

# ALL EARS

146.880 – PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society

October 2001

## CALENDAR

Oct 21	Escondido Street Faire
Oct 23	<b>EARS Club Meeting</b>
Oct 27	Volunteer Exam Session
Oct 27	CQ WW DX Contest, SSB
Nov 17	<b>EARS Monthly Breakfast</b>
Dec 4	<b>EARS Board Meeting</b>
Dec 8	Jaycees' Holiday Parade
Dec 8	<b>EARS Annual Christmas Party</b>
Dec 15	<b>EARS Monthly Breakfast</b>
Aug 16, '02	ARRL SW Div Convention in Escondido

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**October 23: EARS MONTHLY MEETING** – ARRL San Diego Section Manager and candidate for Southwestern Division Vice Director, Tuck Miller, NZ6T, will speak on the recent help offered by hams in New York City and other topics of interest to San Diego area hams.

**December 8: EARS CHRISTMAS PARTY** – Stay tuned for time and place of the EARS annual christmas party!

## PRESIDENT'S KORNER

I hope you're all looking forward to the October 23rd club meeting. I know I am. We are going to have Tuck Miller, NZ6T, speaking in reference to events in New York and how amateur radio can be a useful asset in times of emergency.

Tuck has taken the time out of his busy schedule and running for ARRL office to speak to us. Please come out for what promises to be a very interesting program.

Meeting usually starts around 7:30 PM but members may start arriving around 7:00 or so to solve all the world's problems.

73's,

Bill, KD6BFR

## EARS REFLECTOR

Would you like to receive automatic email reminders of all EARS activities? Did you clean out your garage and decide to sell that old boat anchor and want to email the "for sale" ad to all EARS members? Want to share those digital photos you took of the California QSO party? Wondering when that ARES net is, and on what frequency?

The answer to these and other questions can be found on the new addition to the EARS official website, the EARS group page on Yahoo. This site features 20 Megabytes of file space for uploading or downloading files to or from other members, and 30 Megabytes of photo space.

Currently, photos of the repeater site, uploaded by Marvin, WB6PKK, are available for viewing. Two databases are under construction, one of San Diego area repeaters and one of San Diego area nets. There is also a calendar of Club and San Diego area ham activities, with automatic email reminders of activities.

So, how do I sign up for this free service? Go to the EARS website at:

<http://www.qsl.net/earsca>

and click on the Yahoo Groups banner at the bottom of the main page. Or, you may go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/earsca>

and follow the directions.

If you just wish to subscribe to the email list server send an email to

[earsca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:earsca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

If, you have any questions suggestions or comments about the EARS Yahoo Groups page or the website, feel free to email me, Nick, [kk6tv@arrl.net](mailto:kk6tv@arrl.net).

## **FCC NOT OPENING ITS MAIL**

from CQ Magazine

The Federal Communications Commission this week announced that, as a precaution, it would no longer accept hand-delivered or messenger-delivered documents in envelopes, and that all documents mailed to its Washington, DC headquarters would be diverted to an FCC facility in Maryland.

"As the Commission continues to balance its efforts to be accessible to its customers with the need for heightened security measures," read the Public Notice, "the Commission encourages its customers to make full use of the Commission's electronic filing systems to facilitate the filing of documents."

## **BATTLE LOOMS OVER 425-435 MHZ**

from the ARRL Letter

The FCC has proposed changes to its Part 15 rules governing unlicensed devices that would allow operation of advanced RF identification devices between 425 and 435 MHz. By going along with a request made earlier this year by SAVI Technology Inc and fiercely opposed by ARRL, the FCC has set the stage for another battle between amateur and commercial interests. "The FCC hasn't thought this through," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. He contends that the Part 15 RFID proposal—included this week as part of a larger Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order—is "contrary to the whole philosophy of the Part 15 rules." Sumner said the RFID devices SAVI proposes more properly belong on frequencies that are also authorized for use by devices regulated by FCC's Part 18 Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) rules.

The FCC said this week's NPRM&O would modify the rules for RFID systems "to harmonize our rules with those in other parts of the world and to allow for improved operation." Sumner said that 433.9 MHz is allocated for ISM devices in 10 European countries but not in the rest of the world, including ITU Region 2 (North and South America).

Last March, the ARRL urged the FCC to deny or dismiss SAVI Technology's petition. The League argued that the field strengths and duty cycles SAVI proposed for its RFID tags were unreasonable "and would undoubtedly seriously disrupt amateur communications in one of the most popular of the Amateur Service allocations."

SAVI, which markets radiolocation and wireless inventory control products, told the FCC it needed the rules changes to satisfy customer demand for increased RFID system capabilities. The FCC this week said it agreed with SAVI that changes to its Part 15 rules to allow more advanced RFID systems in the 433 MHz band "would serve the public interest." It proposed to create a new section to Part 15 that would allow operation of RFIDs in the 425-435 MHz band and transmissions of up to two minutes at maximum field strengths now only permitted for extremely short-duration, intermittent control signals.

