

ALL EARS

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Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

June 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!

JUNE 24 FINAL FIELD DAY PREP

This meeting is the Tuesday before Field Day. Last minute plans will be discussed and information will be available for anyone who still needs it. The WriteLog software will be gone over one last time.

JULY 22 SATELLITES

Paul Williamson, KB5MU, will be giving a talk on amateur satellite operation.

AUGUST 24 ANNUAL PICNIC

The annual picnic will be held at McCleod Park. This is in place of the regular meeting. Details in next month's issue.

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

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The deadline to submit material for the July bulletin is Tuesday, July 15.

EVENT CALENDAR

June 21	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
June 24	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
June 28-29	Field Day
June 28	VE Testing
July 1	Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
July 5	Lawrence Welk 4th of July parade
July 19	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
July 22	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
July 26	VE Testing
July 26-27	Mini DXpedition to Catalina Island
Aug 5	Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Aug 16	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Aug 24	EARS Picnic

EARS WEBSITE CHANGE

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

www.earclub.org
www.EscondidoARS.org

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our new members:

Joe Wade, W6YR, Yorba Linda

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Guide for Newbies (cont) - p.3

Western Days "Roundup" - p. 4

Field Day Schedule - p. 5

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

by Willie, N8WP

Welcome to the June edition of the *All EARS* newsletter. Field Day is just around the corner and I hope everyone is as anxious to play radio as I am. EARS will be setting up a 2 Alpha station again at the Dixon Lake group campground. This means there will be 2 dedicated HF stations running. We will also have a VHF-UHF station run by Gene Biggs, W6EEB. I will be the station captain for the GOTA, Get On The Air, station. The purpose of the GOTA station is to provide a low-pressure place for new operators to get "On The Air". Amateurs without HF privileges and unlicensed individuals can operate HF under the tutelage of the station captain or control operator.

The GOTA station concept exemplifies the concept of Elmering. The availability of Elmers, or Amateur Radio Mentors, is one of the greatest benefits of belonging to an Amateur Radio club. Being part of a radio club is much more than getting a badge with your call on it. More than having a place to go meet on a monthly basis. Our society of Amateur Radio operators is a place of fellowship and mutual aid. We are all here for each other to lend a hand, give advice or just go get a burger. Do you need help putting up an antenna? Wondering if the new Wizbang Turbo Waveburner 2000 radio is all it's cracked up to be? What is this SWR thing people are talking about? Ask some of your fellow club members. Go to the EARS Yahoo Group and post a message. Amateur radio operators love to share their knowledge and hobby.

The EARS mini DX-pedition is starting to take shape. We will be going to Santa Catalina Island. I have made a reservation at the Two Harbors campground for the weekend of July 26th & 27th. The weekend is also the weekend of the 2003 IOTA Contest. IOTA stands for Islands On The Air. Guess what? That means we will be a desirable contact for the rest of the world. Although Catalina is a short distance from Escondido, it is a great DX contact for stations across the globe. This should be a great deal of fun.

I guess that is enough pontification for now. See you at Field Day!

73,

Willie N8WP

VE FEE CHANGE

from SANDARC

Effective 1 July 2003, the fee for administered examinations will rise from \$3.00 to \$5.00.

This increase was approved at the March 27th session of SANDARC.

EARS Club Officers for 2003

President

Willie Peloquin, N8WP, 858-663-0525
n8wp@arrl.net

Vice President

Skip Smith, KD7CBF, 443-6063
smittyway@yahoo.com

Secretary

Sam Bradsher, N6SD, 747-9096
n6sd@arrl.net

Treasurer

Konrad Wallenda, N6UKO, 743-8826
n6uko@aol.com

Emergency Services Coordinator

*Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 741-2560
kb6nmk@amsat.org

Newsletter Editor

*John Musselman, WB6UHF, 747-5303
wb6uhf@arrl.net

Officers at Large*

All Officers with an asterisk (*) plus:
*Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, 743-5839
darcpa@att.net

Past President

Nick Uran, KK6TV, 749-8734
kk6tv@arrl.net

Historian

*Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 743-4212
w6yoo@amsat.org

Membership

*John Magnone, KG6DVE, 745-6819
kg6dve@amsat.org

Property Manager

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

AC6V's GUIDE TO FM REPEATERS

by Rod, AC6V

This guide is intended for new Amateur Radio Licensees. It is one Chapter of a 12 Chapter book on FM Repeaters. The entire book outline can be seen at URL: <http://ac6v.com/FM101.htm>

Continued from last month...

