

Big Island Grid Madness – SUMMARY and RESULTS 2014

Sponsored by Kona Amateur Radio Society

The first running of this event was held on Sunday, September 21st, 2014. You can find complete information and rules at

<http://www.cfht.hawaii.edu/~veillet/KARSpic/GridMadness.pdf>

Here's a summary:

Winners

- First Place Base Station and First Place Overall: Norm Cohler, **NH7UA** from Kawaihae
- First Place Mobile Station: Eric Grabowski, **KH6CQ** from Waikoloa Village

Congratulations and thank you for your contributions!

Certificates

Each entrant submitting a log received a certificate: In addition to the winners, certificates went to **AH6SN**, **NH7ZF** and **WH6DYH**. Thanks for joining in the fun!



Other Stations Participating (no log submitted)

- KH6DE
- WH6ENG
- AH6RC
- KH7T
- NH7IT
- WH6CPD
- AH6KO (check log only)

Numbers

- Participating stations: **12**
- Logs submitted: **8** (2 stations submitted entries in 2 classes)
- Grids activated: **20** (see map below)
- QSOs: **68** (approx 58 VHF, 10 UHF)
- Relays reported: **7**
- Longest relay reported: **41 miles** (Honaunau BK29bk to Kawaihae BL20bb)
- Roaming stations: **3** (KH7T, KH6CQ, AH6KO)

Lessons Learned

- When operating simplex, turn off your squelch. This was mentioned by several hams, and we probably missed a few QSOs before we got a clue.
- On the West side, a relay station on the coast is very effective. Some hams cannot hit repeaters or use simplex from locations that are in “holes” or ravines (e.g. on the slopes of Hualalai). But almost all can see the coast. BK29xp (Old Airport) is a good one.
- The event manager should monitor the contest frequencies continuously before the event. (An AllStar node showed up on the lowest suggested 2 meter channel (146.400) in the week before the event. Operators handled the conflict well, moving smoothly up to the next channel.)
- Mobile roaming stations added a lot of interest to the event.

Comments from the event manager

- Participating hams on the Leeward Side seemed to have a lot of fun. A few even submitted their logs – thanks!
- Efforts to involve hams in Hilo, Puna, and Kau failed.
- A portable station with a Slim-Jim-on-a-pole had great range, easy to deploy, and made it impossible to talk while driving.

Changes for next time

- Remove the 33 cm option (no interest)
- Remove the lat/lon entry on the log form (too difficult for roamers, others may not be able to determine lat/lon)
- Specifically allow entries in multiple classes by same operator (two entrants did this, with

no problems)

- Prohibit mobile contacts while vehicle is moving (safety issue due to required logging)
- Give 2 points for 70 cm contacts (these proved more difficult and rare over typical distances on the Leeward Side)
- Give bonus points for HT contacts (no HT participants this time)
- Change the event focus to Leeward Side only (see above)
- Specifically suggest meeting on lowest suggested frequency and moving up as needed (most ops did this, and there was little or no need for 146.52, or repeaters)
- Investigate channel spacing: 15KHz or 20 KHz (suggested by KH6CQ)

Thanks to

- KARS for sponsoring the event
- SPARC, BIARC and KHRC for allowing presentations at club meetings
- KH7AX, NH7UA, and KH7T for contributing ideas
- AH6RC for the surprise visit from Haleakala, Maui
- Everybody who participated

Map of Grids Activated (see next page)

Map of Grids Activated

