

# ALL EARS

146.880 - PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

August 2004

## GENERAL MEETINGS

EARS meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army building at 1303 Las Villas Way, in Escondido. Come early and chat!

### **Saturday, August 21st Annual Club Picnic**

The picnic starts at 11 a.m at Rod McLeod Park at 1701 South Iris Lane. The club provides burgers, hot dogs, condiments, sodas, water, etc. Members are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share if they wish.

### **Thursday, September 9th RACES**

San Diego County RACES Operation by Terry Runyon, K3PXX.

### **Thursday, October 14th Antenna Design**

Presented by Art McBride, KC6UQH.

## 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 bulletin is by the previous month's Board meeting.

## EVENT CALENDAR

Aug 21	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
<b>Aug 21</b>	<b>Annual Club Picnic</b>
Aug 21	Midnight Madness Bicycle Run
Aug 24	Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Sam's
Aug 27	VE Testing 9 a.m.
<b>Sept 9</b>	<b>EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b>
Sept 11	Grape Day Parade
Sept 18	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Sept 25	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Sept 28	Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
<b>Oct 14</b>	<b>EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b>
Oct 16	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.

## IMPORTANT

### **NEW MEETING LOCATION NEW MEETING DAY**

EARS has a new meeting location! Starting with the September, 2004 meeting, we will meet each month at the Salvation Army building at 1303 Las Villas Way. This is located at the southwest corner of Centre City Blvd and El Norte Parkway.

Due to the change in location, it was necessary to change our meeting day as well. The EARS meetings will now be on the second Thursday of each month.

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## PRESIDENT'S KORNER

by Nick, KK6TV

It appears to me that most of our "lawmakers" seem to be ignoring common sense, current FCC regulations and the opinions of the knowledgeable Ham Radio community by supporting BPL.

I think that most of our politicians are supporting Big Money by supporting BPL. Does this mean the end of Ham Radio as we know it? Unless you operate at 70 cm or above, it very well could!

I wouldn't be surprised to see BPL implemented, as it seems the politicians seldom stick up for what is right anymore. So, what I think we should do is for all of the Hams in the U.S., if BPL is implemented, all 632,000 Hams in the U.S. should move to Iraq!

Think about it. Their economy could use a little boost from outside money, you could probably buy a decent house for under \$100,000. The neighborhoods are probably pretty nice, other than an occasional insurgent. I seriously doubt there are any antenna restrictions. They are (almost) a practicing democracy, unlike here, where politicians vote for Big Money, and, by the time they get around to implementing BPL, there will be better technology available.

What? You say better technology is available now? Oh well, in the words of the late Rosanna Rosannadana, never mind!

Hope you all can make it to the picnic! John Magnone, KG6DVE, has agreed to cook the burgers and dogs. Bring your sun screen, a chair, T-hunting equipment, and appetite as well as favorite side dish to share if you wish! Don't forget the breakfast the same morning and Midnight Madness that night! It's going to be a very long day!!!

73, Nick

## IMPORTANT

The December, 2004, issue of All EARS is the last one which will be mailed. After that, All EARS will only be available by e-mail and on the EARS website.

If you are not receiving All EARS electronically, please contact John, WB6UHF, or Marvin, WB6PKK, with your e-mail address.

## EARS Club Officers for 2004

### President

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

### Vice President

John Belstner, W9EN, 271-8012  
w9en@amsat.org

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n6sd@arrl.net

### Treasurer

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n6uko@aol.com

### Emergency Services Coordinator

Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 741-2560  
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### Newsletter Editor

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

### Officers at Large\*

All Officers with an asterisk (\*) plus:  
\*Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, 743-5839  
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### Past President

Willie Peloquin, N8WP  
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### 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  
wb6pkk@amsat.org

## 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 6.

## FOR SALE

by Harry, W6YOO

As you may know, I am handling the ham radio estate of Virgil Baldwin, KF6QQ.

EARS is buying his HF equipment but there are some other things left:

Hustler Mobile Antenna Mast with resonators for 11, 20, 40, & 80 Meters. \$30.

Tokyo Hi Power Manual Antenna Tuner, HC-150 \$75.

Daiwa Cross Needle SWR Bridge, 1.8-150 MHz \$25.

Wanzer Co "Z" Match Tuner, 300W \$75.

