

Wireless Dispatch

EMERGENCY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P. O. Box 30315
Honolulu, Hawaii
Autumn, 2002

On the Web at <http://www.qsl.net/earc>

Contact: Kevin Bogan, President at ah6qo@arrl.net

Nightly Nets 1930 HST on 146.88- & 444.500+MHz M-F

General Elections: October 24, 2002, 7:00 P.M. at the American Red Cross Bldg. 4155 Diamond Head Road. Talk-in freq is 146.88- MHz. Please come to the General Membership meeting and support the club by attending and voting.

Proposed slate:

President - Kevin Bogan, AH6QO
Vice-President - Jim Connell, KH6JJKG
Secretary – Crissy Terawaki Kawamoto, KH7CHI
Treasurer – Todd Kawamoto, KH7UK
Other Board of Directors:
Randy Kurashige, AH6Q
Russell Houlton, WH7O
David Cabatu, AH7E

**Please
attend
and vote!**

About **a nickel a day** keeps the repeaters in play. Support the EARC and send in your membership renewal form for 2003. Thanks!!

20 November 2002 General Membership meeting: Tour of OCDA's new facilities Bring picture ID and meet at 6:50 p.m. at the entrance of the HMB

In This Issue:

EARC Schedule

EARC repeaters

President's Message

Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors

Power Connections: Anderson Powerpole

EARC Schedule and events that affect members:

October 24 - General Membership meeting: Elections! Members, please attend and vote.

11 November - Board of Directors meeting ARCDH 7:00 p.m.

20 November - General Membership meeting: OCDA Tour of newly redesigned facilities. CDARC will provide testing of all classes of licenses. Become a Ham or Upgrade!

9 December - Board of Directors meeting ARCDH 7:00 p.m.

December - No General Membership meeting - Happy Holidays!

E.A.R.C. REPEATERS

Diamond Head.....	VHF 146.880- UHF 444.500+
Honolulu Municipal Building.....	VHF 146.980- UHF 448.700-
Laie	VHF 146.640- Link to 146.76
Mauna Kapu.....	VHF 146.800- UHF 444.100+
Mt. Olomana.....	VHF 146.660- UHF 449.150-
Peacock Flats.....	VHF146.760- Link to 146.64

President's Message

By Kevin Bogan, AH6QO

Good News! The repeaters have been up since **June 25** thanks to the efforts of **Jim Connell, KH6JKG**; **Todd Kawamoto, KH7UK**; and others. Besides daily use by members and other amateurs, the repeaters continue to be used for our nightly nets and special events. We let you know when the repeaters will be used for parades, activations, or other events as soon as we receive and grant the requests from the event sponsors to hold nets on repeaters for which we are responsible. To keep this tradition going, we entered into a **Memorandum Of Understanding** with the O'ahu Civil Defense Agency and its amateur communications service, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (OAHU RACES). With this MOU, the club has set on paper the bond that the club has forged with Civil Defense for mutual support of repeaters and emergency communications. Wayne Jones, NH6K, and Ray Moody, AH6LT, signed for OCDA and RACES, respectively. More good news, after signing the MOU and completing years of service to OCDA and our public safety, **Wayne retired**. The better news is that **he is staying here** and is more active than ever as a conduit of information and requests for Amateur Radio support. Randy Kurashige, AH6Q, said, "I see him more now than when he was the Communications Officer at OCDA!" We hope we see more of these folks at the **OCDA tour** on November 20. Ray will be there with other VE's from OCDA RACES's Civil Defense Amateur Radio Club (CD ARC) providing **testing** for classes of license. Contact Ray at moody@hawaii.edu.

And more good news! Filling the void left by **Dale Fajardo, AH7D**, who left for **the mainland** earlier this year, **Todd offered to assume the duties of club treasurer of the club**. This is on top of the seriously important responsibility he undertook in becoming **the trustee for the club repeaters** (FCC-talk for the guy who gets in trouble when we screw up). We thank him for his great contributions, especially since he and our club secretary, Crissy, KH7CHI, were married in June. **Congratulations and Best Wishes to both Todd and Crissy!**

Let's show our **appreciation**, too, to the **NCS's** who conduct the nightly nets:

Monday - Tom Thornton, AH6ZZ

Tuesday – David Cabatu, AH7E, (also, Net Manger and QSL card coor.)

