

ALL EARS

146.880 - PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

October 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!

OCTOBER 28

PRIVATE RADIO TRUNKING SYSTEMS
John Belstner, W9EN

NOVEMBER 25

VIDEO (TO BE DETERMINED)

DECEMBER 13

EARS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
4 to 7 p.m. at the home of Konrad, N6UKO

Details of these upcoming meetings are on Page 2.

OTHER HAM RADIO NEWS...

Manassas, VA, a suburb of Washington, DC, has become the first city in the country to approve plans for a citywide **BPL** rollout. On October 16, the Manassas City Council granted a 10-year franchise to expand a BPL field trial and offer high-speed Internet service to the entire community over municipal power lines.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, on October 22 faxed Manassas Mayor Marvin L. Gillum to point out BPL's dark side—the potential for RF interference from and to any BPL system. BPL stands for Broadband over Power Line and brings high-speed data into homes and businesses via the AC wiring.

EVENT CALENDAR

Oct 25	VE Testing
Oct 28	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Nov 4	Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Nov 15	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Nov 25	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Nov 29	VE Testing
Dec 2	Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Dec 13	Escondido Christmas Parade
Dec 13	EARS Annual Christmas Party 4 p.m.
Dec 20	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Dec 27	VE Testing

That's why they call them Dues!

All memberships paid through 2002 will expire on December 31 and are now **DUE!**

Please send in your renewal now to ensure your continued membership in EARS. Use the form on Page 6 or just drop off cash or check (check preferred!) at the next meeting.

While you're at it, why not renew for multiple years and save our Treasurer (and yourself) some work!

Whoops...

Your editor apologizes for sending last month's bulletin twice. He explains that he was temporarily overwhelmed by technology...

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

by Nick, KK6TV

October 28th Fundamentals of Trunked Radio with John Belstner, W9EN

Have you ever wondered what Trunked Radio is all about? This will be your chance to learn all about it from one of the leading gurus in the field and also an EARS member, John Belstner, W9EN.

John is currently a design engineer for DENSO Wireless in Vista. He has a Master's Degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering and has worked on a variety of wireless products from weather radar to cellular telephones.

John's Trunked Radio knowledge comes from his six years as a firmware designer for Ericsson-GE in Lynchburg, VA.

John has been a Ham since 1977. He is also currently working on setting up an ECHOLink node for our EARS 146.88 repeater. This will be a can't-miss meeting!

December 13th EARS Annual Christmas Party

Once again taking place after EARS helps at the Christmas Parade, and once again at the home of Konrad, N6UKO, this annual event is a great chance to socialize with all the great folks in EARS.

Bring a single (approx) \$5 gift to get in on the gift exchange. You won't want to miss this fun time.

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@arrl.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 next bulletin is Tuesday, November 11.

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 Club Officers for 2003

President

Willie Peloquin, N8WP, 714-318-4047
n8wp@arrl.net

Vice President

Nick Uran, KK6TV, 749-8734
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All Officers with an asterisk (*) plus:
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Past President

Nick Uran, KK6TV, 749-8734
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*Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 743-4212
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*John Magnone, KG6DVE, 745-6819
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*Marvin Munster, WB6PKK, 747-2223
wb6ppk@amsat.org

GET READY FOR A FIGHT!

by John, WB6UHF

It remains to be seen whether BPL will continue to be introduced into communities across the country as it was recently in Manassas, VA. But if the FCC continues to cheerlead for a technology with such obvious technical flaws, you had better be ready for a fight.

BPL is a method of broadband internet access using a home or business' existing AC wiring. The idea of piggybacking signals on the AC lines (sometimes called "carrier current") is not new. You've seen AM radio stations at entrances to National Parks with signs that read something like "Tune your radio to 1610 AM for Park information". Maybe you remember the "BSR" home security controllers which simply plugged into the wall to interconnect. Or you may have seen home intercoms which use the same idea.

One thing all these devices have in common is that they don't work well or reliably. How can they when an essential part of their operation is such an unknown variable as the wiring in a building? Signals are often poor or connections sporadic. Sometimes they won't work from one leg of the AC to the other leg. The best way to improve their performance is to crank up the power. But there's the catch.

All carrier current devices operate under Part 15 of the FCC rules. Part 15 originally was intended to define when a device actually is subject to the FCC regulatory process. Eventually it grew into a smorgasbord of allowable power limits and emission types which could be used without the need for a license, although each design still must undergo testing and self-certification.

But the heart of Part 15 remains the stipulation that any device operated under that part of the rules must accept any interference caused to it and *must be shut down if it causes any harmful interference to a licensed service*. Considering that, you can see the mess the FCC is getting us into. If and when your next door neighbor buys a shiny new internet connection and starts spraying you with RF, he has the legal obligation to turn it back off. And guess who has to enforce that shutdown if he refuses? You guessed it - the FCC.

So you can see what a spectacle it will be for the FCC commissioners to be running around the country telling the power companies and consumers what a wonderful new technology BPL is, while the

FCC's own Field Offices handle complaint after complaint from Amateur Radio operators and other services about interference to their legally protected operations. Not to mention the complaints the FCC will hear from the consumer who pays good money for a BPL connection only to find he's being accused of interfering with some neighbor's radio. And then being told by the FCC that, yes, he has the obligation to turn it off.

That's why I, for one, support the ARRL's aggressive fight against any relaxation of Part 15 rules. I'll go further than that. I think they should also lobby the FCC to discourage any technology from using existing Part 15 rules for any type of service which can cause as many problems as BPL certainly will. And to tighten the provisions of Part 15 if needed.

And I hope the ARRL wins the early fight. Because if they don't, the bigger fight, the one that takes place on a case-by-case basis, has just begun.

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://gulfoss2.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. Type your comments directly into the bottom large box, keeping <70 characters per line, and click "Send Brief Comments to FCC".

After 4, 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.

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

Please DO comment! 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!

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO reported that we have \$381 in the checking account and \$1331.54 in the savings account. Some membership renewals have come in. There are several outstanding bills to be paid including the equipment insurance which needs to be updated with the latest equipment list.

2. Nick, KK6TV reported that October's meeting will be a talk on trunking systems by John, W6EN. November's meeting will be a TBD video from Harry's collection. There will be a T-hunt after the EARS breakfast on October 18.

3. John, WB6UHF requested material for the next issue. It was suggested to feature an article on the evils of BPL.

4. John, KG6DVE reported that not as many people are checking into the net as normal. It's the time of year when there are more important priorities.

5. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that we participated in a Salvation Army communication's drill which was

successful on 40 meters but not on 2 meters. 2m simplex is difficult in San Diego County due to the numerous hills. ARES has a new coordinator who has been successful in getting ARES, RACES, and RAVES to cooperate and start working together.

6. The final draft of the new By-Laws is ready for review by the board.

7. John, KG6DVE, will explore getting a meeting room for next year at Emanuel Faith Church during the time the Chamber of Commerce building is being renovated. The board agreed that we should start holding a 50-50 raffle.

8. Harry, W6YOO, and John, KG6DVE, will call members to form a nominating committee for the upcoming club elections.

9. The Christmas party will be held at Konrad's house from 4 to 7 p.m. on December 13. The address is 3040 Quail Road.

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.

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.

SECTION NEWS – The latest happenings around San Diego, as well as the monthly *ARES Alert* is available at www.sanarrl.org, the official website of the ARRL San Diego Section.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE RENEWALS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS - To renew your license or supply the FCC with a change of address, use NCVEC Form 605 (obtainable from Harry, W6YOO). Attach a photocopy 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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