Atlas DL-300 52 Ohm Dummy Load (like small Antenna) w/cooling oil \$15.

Low Pass Filter (great for 6 Mtr Ops)

Yaesu FL-2100B Linear Amplifier, \$300.00.

All from the estate of KF6QQ. Call Harry, W6YOO, at 760-743-4212.

## EARS ANTENNA CREW

by Sam, N6SD

On Sunday, August first, Jo, KB6NMK, Harry, W6YOO, Sam, N6SD, Konrad, N6UKO, Konrad's daughter, John, W9EN, Steve, G0TAN, and Steve's XYL, Gina, met with Gordon Baldwin, KD6TLE, and his friend Loran Davis for an antenna party.

Gordon's father, Virgil Baldwin, KF6QQ, recently became a silent key and Gordon donated his father's 56' crank up tower and an all band vertical to the club.

Gordon is an experienced tower climber and had the proper equipment with which to climb, so he climbed the tower and removed everything except the antenna while the rest of us held onto the safety ropes. Except for a couple of times when Gordon's pucker factor pegged out, everything proceeded smoothly and the tower and vertical were lowered without mishap. They were then taken by Konrad for storage until the next Field Day outing.

The members of EARS wish to thank Gordon for his generous gift and extend condolences to him and his family for their recent loss.

## AMATEUR RADIO CLASS

by Skip, KD6RFQ

Dates Sept 18, 25, Oct. 2 and 9

Registration September 18, 2004, at Scripps Memorial Hospital, time 1pm, in the Noble Room. Question and answer at this time. This registration is a must attend meeting will last approximately 2 hours.

Schedules will be given out, with times.

We will be using "Now You're Talking 5<sup>th</sup> edition". Read Chapters 1-4. Things to bring: pen and pencil, highlighters.

Class meeting days Sept 25, Oct. 2 and 9

Class hours 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., lunch 1 hour

Will take FCC test, on site.

Cost of class \$13.00 covers book, and six (6) practice tests, and taking the FCC test thru the Volunteer Examiner Cash please

Directions to Scripps Memorial Hospital campus are: (Thomas Guide, 2002, page 1228, B-1)

Address: 9888 Genesee Avenue, La Jolla, CA 92037

1. I-5
2. Genesee Avenue exit
3. Proceed east, on Genesee Avenue, one block to signal.
4. Turn right at signal, which is Scripps

Drive straight ahead, take a parking ticket, and proceed through the parking gate. Bring ticket with you; it will be validated. Once through the parking gate, first right turn to the underground parking entrance. Be very careful for all antennas. We will be in the Noble Room in the Schaezel Center.

E-mail with name, day phone + night phone, and which is best to call.

Class contact :

Skip Cline  
760-757-5424  
kd6rfq@ixpres.com  
(e-mail is best)

## GOING TO MARS (cont'd)

by Tony May, KG6SXY / NNN0AFE(T)

One of the last steps in training is to assume net control for one traffic net which I did on Friday, June 18. I was a little nervous about how to deal with digital traffic since I don't have that capability at my station yet but I knew there was always an alternate net control that I could call upon to handle any traffic that I couldn't handle myself. I did have to handle traffic that night and it was interesting to hear a message that was addressed to myself and others to inform the appropriate people of the completion of my training and permission for me to drop the T from the end of my callsign. In the heat of the moment, I had the message passed to one of the addressees on the list but neglected to accept the message for myself. A small mistake but the experience was worth every minute.

When I was asked to take over as net control for a regular traffic net on the day I finished my training, I admit I was a little nervous about taking so much responsibility so soon but I also knew that there's no better way to improve than by jumping in with both feet and giving it everything you've got. The worst that can happen is you end up having to ask a more experienced operator on the net for assistance and there's nothing wrong with that.

The next great experience I had was a field exercise that arrived at 6:15 a.m. the morning after I finished my training. There's just no comparison between reading about everything you need to set up in the middle of nowhere and actually getting out there and doing it. Even though I knew ahead of time that the exercise was coming up, hearing "There's a 7,000 acre fire..." at 6:15 a.m. before you're fully awake really gets your attention and works much better than a pot of coffee and a pound of chocolate to get you moving. My heart was racing but I was on autopilot from the moment I hung up the phone.