1st & 3rd Wednesday – Kevin Bogan, AH6QO EARC President

Thursday – Kurtis Mabe, NH7BG

Friday – dark or AH7E

As you can see, we **need more NCS's**. It's not difficult. It gives you experience handling multiple stations in a net and makes you a better net participant yourself. **E-mail David at ah7e@arrl.net for more info.**

We would like to **welcome the new members** who have recently joined. We are still compiling the list of new members and will acknowledge you in the next issue of the Wireless Dispatch. We hope to see you at the club meetings and talk to you on repeaters (or simplex!). We are here to help you in learning more about Amateur Radio and Emergency Communications. One of the best ways is to get involved. **If you have a skill or field of expertise help us learn it. Please let me know how we can help or how you can help us. Contact me at ah6qo@arrl.net.**

Again, I **would like to thank Bill and Doe Saderup** (KF6ORR and KF6ORS) for editing and publishing the WD in the past. One of the new members **Maude Williams, NH7IX**, has offered to help in folding, stamping, and mailing subsequent issues. With her help and **stream-lining the newsletter, we will be delivering to you the Wireless Dispatch on its bi-monthly schedule.** Plans are underway to **publish one more newsletter after the elections.** Please **contribute your articles!** We are always looking for articles that inform and educate our members. Just look at the informative article on Anderson Powerpole DC connectors by Russell Houlton, WH7O in this issue. If you would like to contribute, but hesitate in writing an article, let me know and we can meet for coffee. I can interview you Q&A style or just let you tell your story and then we can write it up.

Final note, winter is coming up and we will be leaving hurricane season. Take a look at the news, think about next year, and develop your strategy for organizing what you will need to have in an emergency – then do it!!

EARC Minutes of Board of Directors Meetings

12 August 2002

Meeting called to order: 19:12.

IN ATTENDANCE: David Cabatu (AH7E), Randy Kurashige (AH6Q), Jim Connell (KH6JKG), Todd Kawamoto (KH7UK), Crissy Terawaki Kawamoto (KH7CHI), Kevin Bogan (AH6QO), Russell Houlton (WH7O)
ABSENT: Dennis Yee (AH6P)

- I. APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES
 - MSC: Jim/David.
 - Kevin will e-mail an amended version of the minutes to Crissy for record-keeping purposes.
- II. TREASURER'S REPORT
 - We still don't have a treasurer, so no treasurer's report is available this month.
 - Kevin handed the P.O. box key to Todd.
 - Kevin moved that the club appoint Todd treasurer and acquire the Mac version of Quicken (with an upper limit of \$60) for his use.
 - MSC: Kevin/Russell. All members voted in favor.
- III. TECHNICAL REPORT
 - Kevin "pinged" the repeater control ops. He also met with Ed Choy, who said he would be willing to be a control op for some of the East Oahu repeaters. We still need control ops for the West Oahu repeaters; Kevin will check with Bev and Jim Yuen regarding this. Once the matter is settled, we will make sure everyone gets the codes.
 - Jim: All repeaters are up and functioning (no changes since last month). The Laie controller change is still pending.
- IV. WIRELESS DISPATCH
 - Kevin is still working on the next issue of the WD.
- V. NON-PROFIT STATUS
 - Still pending. Now that we have a treasurer, we may be able to move forward in re-filing.
- VI. MEMBERSHIP
 - Randy reported no changes in the membership.
- VII. NET MANAGER REPORT
 - David has received sporadic reports back from the NCSs, who have thus far logged about 65 check-ins for July.
 - He is still working on the new script.
- VIII. MOU BETWEEN OCDA & EARC
 - The MOU is finished and signed by Kevin and Wayne.
- IX. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TOPICS
 - August: NVIS @ OCDA (tentative)
 - September: Kevin will not be here. Ron Hashiro will be presenting @ Red Cross.
 - October: Elections @ Red Cross.
 - November: OCDA Tour.
- X. REPEATER USAGE
 - Kevin is still working on the list of authorized-but-not-necessarily-sanctioned events. The plan is to keep a list of historically repeater-used events, but event coordinators would still be required to seek permission from the EARC president prior to repeater use.
- XI. NEW ITEMS
 - A. Election Committee
 - Kevin asked David if he would be willing to serve as Nominations Chair. David will make a decision and report back.
 - B. Adoption of Standardized Connectors

- In recognition of the fact that the amateur radio community has been moving toward the use of Anderson Power Pole connectors as a standard, the EARC recommends that its members adopt the Anderson Power Pole 15/30-amp connector with red on the left as their 12-volt DC power connector standard.

