

THE WIRELESS DISPATCH



Editor: Ric Maxfield, N6RIC

The President's Corner.....

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EARC is really motivated and been productive so far this year. Membership is up from last year with around 73 paid members. Shirt and hat orders show your pride and ownership in the EARC. Many thank's to Al (NH7WK) and his wife Chris for there assistance in shirts and hats. EARC has received the patches at cost of \$5.00 each. Within the first week we sold 35 patches. Installing the new 146.800-/444.100+ mhz repeaters and controller at Mauna Kapu is complete and sounding great. Mini Field Day had great turn out of about 30 plus hams, and visitors, and it was great to see the EARC membership out. Field Day 2006 with KARC went great seeing allot of you out there. I was unable spend much time as I wanted to there due to illness. Any one has any good idea's for the club please bring them up.

Chris Colquhoun, NH7QH
President

EARC Patches

By: Ric Maxfield, N6RIC

For those that haven't seen them yet, or gotten theirs, the EARC patches are in and they are looking great. They are even iron on. This has turned out to be a great money maker for the club. We have sold almost half of the 100 we ordered and are almost at the break even point. Way to go... The last half will be profits for the club. This also means that, if you haven't gotten yours yet you might want to do so before we run out. At just \$5.00 each it not only makes a great club donation, but you get a great patch.



Field Day 2006

By: Ric Maxfield N6RIC

While plans for this year's Field Day were to be a little more subdued than usual, because a number of the key players/planners were going to be out of town until the last minute, it was hard to tell from the setup and the people involved. While Field Day has been sponsored by KARC in the past, it was always open to all Hams. Being that a number of the KARC members are members of EARC, or vice-versa, this year the EARC was given a more active role in setting up, providing equipment, operating, and of course the tearing down and packing up.

I volunteered my Icom 746 Pro for the SSB station and it was the first time I had done a Field Day from start to finish. While I had enjoyed attending past events, being there for the whole event gives it a completely different feel. I arrived at noon on Friday and helped set up the antennas and the canopies that housed each of the stations. I even set up a tent which proved to be more difficult than the antennas, but with a little help everything came together. By sunset Friday we had everything pretty much in order, so we hung out in the mess tent with both good food and company. Some even got in a little practice as Europe was coming in strong.

The actual Field Day event got under way Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. Hawaii time. (All of the other time zones had to wait until it was 8:00 a.m. here also, so that we were all playing on the same field.) We were running three stations; my SSB station, a CW station, and a GOTA (Get On The Air) station for those new to the event and not wanting to feel the pressure of having to constantly trying to make contacts. We also had some VHF/UHF stations set up and a canopy dedicated to satellite and space station communications. All of our contacts were logged into a computer logging program so that we can submit all of the contact information electronically. Much easier than trying to submit hand written logs and much more accurate. The program also told us when we had already worked a station on that frequency so we could limit the duplicates. Many a time, we would hear a station coming in strong and type their call into the program, only to find out that we had already worked them.



The other big problem we had was communicating to the West Coast. Not that we weren't coming in strong there but most of those stations had their beams point east and couldn't hear us. We got through some of their back doors though and easily to the stations running omni directionals.

We worked mostly 15m and 20m off of a tri-band 3 element yagi that was positioned vertically about 7 feet off the ground. Because of our being so close to the ocean, that gives us a great take off angle. We had no problem contacting stations up and down the eastern coast and we even got a QSO with Puerto Rico.



For the lower bands we had 40m delta loops set up, but from my experience on the SSB station, we had much better luck on 15m and 20m even late into the evening and early morning. I did spend a lot of time working the SSB station. Not that I was hogging it, but we didn't have that many that wanted to, so I just filled in until someone wanted to take a turn.

Field Day ended 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning and I don't think I was ready for it to end. It was a great experience and being that I'm not normally into contesting, I would venture to guess that I made more HF contacts in that 24 hours than I have since I got my general license...

