



Hawaii and Pacific Section Report - September 2016



Hi all,

Since beginning the SM position, the focus has been on discussing interests with the section appointees and how they can help Amateurs in Hawaii. Most have stepped forward with ideas and suggestions on what we might do better. Not an easy task with the Amateur Radio Service involved in so many group interests, activities and technologies.

One area missing from previous reports was club activities, which we will correct this month with a few announcements.

Click [here](#) for a PDF copy of the report

First there is a new web site www.HawaiiARRL.info intended to document information about clubs in our section. Second, new PIO (Public Information Officer) positions have been developed to promote Amateur Radio contributions to the general public.

I'm travelling to ARRL HQ this month, along with a long list of new section managers, to learn more about the ARRL organization services provided to members. During the return I'll drop by Pacificon and meet the crew in our ARRL Division. Some vendors look like they have interesting displays. There should be a few items to report next month.

Aloha es 73,
Joe Speroni, AHØA
ARRL Pacific Section, Section Manager

HawaiiARRL.info

Thanks to the volunteer effort by Sean Fendt (KH6SF), the Hawaii Section has a new web site with information about the section positions (other than ARES). It is hopefully current and the information relatively static so it does not have to be included in the monthly SM report. I'll report on changes or corrections as they occur. The web site also has links to the Hawaii clubs' web sites leading to their recent news.

Take a look at the site and let me know if you have any suggestions or corrections.

www.HawaiiARRL.info

Thanks Sean!

GridMadness 2016

A handful of amateur radio operators on the Big Island started Grid Madness in 2014. The event now includes all of the Hawaiian Islands. Hams use their 2 meter and 70 cm radios to contact as many other stations as possible in as many locations (grid squares) as possible, in just four hours. Only SIMPLEX FM voice is allowed. This year, we ran the third annual Grid Madness on Sunday, September 18th.

For the first time, Grid Madness entrants experienced the **Madness**. For a while, signals on 146.52 overwhelmed the channel, especially on Oahu and in the Hilo-Puna area. Operators demonstrated great skills, staying calm and patient in the pileup, working together, and moving to other channels. Many contacts were made "across the water." At this writing, at least 52 stations participated, up from 27 last year. About half of the participants submitted their logs.

Grid Madness operators achieved several "firsts" this year. First HT (Handheld entries from Bob, KH6BE and Konabob, AH6GT). First Molokai station (we think -- still to be confirmed). First contacts between Oahu and Maui.

Participating hams practiced using their equipment (base, mobile and HT), and exchanged and recorded information in difficult conditions. They also learned more about local and inter-island VHF/UHF propagation. No doubt, knowledge and skills that will be very useful for the SET exercise on October 1st, and in a real emergency.

Mahalo Nui to all who joined in -- especially to the many hams that helped with ideas and publicity.

If you missed it this year, be sure to give it a try in 2017. If you enjoyed this year, invite others! If you know any hams on Kauai, invite them! Watch for detailed results in October at,

<http://gridmadness.blogspot.com>

73, Stan AH6KO

Kauai Assistant Section Manager

We are fortunate that Jerry Hill (KH6HU) has volunteered to be the ASM on Kauai and keep us updated on ham activities on the Garden Island. Jerry, a retired educator, is an old friend from my days on Kauai.

Prior to his retirement, Jerry served as education regional coordinator for the Department of Education in Kauai. Afterwards he spent two years in the Newington ARRL HQ as the manager of ARRL Amateur Radio Education and Technology program. He brings a lot of knowledge and energy to Amateur Radio.

Welcome to the section Jerry!

Section Staff Travelling

At the start of their term, new section managers get an opportunity to travel to ARRL HQ where the staff puts on three days of seminars explaining the League's organization and services. A great opportunity to learn how the ARRL can better serve our Hawaii members.

On the way back I'm stopping off at Pacificon to meet all the players in the Pacific Division. The talks and exhibits look interesting. It's a chance to learn what's new in Winmor/Winlink, DMR and ARES on the mainland. Seventy-two sections make for a lot of activity.

