

ALL EARS

146.880 - PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

August 2003

UPCOMING MEETINGS

EARS meets at the Escondido Chamber of Commerce building, 720 N Broadway, at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Come early and chat!

AUGUST 23 ANNUAL PICNIC

In place of the regular meeting, the annual picnic will be held at Rod McCleod Park, 1701 S Iris Lane. The picnic starts at 11:00 a.m. Bring your HT to participate in the Fox Hunt. There will be a prize for the winner!

SEPTEMBER 23 DIVISION DIRECTOR

ARRL Southwest Division Director Art Goddard, W6XD, will be here to talk about recent happenings at the national and division level. Among other things, Art will be looking for member's opinions on whether to keep the Morse Code requirement.

OCTOBER 28 CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES

Are you up-to-date on radio technology? EARS member John Belstner, W9EN, will give a presentation on CDMA, trunking systems, and spread spectrum.

EARS REPEATER TAKES BIG STEP

The upgrade of the EARS repeater took a big step this past week when Marvin, WB6PKK, and his helpers Roger, K6EQ, and Konrad, N6UKO, installed the new repeater on Hubbard Hill.

Reports indicate better coverage, a more reliable controller and more activity.

Good job, Marvin!

EVENT CALENDAR

Aug 16	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Aug 16	Ham Radio Roundup
Aug 23	EARS Picnic
Aug 30	VE Testing
Sept 2	Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Harry's
Sept 4-6	ARRL SW Div. Convention, Long Beach
Sept 6	Grape Day Parade
Sept 20	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Sept 23	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Sept 27	VE Testing
Oct 7	Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Oct 18	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Oct 28	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.

OTHER HAM RADIO NEWS...

The ARRL is fighting the proposed expansion of **Broadband over Power Line (BPL)**, which brings high-speed data into homes and businesses and which creates high noise levels on HF. See www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/08/08/2 for details and a disturbing video of recent field tests.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has formed a committee to develop an FCC rule making proposal for a **new entry-level Amateur license**. The NCVEC also approved plans to draft and submit a rule making petition to **eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement** (Element 1) and to give Novice/Tech Plus HF privileges to all current Technicians.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Weigh in on BPL! - p. 4

Guide for Newbies (final part) - p. 5

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

by Willie, N8WP

Field Day 2003 has come and gone. The Escondido Amateur Radio Society gave an impressive effort. The club gave a fine example of teamwork and skill in adaptation. The timely setup of 3 towers with 3 large yagi array antennas. Around the clock manning of the two main radio stations. Meals were timely, well-prepared and enjoyable social events. Many new club members jumped right into the event. They tried new modes of communication. I watched as some new amateurs faced large pileups and were guided by more experienced members.

Teamwork surmounted our power crisis situation. In spite of the fact that we had the city's blessing, Ranger "I have no last name" James decided to exercise his authority and forced us to shut down our generators at 1 a.m. The EARS Field Day team was quick to adapt and improvise by reconfiguring our power grid and continuing on deep cycle batteries until morning. We were allowed to continue the use of generators when the misinformed ranger's boss arrived at the scene.

Summer is certainly here and we have more activities to look forward to. Our August meeting will take the form of a weekend picnic. Be prepared for a Fox hunt!

73,

Willie N8WP

ALL EARS

The official bulletin of the
Escondido Amateur Radio Society

An e-mail subscription to All Ears is FREE! You don't need to be a member. Just drop a note to:

John Musselman, WB6UHF, Editor
wb6uhf@arri.net

Permission is given to copy any article contained in All Ears when not otherwise copyrighted and provided proper credit is given.

The deadline to submit material for the September bulletin is Tuesday, September 16.

NOTICE

This issue of All EARS has been sent to you early so your hardworking editor can go on vacation.
See you again next month.

EARS Club Officers for 2003

President

Willie Peloquin, N8WP, 714-318-4047
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All Officers with an asterisk (*) plus:
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*John Magnone, KG6DVE, 745-6819
kg6dve@amsat.org

Property Manager

*Marvin Munster, WB6PKK, 747-2223
wb6ppk@amsat.org

ARRL SW DIVISION CONVENTION

by Art, W6XD and Tuck, NZ6T

THE BEST IN THE WEST!

The ARRL Southwestern Division Convention is being held September 5-7, 2003, at the Hilton Long Beach, 701 W Ocean Blvd, Long Beach.

Don't miss these highlights:

- * Emergency Communications Workshop Friday, 1-5 p.m.. First 75 participants receive a copy of ARRL EmComm Course Book, Level 1, absolutely free!

- * Chris Imlay, ARRL General Counsel will conduct a first-ever forum on Legal Issues for Volunteers.

- * 2-Meter Band Plan, join this TASMA Forum to participate in revising the 2M bandplan in Southern California.

