



# Ham Radio Hawaii Newsletter

#5, Issue 1004

KH6OWL

December 2020

Welcome to the only newsletter for Amateur radio across all the Hawaiian Islands. Please send in any events or topics and be a contributor for your islands to [KH6OWL@arrrl.net](mailto:KH6OWL@arrrl.net).

ARRL opposes Increase in FCC application fee: <http://www.arrrl.org/FCC-Fees-Proposal>

## Events:

### Upcoming Amateur Radio Classes:

Oahu: <http://www.earchi.org/education/>

Are you looking to take the FCC Amateur Radio exam? You can register at this website.

<http://hameducation.org/register/>

## Beginners Corner

Website for new hams. Click [Here](#)

Ham Radio School: [The Basics](#)

**Coax:** PL-259 is the most common RF connector you'll encounter in amateur Radio..... From SEP/OCT 2020 edition of ARRL "On the Air" digital Magazine.



- |   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| 1 | Shell      | Screws on (or, in the case of the BNC, twists on) to attach to the female connector. |
| 2 | Shield     | Attaches to the outer shield of the coaxial cable.                                   |
| 3 | Insulator  | Separates the shield from the center pin.  |
| 4 | Center Pin | Attaches to the center wire of the coaxial cable.                                    |

Another good site for coax cable can be found [here](#).

## Around the Islands

**Oahu:** The Emergency Amateur Radio Club website can be found by clicking [here](#).

**Maui:** [Repeaters on Maui](#)

The Maui Amateur Radio Club website can be found by clicking [here](#).

**Big Island:** [Repeaters on the Big Island](#)

The Big Island Amateur Radio Club website can be found by clicking [here](#).

BIARC is restarting QSL card service, to be facilitated by club members working together to transport cards from the Hawaii QSL Bureau in Honolulu and distribute them to BIARC folks back on the Big Island. For more info, contact Darrell [atdasuka001@gmail.com](mailto:atdasuka001@gmail.com)

**Kauai** [Repeaters on Kauai](#) The Kauai Amateur Radio club website can be found by clicking [here](#).

**Lania:** [Repeaters on Lanai](#)

**Molokai:** [Repeaters on Molokai](#)

**YouTube Video:** Pi-Star Image settings.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=W1MSG](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=W1MSG)

EARCHI Antenna Build on QRZ and [Youtube](#).

I listen to the two ARRL's podcast and have learned a lot of things. The latest is RSID. **Reed-Solomon Identification.** Apparently, this will help you determine the digital sounds you hear if you use Ham Radio Deluxe, MultiPSK or FLDIGI.

RSID allows the automatic identification of any digital transmission which has been assigned a unique code identifier. All RSID's are detected by *fldigi*, but not all are decoded. All detected codes are announced. On reception of a RS ID, two events occur: the mode used is detected and the central frequency of the RSID, which is also the central frequency of the identified mode, is determined with a precision of 2.7 Hz. This is sufficient to allow all current modes to begin accurate decoding. This is an excellent way to ensure that signals like MFSK are properly tuned and decoded.

[www.hamradiohawaii.com](http://www.hamradiohawaii.com)





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The podcasts are free, educational and are worth listening to them IMO. You don't have to be a member of ARRL or a ham operating to listen.

ARRL podcast are "On the Air" and Eclectic Tech.

**Ham radio to the rescue.** Baofeng saves the life of ham radio operator

Here is a YouTube video that shows [RSID in action](#).

Portable Antenna DIY Adapter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UnuEUvuPII>

<http://k0lwc.com/baofeng-saves-the-life-of-ham-radio-operator/>

Ham radio operators help save lives in Tinder Fire

Amateur radios and their operators beat out modern technology last Sunday, possibly helping save lives in the Tinder Fire.

Author: Jessica De Nova

Published: 6:14 PM MST April 30, 2018

Updated: 7:03 PM MST April 30, 2018

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – Amateur radios and their operators beat out modern technology last Sunday, possibly helping save lives in the Tinder Fire.

This form of communication is more than a century old.

Bill and Mary Lou Hagan are members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

The two and their emergency district coordinator, Joe Hobart, were at the Coconino County Emergency Operations Center (EOS) Sunday, when the communication troubles began because of poor cell service at the fire line.

"The cell phones started to become difficult and all of a sudden, the information started coming through here," Bill Hagan said.

Hobart isn't too fond of the name more commonly used for amateur radio—ham radio.

"I think it started out as a not-very-complimentary term, you've heard of ham actors?" Hobart said.

This is just a pastime for the Hagans, who have been married for 54 years.

"It's a hobby to see how far away you can talk to people," Bill Hagan said. Sunday, these ARES volunteers were anything but fun and games. On the other end was a team member on the fire line needing to get evacuation information out fast.

"There was no time to waste," Mary Lou Hagan said. For two hours, these hams relayed life-saving information, getting out a code red to those in the Blue Ridge community in the path of the flames.

"That's what you're here for. You're here to help your neighbors and they're our neighbors and the firemen you have to support them," Mary Lou Hagan said.