During my absence Oct 5th thru the 18th, Alan Maenchen (AD6E) will be the acting Section Manager. He can be reached by email at ad6e@arrl.net or by phone at 408-382-1008.

Clem Jung (KH7HO), Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC), will also be off island in October from the 7th to the 17th. In his absence, Steve Kawamae (KH6WG) will be the acting SEC. He can be reached by email at kh6wg@arrl.net or by phone at 808-754-9217.

ARRL Section Joins VOAD

What is VOAD? The National VOAD web site has a short definition -- ". . . an association of organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters, provides a forum promoting cooperation, **communication**, coordination and collaboration; and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disasters."

The National ARRL has MOUs with many of the organizations in VOAD so it seems a good meeting place for the Hawaii ARRL to learn about the communication needs of these organizations.

For an in depth look at VOAD see the national organization's web site at <http://www.nvoad.org/about-us/>

The Hawaii VOAD has a web site at <http://hivoad.communityos.org/cms/about>

The ARRL Hawaii Section is joining all the VOAD groups in Hawaii. Kevin Bogan (AH6QO) has been the ARRL representative on the State/Honolulu County VOAD group for many years.

The Hawaii Section has now joined the East Hawaii (Hilo), the Maui and the Kauai County VOADs. The ARRL representatives on these committees are,

VOAD County	Representative
State/Honolulu	Kevin Bogan, AH6QO
Kauai	pending
Maui	Joseph Bardwell, AH6CU
East Hawaii	Kimberly Fendt, WH6KIM

Big Island Hamfest

Steve Milner (WH6N), President of the Kohala-Hamakua Radio Club, gave us a heads-up on the schedule for their annual Big Island Hamfest.

This Hamfest is the largest HAM event in Hawaii and is well attended by Big Island HAMS. The 2016 event will be held on November 12, 2016 from 900 to 1400 hours (9AM to 2 PM) at the Waimea Park Facility on Kawahihea Rd, Kamuela.

This is an Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) Sponsored Event and door prizes and refreshments will be available. Amateur Radio License testing will take place starting at 13:00 (1 PM).

This event is sponsored by Kohala Hamakua Radio Club, the Kona Amateur Radio Society and the ARRL.

For more information, contact Steven Milner, WH6N, at wh6n@arrl.net

Kohala Hamakua Radio Club: <http://www.hamradioandmore.com/khrc.htm>

Kona Amateur Radio Society: <http://www.cfht.hawaii.edu/~veillet/hwars.html>

Steve will be sending out a formal announcement as soon as all the arrangements are made, but says the date is firm.

Visitors from other islands are welcome; a chance to meet friends you've made on the air or haven't seen in a long time.

ARRL Section Adds Public Information Officers

Two PIO (Public Information Officer) positions have been developed for the Hawaii Section.

Russell R. Roberts, KH6JRM, will handle PR releases for Amateur Radio activities on the Big Island. With ARES events and five active clubs on the island, there should be an opportunity to promote Amateur Radio to the general public. Russell is a retired news director from the Pacific Radio Group on the Big Island and brings a lot of new experience to the position.

Darren (Stacy) Holbrook, KH6OWL, will handle news for Oahu. He covers the largest club in Hawaii, Emergency Amateur Radio Club (EARC) with almost 130 members and the Koolau Amateur Radio Club (KARC), one of the most active contesting club in the Pacific. Plenty of radio activities to keep him busy. Stacy has a graduate degree in education and has taught at college courses in TN after retiring his twenty-five years of US Army service.

The HawaiiARRL.info web site has a HAWAII NEWS tab to the blogs they are running for section news.

<https://bigislandarrlnews.wordpress.com/>

<https://oahuarrlnews.wordpress.com/>

Most of the news clips you read here are also released to news outlets in their areas.

Our new PIOs are already very active. The Hawaii SET news got an audio release on the ARNewsline Sep 23rd Podcast - [HawaiiARRLSET2016.mp3](#).