Meeting adjourned, 20:34. MSC: Russell, Crissy.

09 September 2002

Meeting called to order: 19:13.

IN ATTENDANCE: David Cabatu (AH7E), Randy Kurashige (AH6Q), Jim Connell (KH6JKG), Todd Kawamoto (KH7UK), Crissy Terawaki Kawamoto (KH7CHI)*, Russell Houlton (WH7O)

ABSENT: Dennis Yee (AH6P), Kevin Bogan (AH6QO)

* moderator

XII. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES

- MSC: Russell/Todd
- August minutes approved.

XIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

- No Treasurer's Report.
- Todd price-shopped for Quicken for Mac. The most affordable option, as of two weeks ago, is ordering via Intuit's website (\$49.99 with a \$10 instant rebate). Todd will pursue purchase of software.

XIV. TECHNICAL REPORT

- Jim: All repeaters maintain their statuses from last month. The main problem in Laie is that the UHF receiver is not keying up the VHF. Jim will look at it tomorrow. He will also stop by Olomana on Sept. 18.
- Jim is in the process of putting up copies of our club license at each of the repeater sites.
- Todd: Packet cluster is operating.
- Randy suggested that the current set of control codes should be distributed to the Board of Directors and to the control ops.

XV. WIRELESS DISPATCH

- No report.

XVI. NON-PROFIT STATUS

- Crissy would like to find out what the responsibilities of being a non-profit organization are, before we proceed with re-filing for non-profit status. Todd will follow up on gathering information.

XVII. MEMBERSHIP

- We have gained one renewal since last month.

XVIII. NET MANAGER REPORT

- David has once again received sporadic reports from NCSs. He is still awaiting reports from Kevin and Tom, but from what he's counted so far, we had about 75 check-ins for the month of August.
- The new script is prepared and ready for distribution.

XIX. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TOPICS

- September: Ron Hashiro will be presenting at Red Cross. Crissy will conduct the meeting, since Kevin will not be here.
- October: Elections at Red Cross. Jim suggested that we should have some sort of presentation in addition to the elections. He will check with Carter Davis (KH6FV) to see if he would be willing to present on 24 October about his IRLP/UHF system and will let us know via e-mail as soon as possible.
- November: OCDA Tour. Russell will confirm that the OCDA tour will be taking place and e-mail the BoD to update us.

XX. REPEATER USAGE

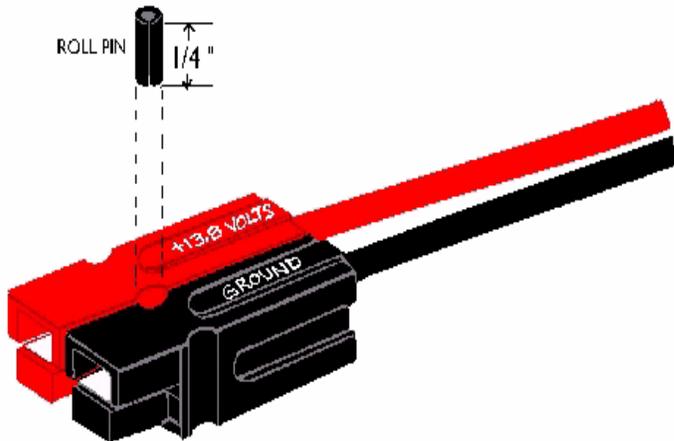
- No report.

XXI. ELECTION COMMITTEE

- David will not be able to serve as Nominations Chair. None of the other non-officer BoD members are able to make the commitment.
- Randy proposed that at the September GM meeting, the BoD field nominations from the general membership for next year's BoD and officer positions.
- Crissy will send an e-mail to the GM listserv to let people know that if they would like to express interest in becoming a nominee ahead of time, they can do so via e-mail.