New Mauna Kapu Antenna

By: Chris Colquhoun, NH7QH

Diamond X500HNA was order from Mel at Honolulu Electronics and arrived on the Island on the May 3rd. On the morning of May 5th it was cool and raining morning as we met at the Kapolei McDonalds. The following EARC members showed up to change out the Mauna Kapu antenna; Jim (KH6JKG), Chris (NH7QH), Mike (NO8M), Bruce (NH7WG), Bill (AH6TW), Dennis (WH6QN), David (WH7BD). Some crew worked on removing the old antenna and checking the Helix, while other crew worked on assembling the new antenna and sealing the sections. All hands were standing by as the mast was cranked down and we installed the new X500HNA. Jim, Bill, and Chris were on the roof as Mike, David, Bruce assisted on the ground. Dennis was the camera man. The new antenna needed a few adjustments and then set to go. Jim also installed a new ground rod and ground wire to cabinet. We finished with good radio checks with Joe (NH7WL), Al (NH7WK) and, Ray (NH6RZ). Thank you all for your help and support.



New Mauna Kapu Repeaters....

By: Chris Colquhoun, NH7QH

May 25th the EARC general membership meeting voted to buy new VHF, UHF repeaters and controller for Mauna Kapu. The Kenwood TKR-750 (VHF) and TKR-850 (UHF) and RC210 Arcom controller were ordered on May 26th Ken (AH6LE) ordered the units from Kenwood and due end of month inventory there was a delay in shipping. The repeaters were shipped to Ken June 8th for programming and tuning. Ken shipped the repeaters to me on the June 10th and they arrived on the June 14th.

Jim (KH6JKG) and I went to the repeater site on June 14th to check out and preplan for next day. We also went by I.C. Supply to pick up a few needed items for the June 15th install.

On the morning of June 15th the EARC working party met at the Kapolei McDonalds. The following EARC members: Jim (KH6JKG), Chris (NH7QH), Bruce (NH7WG), Bill (AH6TW), Dennis (WH6QN), David (WH7BD). Bill and Bruce started removing the old VHF Engineering repeater, controller, and various equipment. Cleaning of the rack and all RF connectors began. Jim, Dennis, David and I opened new repeaters and controller. Jim was reviewing the material on the controller. David and I installed cables and handles to repeaters. It was time to test fit the new repeaters and controller. First was the power supply with a new rack mount tray. Then the VHF, controller, UHF, and UHF duplexer were set in. The units were moved around and then set in their final spots. Then the new cables between the repeaters, duplexers, and antenna were connected, followed by power cables and the repeater controller. The working party assembled as it was time to power on the new EARC repeaters. I turned on the VHF repeater, as it powers the controller, and then the UHF. The repeaters came up saying this is "RC210 repeater controller". David and I went in and started programming the controller by computer. The controller was operating properly and it was time to go home.

Going down the mountain talking with Ray (NH6RZ), we noticed that signal on VHF was not as strong as UHF. David and I planned to go eat and pick up a RF connector needed before returning to the site. David and I returned to the site around 1830 and began trouble shooting the site. We Checked all connections on the controller and programming of the

VHF repeater. The SWR on the VHF machine was very high and David noticed that a loss "N" connector on duplexer. We checked all connections on the duplexers and when we rechecked the SWR it was back to normal. Ray conducted radio checks they were satisfactory. At 2330 hrs it was time to go home, ending a long work day put in.



Emergency Amateur Radio Club

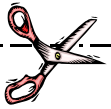
Membership Application Form

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.

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 _____)

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ - _____

HOME PHONE: () _____ . WORK: () _____ . PAGER: () _____ .

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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

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Emergency Amateur Radio Club

Primary Business Address
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Yahoo Group (Reflector): WH6CZB_EARC



To:

Mauna Kapu Repeater Donations....

By: Ric Maxfield, N6RIC

Again the club has spoken and shown their enthusiasm in supporting the club. The decision was made to replace the repeaters at Mauna Kapu using club funds. However, many of you wanted to show additional support by donating directly to the repeater fund. To date, we have collected \$1,200.00 in donations. A big Mahalo for all the help...