- * Saturday Luncheon, noted astronomer Jim Young, W7FTT, will tell us about Near-Earth Asteroids - Are We in Danger?

- * Sunday Breakfast, Chip Margelli, K7JA will take us on a trip to Cuba for The CO0US Story.

- * Saturday Banquet (SOLD OUT) will feature the Academy Awards of Amateur Radio - Hooray For Hollywood!

- * Sunday ARDF Antenna Workshop and T-hunts - Meet the experts and medalists from the recent North American ARDF Championships!

- * W1AW/6 will be on the air! Suggested frequencies

CW: 7.045, 14.045, 21.035, 28.035
RTTY: 7.085, 14.095, 21.095, 28.095
VOICE: 7.295, 14.295, 21.395, 28.595, 50.125, 144.200, 146.520

QSL: SASE via W6SBA

- * All your favorite manufacturers and commercial vendors - due to demand, we're adding an overflow area!

- * Prizes, major Early-Bird and Registration Prizes, hourly prizes, surprise prizes!

You don't want to miss this convention... tap into the enthusiasm and energy - get your ham radio spring rewind.

You can find more info about the Convention at:

www.hamcon.org/

and a complete listing of the Technical sessions scheduled at:

www.hamcon.org/Fri_Schedule.htm

Remember to make your hotel room reservations ASAP. The room block is filling and the cut-off date is August 15. Contact the Hilton directly at 800-445-8667 and mention HAMCON to get the special rate of \$89/nite.

And be sure to click on www.visitlongbeach.com to check out family activities such as the Aquarium of the Pacific, Pine Ave, Downtown, Performing Arts, Queen Mary, and more!

ROUND 'EM UP

by Nick, KK6TV and Kent, K6FQ

The 2003 Ham Radio Round will take place Saturday, August 16, at Hilltop Recreation Center in Rancho Bernardo.

This is an excellent chance for you to find out what some of the other clubs and served agencies are up to. As was discussed at the last meeting, EARS will be setting up a booth. Those of you interested in helping out at the booth let Nick know! Or, if you just plan on showing up.

We plan on setting up a beam and a radio on 146.88 for the day. This event is sponsored by SANDARC and ARRL, both of which EARS is affiliated with.

The Roundup is outdoors. Folks should bring their folding chairs. If you want to do a "potluck", we are going to have a food area where everyone can bring their stuff (that they want to share) and we'll pool our resources. The ARRL Staff will have sodas and burgers this year as well as a few hotdogs.

The park is a new one, there is an excellent playground directly adjacent to where we'll be (about 50 feet) so folks can bring their little ones if they desire. The park is overlooking Miramar and San Diego to the south and Del Mar to the west and always has a nice cool ocean breeze.

For details, see www.sanarrrl.org/roundup.htm

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

If you are as incensed as I am about BPL, here's an easy way to file with the FCC, relayed by Bill, W4ZV:

1. Go to http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/upload_v2.cgi
2. Enter only 03-104 in Box 1 (Proceeding).
3. Complete all required boxes (2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12)
4. Attach your file in .doc, .pdf, .xls, etc in the first large box and click "Sent Attached File to FCC".

OR...and much easier for shorter comments:

5. Type your comments directly into the bottom large box, keeping <70 characters per line, and click "Send Brief Comments to FCC".

After 4. or 5., another screen should appear where you need to click "Finish Transaction and Receive Confirmation". If you did everything correctly, you should then receive a confirmation number on the

next screen. If you don't see the confirmation number, your comments were not submitted correctly.

Your comments will likely not appear until the next business day since it takes them awhile to process everything.

Please DO comment before the August 20 window closes! This could be the most important thing you will ever do to insure we do not allow the FCC fill our bands with interference. Let's prevent another Pandora's Box like the FCC gave us with Citizens Band!

FIELD DAY PHOTO CD AVAILABLE

Nick, KK6TV, has compiled a collection of Field Day photos onto a CD which is available for \$5.00. The CD includes not only this year's operation, but includes photos from previous year's Field Days as well. Proceeds go to the club.

Escondido Amateur Radio Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Call _____ Class _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone No _____ Date of Birth _____

E-mail Address _____

Date Licensed _____ Expires _____

Member of the following organizations?

ARES _____ ARRL _____

EVAC _____ MARS _____

Red Flag _____

Interests _____

Other _____

Membership Rates

One year \$13.00

Family membership \$3.00

Lifetime membership \$130.00

Lifetime membership (family) \$20.00

Mail this form with payment to EARS, PO Box 3243, Escondido, CA 92033, or give it to the treasurer or any other club officer at a regular club meeting.

Membership is from January 1 to December 31. After July 1, membership to the end of the year is ½ the annual fee. Special rates apply for family membership for each additional licensed amateur radio operator in your immediate family and for lifetime membership.

For membership confirmation and auto-patch codes, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with this form.

