



Monthly News & Updates

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November, 2019



PMKCA President Joe Clarkson

President's Message

Emergency Communication Test

Our newest member of the PMKCA board of directors is our liaison with the Paauilo Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Denning Powell. He recently took over from Carl Pinhas, who ably led the CERT for many years. Denning

Invasive Species Informational Event, Nov. 9

The newly established PMKCA Invasive Species Committee is organizing. Our Vice President Ruth Bennett, is leading that effort and wants everyone to know about an important meeting coming up on November 9th. Here is her information about it:

Help is on the way in combatting invasive species in our Pa'auilo Mauka and Kalopa communities! The PMKCA's new Invasive Species Committee will be holding an informational and organizing event on Saturday, November 9, 2019, at 10am at the main pavilion in Kalopa Park. We invite anyone and everyone, especially residents of our Pa'auilo Mauka and Kalopa communities, to attend. There will be presentations by Big Island Invasive Species Committee representatives who will provide us with useful information and materials to help us identify invasive

submitted the following description of a recent ham radio activity:

On Saturday, October 5, our Pa'auilo CERT participated in a ham radio exercise. The exercise (called a Simulated Emergency Test, or SET) was sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). It was designed to test the capabilities of local ham radio operators to provide emergency communications if a major disaster took down power lines, phone landlines and cell towers, and cut off internet access across the Big Island.

The disaster scenario used for the exercise was a Category 4 hurricane hitting here – basically the same kind of event that actually happened two years ago in Puerto Rico, when Hurricane Maria wiped out almost all communications infrastructure. In Puerto Rico, a network of ham operators functioned to relay emergency messages across the island – who needed food and water, which hospitals needed fuel for emergency generators, where medical emergencies were happening, and so forth.

Fortunately, on this side of the island from Kapaau down to Ninole, we have a number of ham operators that can take in emergency messages from their local communities and CERTs, then relay them down to the Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center in Hilo to get help. This is what was practiced during the SET on

threats in our forests, pastures, gardens and homes, so that we can prevent invasions from occurring and take steps to deal with outbreaks if they occur.

We will also talk about our new Invasive Species Committee and its objectives, priorities, methods and the various roles people can play in helping our communities. Over refreshments and talk story, and with aloha 'aina, we are hoping to encourage participation in PMKCA's new Invasive Species Committee. For more information, email Ruth Bennett (find her address at www.PMKCA.org).

[Property Tax Status Reminder](#)

December 31st is the deadline for making an application for property tax assessment change of classification. If you want to change your classification from Homeowner to Agriculture or the reverse, applications must be sent to the Real Property Tax Office by the end of the year. For more information about the requirements for each assessment classification you can contact the Tax Office or review a thorough discussion of this topic published last year in October, November and December. It can be found online starting at <http://hamakuatimes.com/presidents-message-october-p2908-137.htm>

Next PMKCA Meetings

October 5. The exercise was successful in two basic ways: it demonstrated that emergency communications capability will be there if needed, and it identified areas where improvements can be made.

I participated in this test with Denning and many others. I hope that we never find ourselves in the position that Puerto Rico did after Hurricane Maria, but it is good to be as prepared as possible. Normal communication facilities are something we take for granted, but when they are lost, establishing even limited emergency communications could be the difference between life and death.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9th at the [Hawaiian Vanilla Factory Co., 43-2007 Pa'auilo Mauka Road.](#) At the January 9th meeting, we will be planning for the January 21st General Membership meeting and we especially welcome any members who might have an interest in joining one of our committees.

Our annual General Membership meeting will be held at Pa'auilo School on Tuesday, January 21st, 2020. All PMKCA members and their guests are encouraged to attend.



Hamakua Coast Dream Home for Sale

FSBO Craftsman built home on 10 splittable acres in Pa'auilo Mauka, up above the Vanilla Mill, 4 bedroom, three bath, \$850K. For more info see [Mosher.org](#).

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Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association

Photo courtesy of Karl Backus