In an apparent about face, the FCC said it believes the proposed levels would offer only minimal interference potential for licensed users. The FCC in the past has acknowledged serious interference potential and has prohibited data transmission, among other things, at the proposed field strengths for that very reason.

As proposed, transmissions of 120 seconds would be permitted with just a 10-second silent period between transmissions. Under Section 15.231(e) periodic radiators are permitted field strengths of less than 5000 uV/m at 433 MHz measured at three meters, with duty cycles of less than one second and a silent period between transmissions that's at least 30 times the duration of the transmission.

The League pointed out in its earlier comments that the Communications Act of 1934 lacks authority to allow unlicensed devices with substantial interference potential. "Such devices must be licensed," the ARRL concluded. Unlicensed Part 15 devices must not interfere with licensed services and must tolerate interference received from licensed radio services in the same band.

Another portion of the proceeding involves the 13.56 MHz ISM frequency. Sumner said that proposal "at first glance" might permit increased emissions in the bottom 10 kHz of the 20-meter amateur band. Sumner said the ARRL would take a closer look at this section of the overall proposal before assessing its interference potential.

Sumner said the League plans to file a strong opposition to the FCC's NPRM&O. The entire Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order in ET Docket 01-278 (which incorporates RM-9375 and RM-10051) is available on the ARRL Web site.

## -----GENERAL INFORMATION-----

**CLUB BADGES** - Let everyone know that you are a member of EARS and avoid having them guess what your name is. See Jo, KB6NMK for the traditional round badge and Harry, W6YOO for one of the new rectangular ones.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS/CALLSIGN** - Please let us know if you change your address or callsign. We want to keep our records up to date. Call Konrad, N6UKO, who is the keeper of the club roster, or visit our website at [www.qsl.net/earsca](http://www.qsl.net/earsca).

**MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM** - The US Army, the US Air Force, and the US Navy/Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) are looking for a few good men/women to join MARS. If you would like to get on the HF bands regardless of license, now's the time. See Harry Hodges, W6YOO/AAR9LX for details.

**QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA)** - If you were first licensed twenty-five or more years ago and that you are licensed today (it doesn't have to be continuous) you are eligible to join the QCWA. There is a local chapter in San Diego that holds quarterly meetings (brunch) and has VHF net on Wednesday evenings. The national organization conducts an annual QCWA QSO party and there is an annual convention. They are a great group so if you are interested in more details, contact Harry, W6YOO

**MONTHLY ARES MEETING** - The San Diego Section ARES meets on the second Saturday of each month at Coco's Family Restaurant, 5955 Balboa Ave. Come in for breakfast at 7am, with the meeting starting at 8am. The training session follows from 10 until noon, at the Kearney Mesa Rec Center.

**ARRL AND ARES BULLETINS** - The ARRL and ARES bulletins are posted daily on K6PD-1 packet BBS on 145.03 MHz.

**AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE RENEWALS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS** - If you need to renew your license or supply the FCC with a change of address, the form to use is NCVEC Form 605 (obtainable from Harry, W6YOO). You fill out the form; attach a Xerox copy of your license and mail to SANDARC VEC, PO Box 2446, La Mesa, CA 91943-2446. You must include your Social Security Number. There is no charge for this service.

**MONTHLY BREAKFAST** - EARS members meet socially the third Saturday of each month at the Westside Cafe, on West Ninth Ave. corner of Redwood St. at 8:30 a.m.

**SUNDAY EVENING NET** is every Sunday at 8PM local time. You can get the latest information on club activities there. Tune in to the club repeater at 146.88 MHz, negative offset and PL of 107.2, check in and say hi.

**WEEKLY BREAKFAST** - EARS members also meet most Friday mornings at the K & S Cafe, 622 Enterprise Street at 7:00 a.m. with conversation following at "The Bunker".

**"GOINGS ON"** - is the EARS broadcast e-mail service. It brings you the latest news, gossip and nonsense that you need to be informed (and reminded) of all club and local happenings. The focus is on Escondido and EARS, but anyone is invited to subscribe. To get on the e-mailing list, drop a note to [wb6uhf@arrl.net](mailto:wb6uhf@arrl.net). To send a message, e-mail it to the address above and say you want the text broadcast.

**AMATEUR RADIO CLASSES** - If you or someone you know is interested in taking an Amateur Radio class for getting a license or upgrading, call Larry, WA6UTQ, at 760-758-5820. Classes are held at the Vista Blind Center.

**EARS WEB PAGE** - EARS is on the Internet. You can read about upcoming activities, get links to other ham radio sites, or update your call and address information. The information is updated regularly. Check it out at [www.qsl.net/earsca](http://www.qsl.net/earsca).

**ARRL LETTER** - The ARRL Letter, a weekly e-mailing of amateur radio related news, is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe for e-mail delivery, ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site, [www.arrl.org/members](http://www.arrl.org/members). The ARRL Letter is also available to all, free of charge, at [www.arrl.org/arrlletter](http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter), where it is posted each Friday after it is distributed via e-mail.