

THE WIRELESS DISPATCH



Editor: Ric Maxfield, N6RIC

The President's Corner.....

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On Saturday 25th February started out to be an early morning. First stop to see Steve, NH7ZD from safety gear. Then on to Connie's and Toms house for the keys to the site. I would like to thank Clem, KH7HO for open access road from State Civil Defense to repeater site. Ric, N6RIC for providing the Diamond VHF F23A sounds great. I would like to thank Justin, KG6ZRY for being on the pole for three hours straight. I would also like to thank all ground staff for their support. Great job and safety was first.

We are looking to do a Mini Field Day McCoy Pavilion with Civil Defense. Field Day 2006 will be cosponsored with KARC. More details to follow.

Repeater Fund: Currently we have the 146.800 mhz machine on mainland getting estimation on repairs. The 444.100 mhz machine is with Bernie, KH6IAH trouble shooting it. We are looking at new heavy-duty antenna for the Mauna Kapu.

The first shirt order was put on hold for few weeks. The order will be put in on 11 April and the samples I have received are nice. Thanks AL and Chris Pascua for their support.

Congratulate Mike, AH6SI and Ric, N6RIC on his new call sign extra class licenses.

73's,
Chris
NH7QH

If You Haven't Already, It's Time to Renew Your Membership

Time flies and we're well into the new year. Dues are due at the beginning of each year and are then prorated for a partial year for new members. All of us renewing our memberships need to pay \$20.00, no matter when during the year it is paid. EARC draws its

operating funds from the dues collected. It isn't much coming in so it is important that each of us renew at the beginning of the year so the funds can be utilized in support of the club. Dues can be given to Treasure Ric Maxfield at the meetings or mailed to:

EARC
P.O. Box 30315
Honolulu, HI 96820

A renewal/membership form can be found on our website and on page 4 of this newsletter.

Mahalo...

February Meeting and the International Space Station

By: David Cabatu, AH7E

February's meeting Had Ron Hashiro (AH6RH) sharing with the club the how to's of contacting the International Space Station. It was a great presentation, with a lot of good instruction. While we weren't able to make a contact during the meeting, as you can see below it spurred a lot of interest.

Early morning QSO brings smiles to Hawaii Hams

HONOLULU -- For Ron Hashiro (AH6RH), the quest to make contact with a space satellite equipped with amateur radio transmitting equipment has remained elusive, until just recently.

As the International Space Station whizzed over Hawaii in the early morning hours of March 5, hams all across the state had a rare opportunity to make contact with Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, Expedition 12 commander.

Not even Mother Nature could dampen the festive mood in Waikiki, where it took a group of hams including Hashiro about 20 minutes set up an Icom IC-208H running 50 and 15 watts into an Arrow 3-element UHF/VHF satellite antenna mounted horizontally on a Bogan tripod with a video fluid head.

Joining Hashiro at the Waikiki site were David Cabatu (AH7E), Ann Miller (KH6W), Ernie Murphy (NH7L), and Hans Kobashigawa (KH7GN).

Amateur radio has been carried aboard orbiting U.S. space shuttles for nearly 15 years now. It all began in the fall of 1983 with the shuttle mission STS-9:

"On November 28, 1983, STS-9 was launched carrying Mission Specialist Owen Garriott (W5LFL), and his ham radio into orbit. For 10 days the Space Shuttle Columbia streaked through the skies, and for the last 7 of those days, hams around the world were sent emotionally into orbit when they heard Dr. Garriott's voice break the squelches calling earthbound stations. But it was just the beginning. Amateur Radio had moved into its newest frontier, and it was there to stay."

After tracking and listening to the space station all during the time it was being built and hearing only school contacts during the last four and a half years, Ray Nawrocki (NH6RZ), finally caught the big fish on 8 January 2006 at 23:05 (UTC), as the ISS passed over the Big Island of Hawaii.

When you talk to him about his two-way radio contact with the ISS, Nawrocki's voice is full of enthusiasm.

He is no stranger to amateur radio space communications. He worked McArthur on October 30, 1993, when McArthur was an astronaut aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia (STS-58). Also aboard STS-58 was Payload Specialist Martin Fettman, KC5AXA. He also made voice and digital contacts with the Russian Space Station MIR in 1995 and 1996.