Meeting adjourned, 19:55. MSC: Russell/David.

Standardized Connectors: Anderson Powerpole



By Russell Houlton, WH7O
 One of the movements within amateur radio in recent years has been the adoption of the Anderson Powerpole as a standard for 12V DC power connector. (See illustration to the left - original is in red & black, red is on the left side. Ed.) Why is it important to standardize on a connector? Imagine a large joint operation such as a disaster or Field Day where everyone used a different connector for power. It

would be difficult to pool equipment to meet the group's goals. Everyone's antenna connections will generally be either PL259 or BNC, but time would be lost trying to patch power together.

Previously the suggested standard was the Molex plug found in many electronics stores including Radio Shack. But it had its limitations. It was only rated for 8 Amps making it marginal for mobile VHF rig and unusable for a full power HF rig. It also had its quirks such as getting frozen or welded together. Binding posts are OK up to a point. It can handle a lot of current but can be difficult to get wires to wrap around the post. It can be hazardous to connect or disconnect with power applied, as there is a risk of a wire coming loose and shorting something out. It's really not a "plug". It occupies too much space

and it's slow to connect and disconnect equipment. "Banana Jacks" have been around forever, but have not found favor as a power connector.

So what is the Anderson Powerpole? It's a small, compact, reliable, reasonably priced connector with low contact resistance. There are many models to choose from, but the one everyone is standardizing on is the 30 Amp model. The connector is sexless. This means there are fewer parts to stock since there are no separate male or female parts. It also means that in a pinch a power supply that normally powers a rig can be used to charge a battery. A Powerpole power strip (like a RigRunner) can be used to power rigs as well as connecting multiple batteries in parallel.

The recommended configuration is two single conductor connectors that slide together. A red one for positive and black for negative. An optional 3/32-inch-diameter roll pin, 1/4 inch long can be used, to keep the housings from sliding apart. The contact is crimped onto the wire. Soldering could be done, but not recommended since you may end up having solder flow onto the contact area and foul the connector. While Anderson sells an expensive "official" crimper, a suitable tool can be found at the local Home Depot for under \$10 - the Gardner Bender GS-88. After crimping the lug, slide it into the connector until it locks in place. To maintain compatibility with other users, make sure you have the red on the left as you look at the connector end with the hood on top (see illustration). The 30 Amp connector is designed to work with 16 - 12 gauge wire. There is a 15 Amp connector that is plug compatible with the 30 Amp but is designed for crimping onto 20 - 16 gauge wire. The only problem with the using the 15 Amp plug is that one would have to stock a complete set of parts for both 15A and 30A.

You may not want to stop at just the connectors. You may want to look at a product called RigRunner from West Mountain Radio. It's a handy, fully fused power strip using Powerpole connectors. Now you can manage your 12V DC power as easily as your household 120V AC. For protection it uses common automotive fuses. If a fuse blows, a LED just under the fuse will light up to indicate the condition. Higher models also contain voltage alarms to warn if you the batteries are about to die or if the power supply is running away.

Because of its quality, the Powerpole had gained considerable support in the last few years. Many RACES and ARES groups around the nation have endorsed it and it is listed in the ARRL Emergency Communications class material. And it's not just Radio Amateurs: R/C enthusiasts have been using the Anderson Powerpole for many years. In light of all the advantages of the Powerpole, in the August board meeting the EARC passed a motion to encourage members to use the Anderson Powerpole as a power connection standard.

Sources:

Unfortunately, no one on the island seems to stock the connector. We hope this will change. Until then, there are several mail-order sources. Just be careful - once you have the catalog open, the temptation to add more "stuff" to the order may be irresistible.

Cable X-perts, Inc.

Also a great source of very flexible heavy gage power cable.

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

DC Power

Also carries the parts needed to panel mount the connector.

<http://www.dcpwr.com/prices.html>

PowerWerx

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

Anderson Powerpole Manufacturer's website

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

West Mountain Radio Connectors and RigRunner power strips

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

Illustration of connector from <http://www.races.net/images/powrpole.gif>)