"I think the commercial people made a bit of fun of us until they found out that we were sometimes kind of useful," Hobart said.

Trivia:

October 30, 2020, marked the 82nd anniversary of Orson Welles "destroying" the world (and CBS radio) before our very ears. With WW 2 looming on the horizon, Welles and his Mercury Theater of the Air radio troupe performed a dramatization of the H.G. Wells classic, *The War of the Worlds*. In a little under one hour, he had Americans convinced that Earth was being invaded by Martians.

What does this have to do with Amateur Radio?

At 38:19 there is a line, "2X2L calling CQ, 2X2I calling CQ..." And just think, back then there wasn't the need to explain that you were hearing an Amateur Radio operator.

73 and Happy Halloween to all the PIOs and PICs,  
E. Gordon Mooneyhan, W4EGM

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From May/June 2020 edition of ARRL "On the Air" digital Magazine.

## Seven Tips for Better Repeater Operating

Repeaters do one thing: repeat signals. Thanks to repeaters, VHF and UHF signals that might only travel a few miles on their own can span tens and even hundreds of miles. These seven tips will give you insight into how and why repeaters work the way they do, and how you can be a courteous repeater user.



### 1. Recognize the Squelch Tail

When a repeater relays a signal, the repeater continues to transmit for a couple of seconds after the signal disappears. This provides a moment of silence so that another station can break into the conversation before someone else begins talking.

If you're using your transceiver's squelch to block noise when you aren't receiving signals, the repeater's transmission will keep your squelch open so you can hear other signals that might appear. This is known as a *squelch tail*. When the repeater finally stops transmitting, your radio's squelch will close with a soft "pop" or "pfttt" sound.



### 2. Obey the Courtesy Beep

Many repeaters send a chirp or beep as part of their squelch tails. This is a part of a system to enforce courtesy, which is why it is called a *courtesy beep*.

Some inconsiderate repeater operators will immediately begin talking at the moment the other station stops transmitting. This doesn't leave enough time for anyone else to be heard, which can be a serious issue if a station needs to interrupt with an emergency.

Waiting to transmit until the courtesy beep sounds allows time for another station to be heard. Hams who don't wait for the courtesy beep before they begin talking are being rude, and repeaters have some built-in discipline for them — the *time-out timer*.



### 3. Beware the Time-Out Timer

Most repeaters impose a limit on how long they will relay a given signal. A 3-minute limit is common.

When you begin transmitting through a repeater, a timer starts running. When you stop transmitting, the timer resets to zero. However, if you keep talking beyond the limit, the repeater shuts down—you've "timed out" the repeater. When you finally stop talking, the repeater will resume operation.

Timing out a repeater can be embarrassing. When the repeater resumes operation, you'll often hear that talkative ham sheepishly say, "Oops! I must have timed out the machine."

The courtesy beep also plays a role. If you start transmitting before hearing the courtesy beep, the time-out timer won't reset to zero. Instead, it keeps running, counting down to the inevitable 3-minute shutdown.





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## 4. Break In the Right Way

If you need to break into a conversation, take advantage of the silence in the squelch tail, but be courteous. When one station stops transmitting, and before the courtesy beep sounds, press your push-to-talk button and say your call sign. That's all you need to do.

The other operators should stop talking, acknowledge you, and allow you to continue. For example:

**STATION 1:** So when can you meet me at the restaurant, Charlie?

**YOU:** N1ND.

**STATION 2:** N1ND acknowledged. Go ahead.

Never use the word "break" or "breaker" unless you have an emergency.

## 5. Dealing with Doubling

Things sometimes go wrong, despite the best intentions. When it comes to repeaters, two stations will occasionally transmit at the same time. This is called *doubling*. A repeater responds to doubling by trying to relay both signals simultaneously!

On FM repeaters, the two signals will combine to create an incoherent screeching, growing noise that will continue until one station or the other stops talking. That's when you'll probably hear someone else say, "You guys were doubling," meaning nobody understood a word that was said!

## 6. Kerchunk If You Must, But...

It's understandable that you'd want to test a repeater before you attempt to make a contact, to see if the repeater is hearing you. A short transmission will cause a repeater to respond — assuming it hears you — and you'll hear its squelch tail.

Because of the sound of the squelch tail, this practice is called *kerchunking*. If you say your call sign when you conduct your test, kerchunking is legal. But if you don't identify yourself, kerchunking is illegal.

## 7. Stand By for the ID

Repeaters identify themselves on a regular basis, and often do so at the beginning of every hour. Many repeaters send their call signs in Morse code, while others use voice recordings.

If you're using an FM repeater that sends a Morse code or voice ID, it is courteous to stop talking until the identification is finished. Besides, it may be difficult for others to understand you if the repeater is "talking" at the same time!

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<http://www.hamradiohawaii.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HamRadioHawaii/>

<https://twitter.com/hamradiohawaii>

<https://www.instagram.com/hamradiohawaii/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0Z8N87aGnJS9yuVOCrPc9Q>

<https://www.qrz.com/db/KH6OWL>

[www.hawaiiidmr.com](http://www.hawaiiidmr.com)

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