As to what is talked about — it covers just about what folks talk about. Technical subjects such as SWR, Antennas, Latest radios, Theory. Operating such as Emergency Procedures and Drills. DX. Contests. History. Dirigibles. Old Cars. Pick Up The Dry Cleaning. Bring Home Some Lettuce. Old Timers reminisces. Old Radios. Well you get the idea and some interesting conversations do take place. But starting a conversation about politics or abortion with a stranger can get dicey — best know your audience.

How long do you talk in view of the party-line concept? Usually there are no hard and fast rules. It depends on the time of day (rush hours are PRIME TIME for mobiles, evening is also a busy time, while 2 a.m. is pretty quiet). If you've been interrupted several times by others needing the repeater to call someone, maybe you've been on a bit too long.

Also if you are going to give a long dissertation, let the repeater drop occasionally so as to not time out the repeater. Announce this by "Let me Reset" "Let me get another nickel" "Let me burp the repeater" and other cuties. Speaking of cuties, CB is great Americana and has some colorful expressions, but these are not often heard in Ham Radio.

Best leave these on the 11 Meter band as some old time Hams get all upset with CB expressions — their problem, not yours — but just so you know! 10-4 Good Buddy, the first personal is, hitting me with 10 pounds, passing you the good numbers, come on back etc., best be left on the CB Band.

Note that some repeaters have hundreds of users and may have some pretty tight guidelines or even rules regarding usage. For example, a repeater in Los Angeles discourages base station usage during commute hours.

Be sure and get the repeater guidelines or lacking same, ask on the repeater if it is open to any users, members only, commute hour guidelines etc. A repeater in farmland USA may discuss corn prices et. al., and not be amenable to "entertaining travelers". Some use DCS and won't hear you at all.

When you finish your transmission and unkey, the beep will alert the other person that it is their turn, so no need to say over, back to you, go, your callsign - their callsign, come on back, etc. It is not necessary to give your callsign after each transmission — only necessary each ten min-

utes to satisfy FCC rules. But give your callsign when first coming on and when signing clear. An exception is , below.

HELPING HAMS WITH DIRECTIONS

Often heard on repeaters is out-of-towners or locals asking for driving directions. Base stations often have access to the Internet and can bring up map quest and do a good job. First determine the location of the mobile before giving them your navigation expertise. Unfortunately, one person may give adequate directions, and then someone else JUST has to break in to give his/her favorite back alley secret shortcut. Or some other clown gives a two-minute dissertation of street names and landmarks, ad-nauseum. The lost ham thanks everyone, pulls the plug, and finds a service station to de-confuse themselves. If someone has given adequate directions, let it alone. Make corrections only if the directions are dead wrong. Keep directions short and simple.

ARGUMENTS AND BRU - HA - HA'S

We Amateurs are heard not only by ourselves but many non-hams, shack visitors, folks on scanners, etc. We need to keep it from sounding like the CB band and keep a professional approach to our communications. Insults, jamming, disparaging comments with no ID, swearing, heated exchanges and calling another a LID, really have no place on the repeaters.

Good-natured jibing is self-evident and humor is in order, but grim enemies have been made on the repeaters — bite ye olde tongue, keep cool or stop transmitting.

Don't stomp on new comers or any other comers for poor operating practice — a gentle reminder or better yet - discuss it off the air. Referring them to this article might help the new guys/gals without embarrassing them on the air. THAT IS WHY WE WROTE THIS.