Contesting Note

CQ Worldwide SSB Contest this month – Why not try it out?

In my first article about contesting some months ago I pretty much said what I am about to say, again. If it didn't get your attention or motivate you I hope to make it clear today. The hardest rationale I'm guessing is... "Is radio contesting worth my time"? That's a question lots of people ask themselves. The answer is, stereotypically, "It depends."

With all the distractions in life these days it takes discipline to make time to do the things you like. People who play on HF do lots of different things that will take up their time.

• DX hunting is high on the list.
• So is making casual contacts.
• Some people only do digital work using PSK or JT variants and even the grand dad RTTY mode.
• Some enjoy station building, often concentrating on antennas as they are one of the few things that are not necessarily expensive or require experience in hi-tech fields.

Whatever your interests are, contesting can provide an avenue (and an excuse) to do all of these things. And, you can often do it in a concentrated time frame from a few hours to a couple of days then go back to other demanding interests in your life. The added benefit is that you will typically improve your station, operating skills, DX totals and satisfaction in the hobby by preparing for and participating in a contest.

How is that? It's simple. You can work to design or install new and better antennas for the contest. This will help in the pursuit of the DX entities that often activate for contests and give you a better chance using your new antenna. Being able to quickly respond to changing band conditions during a contest yet maintain effectiveness will make you a better, more knowledgeable operator. Over time, it will prepare you to handle more complex situations such as readiness for EMCOMM events. If you indulge in CW it can provide the push to increasing your code speed. If you haven't tried the digital modes or RTTY, here's your opportunity to figure out how to make it work and learn in the process.

Don't count out radio contesting until you've adequately looked into it. Most testers are happy to share and assist in getting you ready and operational. They are often among the more accomplished and informed hams you can know and learn from. Try it. You might like it.

The largest radio contest of the year takes place this month, October 29 – 30, UTC. Locally, that means 2 PM on Friday, October 28 through 2 PM on Sunday, October 30. You don't have to operate the whole period. The CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest is entered by thousands of hams all over the world. Most as individuals but many in groups operating in categories known as Multi-Single, Multi-Two and Multi-Multi, where one, two or an unlimited number of transmitters can be used (only one transmitting per band at a time). If you want to just observe or play a limited role for your first foray, contact a tester. I think they'll let you listen in or operate a bit (if they're in a multi-op effort) to get your feet wet. Have them show you how they prepared their station. Maybe it will give you

some good ideas for your own. Or, if you can't put up your own station or antennas, here's a way to get to operate using other peoples' station. It may be a better than average one to boot.

<http://www.cqww.com/>

If you don't know any testers drop me an email. I'll try to get you hooked up with one. Until then, good luck and have fun.



KH6YY Contesting Station in Pupukeya

73,

Kimo Chun, KH7U

Volunteer Examiner Century Club

This past month, one more Hawaii Amateur joined the list of VEs participating in 100 or more test sessions. Our thanks to Ed Stanwood (KH6GMB) for his contribution to the Amateur Radio Service in Hawaii!

Volunteer Examiner	Sessions
Raymond A Moody, AH6LT	134
Robert L Schneider, AH6J	127
Beverley A Yuen, AH6NF	102
Edward K Stanwood, KH6GMB	100

ARRL in Social Media

The ARRL HQ is moving into news over social media, as are many segments of our younger population. Here's a summary of current ARRL news releases using social media.

Social Media	Link
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/ARRL.org
Twitter:	
Main ARRL feed:	@ARRL
ARRL News feed:	https://twitter.com/ARRL_News
ARRL ARES/Public Service:	@ARRL_ARES
Media & Public Relations:	@ARRL_PR
DXCC Desk:	@ARRL_DXCC
Youth Editor:	@ARRL_Youth
W1AW:	@ARRL_W1AW
ARRL YouTube Channel:	www.youtube.com/ARRLHQ

Look for Hawaii ARRL section to join the rush to the media outlets followed by younger hams.