AC6V's GUIDE TO FM REPEATERS

by Rod, AC6V

This guide is intended for new Amateur Radio Licensees. It is one Chapter of a book. The entire book outline can be seen at URL: <http://ac6v.com/FM101.htm>

continued from last month...

BREAKING IN What about "Break?" The problem with just plain "break" is that nobody knows exactly what it means, and everybody has to stop and find out.

You will hear some Hams say, "break" means, "I just want to join in or make a call," "break-break" means "I have very important traffic," and "break-break-break" means "I have a dire emergency." That's fine, but not everybody knows that. Plain English works better. State the reason for your break, AC6V joining in, AC6V info, AC6V comment, AC6V traffic report, AC6V quick call please, AC6V emergency. If someone is joining in — perhaps say, "callsign recognized, you follow Sally". A "breaker" should be given the frequency immediately - could be an emergency.

If someone "breaks" in on you. What do you do? Let them transmit, RIGHT NOW unless you know absolutely and for certain that they do not have an emergency.

Some break in just as you were ready to answer a question and answer it for you — irritating as you may have spent some time to look up the answer, but you should immediately recognize the break as they may have an urgent call or emergency. If folks would announce why they are breaking it would make repeater life a lot more organized.

Maybe somebody hasn't read this guide and isn't the expert operator you are now, and they just say "break" or drop in their call, when what they really mean is "HELP." So let them talk. Say "go ahead, or go ahead the breaker" And if they're one of those boneheads who's interrupting your perfectly good conversation for no reason but to hear themselves talk, well, bite your lip and be glad you know better.

The exception is when someone actually announces an emergency. Then CLEAR THE REPEATER! DO NOT TRANSMIT. The station who declared the emergency has the frequency, and unless they ask for your help, don't give it. Unless... always and unless... they obviously don't know how to handle the situation... and you DO. (You do, don't you?)

ROLL CALL OR A DEMO PLEASE When you have visitors to the shack and would like to demonstrate repeater FM and Amateur Radio, "AC6V could I have a demonstration please for some visitors. Callsign, name, location, and power." Hopefully not every body doubles — try double clutching. Maybe give the visitors the brag tape on repeater range, mountain location, and the quality of Frequency Modulation.

SIGNAL REPORTS It is important for we amateurs to maintain a high level of quality about our transmissions. In

an emergency, you need a good solid signal into the repeater with adequate audio to expedite communications. If you are in a poor location or using an HT — your signal may be weak and have path noise (repeater limiters not engaged) and you may drop in and out of the repeater so no one can copy.

A typical value for engaging the limiters might be about 0.5 to 0.6 microvolts, but it depends on how the repeater is set up. The repeater may pick up signals as weak as 0.2 microvolts again depending on how the repeater is set up. Raising power may help and a better antenna will certainly help. When giving reports tell the transmitting station if they are full quieting and have adequate audio. Low audio will make it difficult for mobiles with road noise to copy you. Describe the degree of path noise — none, small, moderate, heavy or make a subjective percentage e.g. 90% quieting. Sometimes, low audio can be cured with being closer to the microphone, raising your voice, but if these don't help, an internal deviation control may have to be adjusted.

However when your signal has lots of path noise, DON'T shout into the microphone, this causes the available audio to spread (deviate) across a wider bandwidth and may cause dropouts. Giving signal reports of 59 (HF stuff) means nothing on FM repeaters as there is no way to tell what the signal amplitude is if it is a full quieting signal. If you report loud and clear - one can be loud and clear and still have path noise — so it isn't a very good way to report signals on a repeater. Receiving you 5 by 5 - (Military or Police style) doesn't mean much to the average repeater user either. Best describe the degree of quieting and the audio level and quality.

MAKING AN AUTOPATCH CALL. Most repeaters have specific rules and require membership for using the autopatch. You must ask the trustee for the details.

NETS A net is a group of many stations that meet on a specified frequency at a certain time. The net is organized and directed by a net control station, who calls the net to order, recognizes stations entering and leaving the net, and authorizes stations to transmit. Most nets are "directed nets" so as to keep order amongst the multitude tuned in. You cannot transmit unless solicited or as directed by the net control. Examples - "check-ins please". "AC6V — do you have anything for the net." If you are not part of the net - use a different repeater for other matters. Nets can be of a wide variety of subjects: NTS (National Traffic System), Ham Help, Morse Code Practice, Offroad Nets, Language nets, Youth Groups, Sailors/Boaters, Emergency - ARES, RACES, Microwave, ATV, Facetious Group, Field Day Planning, Swap, Trivia, YL, and many others. Swap nets are held on some repeaters - yes it is legal to announce equipment for sale or items wanted on Amateur Radio as long as the items are Ham items.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that there is \$1331.54 in the savings account and \$444.56 in the checking account. We spent about \$350 more than was budgeted for Field Day on last minute incidentals. Some of this could have been saved with better planning and communications. All expenditures other than for the newsletter need to have prior approval by the Board.

2. John, KG6DVE, reported that the net is going well. Some signal level problems with the 220 link.

3. John also reported that the membership level is at 93. He is continuing to distribute data and contacting prospects but no new sign-ups.

4. Jo, KB6NMK, contacted the Salvation Army to see if we could do more in training, maintaining, and operating their emergency communications. A new commander, Captain Strickland, has taken over and he isn't at all familiar with ham radio. Larry, WA6UTQ, will use his contacts to try and facilitate the situation.

5. From SANDARC, a chairman for the 2006 Southwest Division Convention is still needed. There is also an opening for the chairmanship of the San Diego Fair Amateur Radio booth.

6. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported that the installation of the new repeater hasn't progressed as fast as planned due to unforeseen technical difficulties and personal commitments. Lack of information on the modem has caused some delay.

7. The inventory of club property was updated.

8. Harry, W6YOO, reported that the club By-Laws are being retyped and revised and will be ready for review shortly. The goal is to submit them to the membership for approval at the November meeting.

9. John, WB6UHF, reported that all data has been submitted to the ARRL for Field Day. There were no real technical problems that need to be corrected for next year.

10. John, KG6DVE, will cook at the August picnic. John and Nick will purchase the supplies. Up to \$85 was authorized to be spent on the picnic.

11. It was decided not to have a float in the Grape Day Parade. Konrad, N6UKO, and Dirk, N6SUN, will organize the club's participation in the parade.

12. For the Ham Radio Roundup, Nick, KK6TV, will have a booth for EARS.

13. There is a \$25 (with a \$100 purchase) gift certificate from HRO left over from the Christmas Party. It will be given to the winner of the "T" hunt at the picnic.

14. The widow of Ed Way, a former member, requested that the club help her dispose of his ham gear. Konrad surveyed and salvaged most of what is valuable and moved it to his house. With some help he will finish the task and the equipment will be offered for sale at the annual auction.

15. Nick reports that the Field Day photo CD is about finished.

BY-LAWS UPDATE

The EARS By-Laws have been undergoing a review and revision by the By-Laws Committee chaired by Harry, W6YOO.

If you are interested in participating in the review process, please contact Harry for the latest revision document.

The Escondido Amateur Radio Society

is a non-profit organization of educational and social benefit to Amateur Radio operators and others interested in Amateur Radio in the Escondido area.

Dues are very affordable. Come join the fun! See the application form on Page 4.

EARS WEBSITE CHANGE

The EARS website can now be found at either of these two addresses:

www.earsclub.org
www.EscondidoARS.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

EARS WEB PAGE - EARS is on the Internet. You can read about upcoming activities, get links to other ham radio sites, read back issues of All Ears, or update your call or address. The site is updated regularly. Check it out at www.earsclub.org or www.EscondidoARS.org.

EARS REFLECTOR – is a free service that keeps members up-to-date via e-mail. Local news, gossip, “for sales” as well as reminders of all upcoming EARS functions are sent regularly to all subscribers. When you subscribe, you may also broadcast messages to all the other subscribers.

To get on the reflector, go to the EARS website at www.earsclub.org and click on the Yahoo Groups banner at the bottom of the main page. Or, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and follow the directions. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, email Nick, kk6tv@arrl.net.

CLUB BADGES - Let everyone know that you are a member of EARS and avoid having them guess what your name is. See Harry, W6YOO, to obtain a badge.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR CALLSIGN - Please let us know if you change your address, callsign, telephone, license class, etc. We want to keep our records up to date. Contact Marvin, WB6PKK, the keeper of the club database, or any club officer.

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. 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 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.

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

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

SUNDAY EVENING NET is every Sunday at 8 p.m. 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.

MONTHLY ARES MEETING – The San Diego Section ARES meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Spice House restaurant, 9035 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. The training session follows breakfast at the County Office of Emergency Services (formerly called the “EOC”), 5550 Overland Avenue, at 9 a.m. If not attending breakfast, be sure to arrive at the back gate (Complex Street), not later than 0845 for access.

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.

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 Website, www.arrl.org/members. The ARRL Letter is also available to all, free of charge, at www.arrl.org/arrlletter, where it is posted each Friday after it is distributed via e-mail.

HAM RADIO LICENSE PLATES - All California hams may receive their call sign on their license plate. Use DMV Form REG17A. The cost is \$21.00 and is a one-time fee.

VE TESTING - is conducted in Escondido under the auspices of SANDARC on the last Saturday of every month at the Chamber of Commerce building, 720 N Broadway. Contact Harry Hodges, W6YOO, to schedule an appointment.

ESCONDIDO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3243
ESCONDIDO, CA 92033

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