And a word to Old Timers (OT's), don't lay the trip on the newcomers about "Why when I got licensed in 1901, why we had to blah blah, you young guys don't know ___, you have it easy blah, blah."Extra Lite, Why I had to take a 20 WPM code test blah blah and draw a circuit of a Colpitts Oscillator blah blah".

That was then — this is now. Make the new guys/gals feel welcome and not second class whatever's. We need to get new people in the Amateur Radio Service, or it will wither away. Some of these newcomers can run circles around we old timers when it comes to computers, RF technologies, data modes, etc. Some of the best operators on our local repeaters are folks with less than a year as a Ham.

To be continued next month...

VALLEY CENTER WESTERN DAYS

by Nick, KK6TV

Thank you everyone who participated in the Valley Center Western Days. For this being the first time Amateur Radio and EARS have played a role in this parade I think things went extremely well. I heard nothing but positive comments from the parade staff concerning our participation.

For some reason, most of the reserve police officers did not have radios, which made our role even more important! One girl was bucked off a horse and required paramedics. Karl, AG6X, was right there and Roger, KB6DQO, and Danny, AE6MB, were able to quickly relay the info to the paramedics who quickly responded.

Running a cross band repeat at 50 watts worked OK until the battery in my truck ran dead. That probably explains why it did not work so well at the end, but we got by. Danny and I discovered the dead battery when we left. Of course we were the last ones to leave and no one was around to give us a jump.



Thomas, KG6INL, watches the parade as it heads down Valley Center Road.

Photo by Nick, KK6TV

FOR SALE

by Dick Kalkofen, K6KAL

GENERATOR - Generac 3500XL. Rated (Running) 3500 Watt, Surge (Starting) 4375, Fuel Tank 4.00 Gallons, Engine 6.5 HP Generac OHVI Weight 115 Lbs, \$425.00, (760) 519-0670
(Used about 10 total hours run time.)



Yeeee-ha! Konrad, N6UKO, takes part in the Western Days parade in Valley Center, dressed for the occasion.

Photo by Nick, KK6TV

Thomas, KG6INL, did a great job relaying traffic from the Parade Chairman, Sandra Farmer. One thing new we tried were using two bicycle rovers. Dirk, N6SUN and Jo, KB6NMK both were a great help, there is not much that is faster than a Ham on a bike with a radio (believe it or not!). John, WB6UHF, Willie, N8WP, Cheryl, KG6KTT, Konrad, N6UKO, Marvin, WB6PKK, John, KG6DVE, and Harry, W6YOO, all contributed greatly, relaying voice traffic, searching for missing police radios and parade staff, and managing their positions. Bill, KD6BFR, single handedly handled the barriers and directed the parade participants to the end of parade parking etc.

Of course the Saloon girls, gun fights and cowboy brawls made everything even more interesting. Did I mention Saloon Girls!

Thanks again every one for your help and lets do this one again next year!

NEW TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

by Kent, K6FQ

I'd like to welcome Roger Gagos, K6EQ, of Escondido as our new Technical Coordinator for the San Diego Section. Roger has an engineering background and brings a wealth of knowledge to the job. Welcome aboard Roger!

TIME FOR FIELD DAY!

by John Musselman, WB6UHF

Plans are set for this year's Field Day!

All club members are invited to join us at Dixon Lake on the weekend of June 28 and 29 for the premiere operating event of the year. This year's outing will be along the same lines as last year's. We will be back at our favorite campsites at the top of the hill. Once again we will be operating 2A and once again we will have a GOTA (Get On The Air) station for anyone who doesn't get on much and for non-hams who want to see what the excitement is about.

The public will also be invited to come see us as we will have information handouts and hosts available.

Our band captains are Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, and Dennis Hergert, WA6IQY, on the main stations, Gene Biggs, W6EEB, on the VHF/UHF station and Willie Peloquin, N8WP, on the GOTA station.