The pass of orbit 46861.38 started at 11:08:25 (UTC) at azimuth 301, peaking at azimuth 236, elevation of 19 degrees, and ending at 11:17:09 (UTC) at azimuth 167.

The ISS traveled off the Waianae Coast, heading southeast and was about 563 miles away at the closest point of approach.

McArthur is the most active amateur in space, given his stay of about six months. He is into breaking all kinds of space DX'ing records.

Hawaii is the only spot on earth completely surrounded by ocean, which limits the potential for interference from a multitude of ham operators, yet has a sufficiently large population of skilled amateurs compared to exotic locations such as Kiribati.



The ISS is the most advanced amateur radio platform operating in space today. It represents the most challenging and exciting form of live space DX available, especially when you've made a two-way contact with a live astronaut moving at 17,500 mph at 1,200 miles away.

Although only seventeen stations on three islands made contact during the 8-minute pass, Hashiro believes that through the coordination of ham clubs statewide, the entire community can potentially double or triple the QSO rate the next time an opportunity like this presents itself. And, we'd be all blown away statewide that we got it done.

Whenever the next opportunity presents itself, it could be once in a lifetime, or once in a decade.



March Meeting....

By: Ric Maxfield, N6RIC

- After a number of EARC and OCDA Hams helped out with the Red Cross setting up an Emergency Shelter (fortunately a practice session), it was realized that the Hams involved either had no formal training in message handling or had been through different training. While we were able to do a great job on getting the practice messages passed, the realization was that this would be a great topic for one of our meetings. So VP Kevin Bogan (AH6QO) stepped up to the task of teaching message handling the way the Red Cross wants it handled. We had a strong turn out and in addition to the message handling, we also took some time out to work on our CW skills.

A New Reflector....

• By: Chris Colquhoun, NH7QH

We are starting a new group by request. I asked to keep this group up until the end of the month. The new group is called WH6CZB_EARC Please cut and paste this email address.

WH6CZB_EARC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Send blank email to the address. You will get a reply back and follow the instructions. Any include call sign why want join the group.

A New Antenna on Diamond Head....

By: Ric Maxfield, N6RIC

After a number of problems with the Diamond Head repeater, it was decided to isolate where the problems were coming from. We weren't sure exactly where the issue was, but there was a strong belief that it was in the antenna. I had a Diamond 2m Antenna, that had only been up a few months before I moved to Hawaii and I hadn't put it up here because of the antenna restrictions where I own my house in Makakilo. I volunteered my antenna, before we bought one, to see if that was the problem. On Saturday, February 25, 2006, we put a work party together to tackle the job of replacing antenna. Of course, getting to the antenna couldn't be easy. The upper most, right side, antenna on top of the telephone pole in the bottom right picture is the antenna for the 146.880 repeater. While we probably could have located it to an easier to get to location, it wouldn't give us as good a coverage. So, someone would have to climb the pole, scoot out on the cross member and balance a 20' antenna while dropping it into place. Fortunately, we found just the person to handle the task. Justin Harman, KG6ZRY, a friend of Chris' NH7QH, out on the base, volunteered to be the pole monkey. It was a great day, with no rain and the wind even cooperated most of the time. There were a few gusts, but it always settled down at the right moments. Justin performed admirably, no pun intended,

and the new antenna was put into place with only a few minor challenges that our great support team rallied around and overcame. Because of Justin's volunteering, the board voted to comp him a club membership. Since putting the antenna up, the performance has improved considerably. It was decided by the board to purchase that antenna and leave it in place, rather than going through all the trouble of purchasing a new one and having to climb the pole again. Thanks to everyone who helped out.



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 _____)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ - _____

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ FAX: (____) _____.

☐ I would like to subscribe to the EARC e-mail listserv (no spam, just news!).

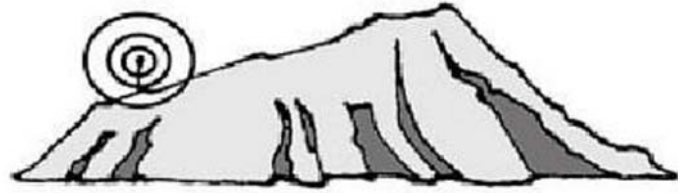
☐ I am willing to read the Wireless Dispatch online instead of receiving a paper copy (saves the club \$\$).

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
PO Box 30315
Honolulu, HI 96820



Yahoo Group (Reflector): WH6CZB_EARC



To: