wayne therefore decided to acquire the domain name **nh6wi.info** and host the pages there.

(As of this writing, the former nh6wi.com domain appears to

be occupied by a blog in Japanese.)

The pages have some slight modifications to include information on Edward, but for the most part the overall look and feel of the page is the same as it was when Edward was maintaining it. Take a look sometime.

NEWS SHORTS

Contest for new ID badge design

Win an ADI AM-580 dual-band radio

Calling all graphic artists and artists-to-be!

At the January meeting, the EARC announced a contest for a new logo/ID badge design. Several members have already submitted designs to the Board of Directors for the February meeting, but the board has decided to extend the deadline for submissions.

The winner of the contest will receive an ADI AM-580 dual band 2 meter/440 MHz radio.

Designs should fit on the standard EARC badge size, and should include the club name (Emergency Amateur Radio Club) and space for the member name and call sign. Also, the design should be original (i.e. it should not contain copyrighted

material that is not yours).

Email design submissions to Wayne KH6MEI at kh6mei@earchi.org. Deadline for submission is the March EARC General Membership meeting on March 19. So get those artistic ideas flowing!

Science Fair judges needed

EARC to award KH6IJ science fair award again this year

The EARC is looking for members willing to judge Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair projects for the KH6IJ Scholarship Fund. This award, established by the estate of legendary Hawaii ham Katashi Nose, KH6IJ (SK), and adminis-

tered by the EARC, recognizes the best projects in the field of radio communications.

The science fair will take place from April 7 to 9, 2013 at the Neal Blaisdell Center. Judges will need to be available on Monday, April 8 for judging.

The prize will be awarded during the awards ceremony on the evening of April 9.

For more information on how to get involved, contact Wayne KH6MEI at kh6mei@earchi.org.

Last word: Your submissions needed!

Share your knowledge with the club and amateur radio community

Got a whiz-bang antenna design? Ideas for how to build an effective shack and avoid problems? The *Wireless Dispatch* needs you to share your interests, expertise, and experiences!

While I do my best to create a great product, sometimes it's a struggle to get a steady stream of new material. Our membership has such a wealth of expertise and experience in various

areas of amateur radio, and I encourage you to share your ideas on your favorite topics. This will especially be of benefit to newer hams as well.

We welcome articles from both members and non-members, and we need both technical and non-technical articles. It need not be a long novel; short articles are good. I only ask that it be in final form when submitted (in other

words, use your word processor's spell check, please).

To send an article for the *Dispatch*, just send it to wh7gg@arrl.net. Feel free to include pictures (be sure to identify people by name and call, and get their permission first).

I look forward to your submissions!

73, Keith (WH7GG)

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 would like to subscribe to the EARC e-mail listserv (no spam, just news!).
- I am willing to read the Wireless Dispatch online instead of receiving a paper copy (saves the club \$\$).

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:

- **Larry Sandbo, WH6CQX**
- **Scott Rennie, NY7Z**
- **Jimmy Lagunero, WH7MW**
- **Daniel Ferguson, KH6BS**
- **William Crawley, KH6FGA**
- **John "Doug" Morgan, KH6U**
- **Angelita Young, WH6BUJ**
- **Glorry Miura, WH6ECD**
- **Gordon Lee, NH7VI**
- **Wade Martyn, WB5C**

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.

New calls!

These members recently got new call signs:

- **Bart Aronoff, KH7C** (ex-WH6AA)
- **Chuck Hanebuth, KH6HNL** (ex-NH7XL)
- **Richard Hardy, KH7HNL** (ex-WH7ZB)

Members' **CORNER**

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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