Access to the campsite will begin Friday at 2 p.m. We are in campsites 26 through 29 (at the top of the

hill, of course!) Parking is limited. Drive up to the campsite and we will direct you from there.

If you would like to help move equipment and antennas up to the site, meet at Harry's house on noon Friday. Club members are invited to operate the stations Friday night before the contest.

The contest starts Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Contact the band captains if you wish to operate. There's always time available, so don't be shy. There will be a club picnic on Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. Bring a dish if you wish. The club will be providing food as well.

Clean up is Sunday at 11:00 a.m. You don't have to be there the whole time; everyone is invited to participate as much or as little as they feel they can.

Field Day is a great exercise in teamwork and an exhibition of Amateur Radio skills. We're looking forward to another great outing this year and invite everyone to participate.

See you there!

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.

JUNE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that there is \$1073.70 in the checking account and \$1329.92 in savings.

2. John, WB6UHF, reported that he will leave a standing order for the number of copies to print out each month. Marvin, WB6PKK, will continue to maintain the club member database. Konrad will furnish new member information to Marvin. John will recognize new members in the newsletter.

3. John, KG6DVE, reported that the change in net format worked fine the first time it was tried. More newcomers tend to check in if they don't have to wait too long.

4. There are 82 members on the roster plus John, KG6DVE, reported 3 new members. Harry, W6YOO, will provide the names of new hams.

5. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that RACES Academy training is currently being taught. Public Services Radio classes are also scheduled. HF operators are needed for participation in the Kitchen Creek run on the 21st of June. If you are interested contact Jo.

6. Marvin, WB6PKK, reports that he is progressing with the new repeater and controller. Marvin presented the latest club roster. 100 copies will be printed in an 8 1/2 X 11 format.

7. Last month's board meeting minutes erroneously reported who had procured a meeting room for our training classes. In fact it was Larry Ruegseger, WA6UTQ. Sam is looking for a copy of the ARRL General Class training video set to use in the upcoming upgrade class. A notice will be posted in various North County media to get the word out.

8. Harry, W6YOO, reports that a new club has been approved by SANDARC, with the name RAVES. Their primary goal is to support emergency communications. SANDARC reports \$47,034.79 in all the accounts. The QCWA brunch is to be held Oct 5th.

9. \$100 was approved for band pass filters and up to \$300 was approved for food and fuel for Field Day.

10. Willie, N8WP, reported that the Valley Center parade and Escondido Sreet Faire both went well. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that the Lawrence Welk Parade organizer contacted him and needs 4 operators for 2 hours one day of the 4th of July weekend. For the Grape Day Parade float, John, KG6DVE, has suggested using Konrad's trailer to hold a working ham station with the antenna disguised as a grape arbor. Willie, N8WP, reported that he informed Curt, K6LEM, that we will supply operators for the San Pasqual Battlefield celebration.

11. Dirk, N6SUN, reported that Bill Gray donated a set of ARRL Morse Code CDs to the club.

12. Willie, N8WP, will take care of registering and linking up to our new web server.

13. The club is planning a DXpedition to Catalina Island on July 26th and 27th. Interested members should contact Willie.

GENERAL UPGRADE CLASSES

by Sam Bradsher, N6SD

EARS is sponsoring a general class license upgrade course covering theory, regulations and code. The class is geared toward Technician class licensees who wish to add HF privileges.

The training will be held at the American Legion Hall at 230 E. Park Avenue in Escondido every Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. beginning July 10 and continuing through October 16 (except August 7, September 4 and October 2)

Last minute changes may require the class to extend to later dates. If you wish to attend this class, call as soon as possible since class size may be limited. Call Sam Bradsher, N6SD, at (760) 747-9096 or e-mail him at n6sd@arrl.net.

The members of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to Larry Ruegseger, WA6UTQ, for his efforts in procuring a meeting place for the class. It is the work of people such as Larry that makes being a ham so rewarding.

Thanks Larry.

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 5.

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
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