

# the Wireless Dispatch



The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the  
Emergency Amateur Radio Club  
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

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January 2012

## Hawaii QSO Party a Big Success

*EARC joins other radio clubs throughout the state to put Hawaii on the air*

**M**embers of the Emergency Amateur Radio Club had a large presence during the annual Hawaii QSO Party during the weekend of August 26-28, 2011.

Working together with other radio clubs throughout the state, including longtime organizer Koolau Amateur Radio Club, the EARC actively encouraged its members to participate in the HQP.

The EARC's main club operations took place from the hillside QTH of Randy and Lita Young (KH6IB and WH6BUJ), with members working in shifts throughout the day and night to work and log stations from the North American continent and beyond.

Also among the 22 members who helped in the club operation and who were listed in the official results were Tom Geier (KH6BLA), Gordon Loui (KH6GL), Alex Andrade (KH6IR), Mei Li Greenleaf (KH6MG), Malcolm Higa (KH6MSH), Rick Kimitsuka (KH6OM), Eric Ty (KH6RT), Tony Gannon (KH6TG), Darrell



Darrell KH6XL and Ralph WH7PD during the Hawaii QSO Party. (WH7GG)

Omuro (KH6XL), Fred Viernes (KH6ZX), Chris Colquhoun (NH7QH), Ron Holmberg (NH7RW), Louise Kaneshiro (WH6DPE), Donald Tenney (WH6DSK), Elsie Watanabe (WH7BB), Jan Hafner (WH7CI), Keith Higa (WH7GG), Natasha Gobeil (WH7MS), Ralph Miranda (WH7PD), and Beatrix Hu (WH7YU).

With a total of 1,479 QSOs and 239,468 points, the EARC (operating under club call sign

KH6CE) took third place in the state, just behind the KARC (KH6J) who had 1,312 QSOs and 253,188 points. First place in the state, however, went to the four-operator Big Island team led by Lloyd Cabral (KH6LC), who came together for 4,971 QSOs and 1,375,752 points.

Keith (WH7GG) also took third place in Honolulu County for single operator low power, with 17 QSOs and 688 points.

# New officers elected for 2012 Board of Directors

The EARC held its Annual Meeting at the Fleet Reserve Association on October 18, 2011. Congratulations to the following members of the EARC who were elected to the Board of Directors for 2012:

- **President: Wayne Greenleaf, KH6MEI**
- **Vice President: Chris Colquhoun, NH7QH**
- **Secretary: Gloria Hall, WH7BTE**
- **Treasurer: Stephen Hall, NH7ZD**

## Directors:

- **Tom Geier, KH6BLA**
- **Jim Connell, KH6JKG**
- **Darrell Omuro, KH6XL**
- **Alex Andrade, KH6IR**
- **Eric Ty, KH6RT**

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.

### 2012 Club Officers:

**President:**  
Wayne Greenleaf, KH6MEI

**Vice President:**  
Chris Colquhoun, NH7QH

**Secretary:**  
Gloria Hall, WH7BTE

**Treasurer:**  
Steve Hall, NH7ZD

**Directors:**  
Tom Geier, KH6BLA  
Jim Connell, KH6JKG  
Darrell Omuro, KH6XL  
Alex Andrade, KH6IR  
Eric Ty, KH6RT

## 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](http://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](mailto: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. NCS is Kevin Bogan (AH6QO), ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. Every Thursday, 1800W, on the statewide RACES system (147.06 (+) with PL 103.5 on Oahu).

# Scouts gather for Jamboree on the Air

*EARC members assist in introducing Boy Scouts to ham radio*

Every year, the World Organization for the Scouting Movement (WOSM), in cooperation with national amateur radio organizations, organizes Jamboree on the Air. The JOTA for 2011 took place October 15-16, 2011 UTC (beginning October 14 Hawaii time).

Longtime Boy Scout leaders Darrell Omuro (KH6XL) and Richard Ando (WH7HZ) asked for assistance to help a local Boy Scout troop with JOTA as well as to assist the troop with their Radio merit badges.

About six members from the EARC helped about 40 Scouts on Friday, October 14 at the Honpa Hongwanji Mission. They setup several training stations, including an Echolink station, Morse Code keyer, VHF/UHF and HF stations, as well as providing the Scouts with some hands-on practice using live handi-talkies.

Besides Darrell and his children (Trenton WH7RB and Taylor WH6DUF) and Richard and his son Ryan WH7RH, other hams who were there included Randy Young (KH6IB), Ralph Miranda (WH7PD), Bob Tanimoto (KH6ZZ), and Keith Higa (WH7GG).



Randy KH6IB goes over the basics of how to make a contact over HF.



Richard WH7HZ looks on as a Scout does a practice contact on VHF/UHF.

## DID YOU KNOW?

JOTA, along with Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI), is the largest annual World Scout event, with over 750,000 participants in 2010.

# EARC Holiday Party

*Members gather for the final meeting of the year*

The EARC held its final meeting of the year at the Fleet Reserve Association on November 15, 2011. A scheduling snafu for the usual meeting room threatened to put a damper on the party, but the FRA was nice enough to allow the EARC to occupy the bar area for their meeting and party.

Lovell AH6LL and Ike KH6IKE provided the evening's music as members enjoyed the potluck dinner (with turkey!) and socialized. A good time was had by all!



Top to bottom:

- Ike KH6IKE (left) and Lovell AH6LL sing their hearts out.
- Richard WH7UF and Hans KH7GN dig into the food.
- Ralph WH7PD, Tiff AH6S, and Richard WH6DIQ.

# Carving out time for ham radio

*Having trouble getting on the air? Some tips from Dan Romanchik, KB6NU*

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On a recent episode of This Week in Tech ([www.twit.tv](http://www.twit.tv)), Leo Laporte, W6TWT, mentions ham radio, and a guest asks him how much time he is spending on the air. Leo, who just recently got his Tech license says “Zero!” and laughs.

This is not uncommon. Lots of people seem to get a ham radio license and then do very little with it. I think one reason for this is that they don’t take into account how much time the hobby really can eat up.

They get their ticket because it seems like a cool thing to do, but then they have to carve out some time to actually be a ham radio operator. Even if you don’t make any of your own gear, setting up a station takes time, and then there is the operating time, of course. Carving time out of busy schedules—and I would guess that Laporte has a pretty busy schedule being the owner of TWiT—is a challenge.

I see things like this all the time. At one ham radio club meeting that I attended, the club vice president asked, “OK, here’s the question of the month. How many of you actually got on the air in the past month.” Less than half of those

in attendance raised their hands. Geez, I thought to myself, why do they even bother to come to meetings if they don’t get on the air?

## Making time for ham radio

So, if you’re a busy person, how do you make time for ham radio? Well, being the Internet geek that I am, I

Googled,

“making time for things you love.” I got a lot of links to sites that talked about work-life balance and some new-age blogs, but none of them offered much in the way of concrete advice. Then, I Googled “make time for hobbies” and right off the bat, I found two good articles—7 Creative Ways to Make Time For Your Creative Hobby!

(<http://www.exploringwomanhood.com/homelife/hobbies/maketime.htm>) and 5 Ways to Make Time for Your Hobby (<http://o5.com/5-ways-to-make-time-for-your-hobby/>).

Both articles offered very similar advice. Here are four points that both made:

**1. Schedule it.** Set aside a specific time during which you’re going to do ham radio. Don’t let

that time get pre-empted.

**2. Designate a place in your home for ham radio.** Having to set up your radios or dig out your tools every time you want to operate or build something is not much fun and wastes a lot of time. Having a “shack” and a workspace designated for your projects will let you spend more time on the fun stuff.

**3. Partner up.** Arranging to work with another ham will make it harder to blow off ham radio for some other activity. Besides, it’s a lot of fun to do things with other hams. If you’re a newly licensed ham, find an Elmer. There really are plenty around who would be willing to help you.

**4. Create a project plan.** Setting up an amateur radio station is no small feat. Breaking it down into smaller chunks will make it seem more doable, and you’ll get a feeling of accomplishment when you meet your in-between goals.

There’s so much to learn and do in amateur radio that it can seem quite overwhelming. I think that’s one reason why so many Techs never really get into the hobby and why some experienced hams drift away. I think if you follow the advice above, though, you’ll not only find the time to pursue amateur radio, but get a lot more out of it.

*Lots of people seem to get a ham radio license and then do very little with it.*

# 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:

- **KH6AMY** Amy Akina
- **KH6DZ** David Addington
- **KH6HS** Helen Sanpei
- **KH6MD** Al Mariani
- **KH6ZX** Alfred Viernes
- **NH7RW** Ronald Holmberg
- **WH6DQU** John Parker
- **WH6DUK** Brian Faxvog
- **WH6DUL** Mario Alvarez
- **WH6DUR** Michael Datuin
- **WH6DUV** Robert Gilman
- **WH6DWF** Todd Wilson
- **WH6SKY** Marc Nuzzo

# Members' **CORNER**

## New calls!

**WH6DNY** to **KH6DZ**  
David Addington  
**WH6DQY** to **KH6ZX**  
Alfred Viernes  
**WH6DTN** to **KH6ON**  
Martin Luna



## **WIRELESS DISPATCH**

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