I really didn't know what to expect but I started packing the car with everything I had at the time that I thought I would need including a generator, deep cycle battery, cables, connectors, soldering iron, spools of wire, first aid kit, a collapsable chair, a change of clothing, flashlights, spare batteries, my Kenwood TH-F6A HT, a copy of all the training material, some food, palm pilot, bluetooth GPS, a load of digital maps, a web generated map of instructions to get to the scene, a cell phone ( I forgot the charger though), paper, pens, pencils, paperclips, candles, matches, scissors, string, a rubber mallet, a case of water, a digital camera, and a gallon of sun block. I was a lot better prepared

than I was for my night in the desert during the Baker to Vegas run where my cot collapsed and tried to devour me and I ended up chasing a black sleeping bag through a field without a flashlight in the middle of the night only to end up sleeping sitting in that same collapsable chair for the rest of the night. By 6:37 a.m. my tires had hit the road and I was on my way north.

I think I surprised a few people that morning when I pulled into the parking lot of a park in Chino, CA , at 8:04 a.m. where I saw a big black truck with a MARS Emergency Communications decal on the drivers door. I really had no clue where I was supposed to be when I entered the park and didn't have my radios modified to be able to transmit on MARS frequencies yet to get some help. Even though I didn't have enough gear to set up a complete station of my own that day, helping Lyell/ NNN0AGN set up his station helped me realize how close I was to being able to do the same thing very soon.

I've recently gotten myself to the point where I just have to work on setting up a few antennas and I'm ready for some field tests. It really doesn't take a lot to get on the air as long as you have a portable radio, some wire, a source of power, and some space. The rest of the pieces are just a matter of how comfortable you want to be while you're sitting out in the middle of nowhere. One of the important lessons I learned that weekend was how much faster you can set up if you keep all the pieces for an individual station together in one box. It just adds to the delay if you have all your power cables in one place and all your microphones and headsets in another place.

The month ahead looks exciting for me. I plan to get as much field practice as I can and set up a remote station with emergency power on my own a couple of times a month. Now I just have to figure out how to get all the bits and pieces into my little Honda Civic including my new 21' mast and instant canopy for shelter from the elements. After upgrading my radio equipment to give me HF capabilities while mobile and adding the very long ham stick antenna to the trunk, my car really does look like one of those toy radio controlled cars. I've joined the ranks of other enthusiasts that have to start paying attention to those height warnings when entering parking garages.

There's always more to learn and more challenges ahead as long as you're open to the experience. I'm happy where I am today and looking forward to everything Navy-Marine Corps MARS can throw at me.

## AWARDS AND QSLING - PART VI

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

If I have been absorbed in talking about awards that require HF privileges, I humbly apologize to those who have yet to upgrade to Technician with Code or General Class. There certainly are awards for those limited by license to VHF and above. The most popular of these is the VUCC, or VHF/UHF Century Club. This award requires you to contact stations in 100 different Maidenhead Grid Squares (or fewer as you get to 222 MHz or higher).

The world is divided up into "fields" that are 20 degrees by 10 degrees, and further sub-divided into "squares" that are two degrees by one degree in size. Hence, Escondido is in "field" DM and "square" 13, or DM13. Further information about the Maidenhead Grid Square system may be obtained at [www.redzilla.net/maiden.html](http://www.redzilla.net/maiden.html).

To qualify for the VUCC award you must contact, and confirm by QSL card, the requisite number of Grid Squares, have the cards checked by a VHF Field Checker, fill out the required ARRL application forms, and send it to ARRL with the current award fee.

You will receive a handsome certificate, suitable for framing, along with a lapel pin. Believe it or not, working 100 Grid Squares on 6 meters is far more difficult than working 100 countries on HF. For complete rules go to [www.arrl.org/awards/vucc/](http://www.arrl.org/awards/vucc/)

Last month we talked about using "security" envelopes, a number 10 for the outgoing, and a number nine for the return. Both of these envelopes are available at Staples or other stationery stores.

Minimize use of call letters on the envelope. You're usually OK on envelopes going to stations in the US, Canada, and most of Western Europe. But the sad fact is that there are way too many areas of the world where people handling the envelopes covet cash and have learned that call letters indicate an amateur radio related piece of mail, like a QSL card request with dollars and/or IRCs.

Consider having your envelopes printed professionally, with a return address, or use a good quality laser or ink jet printer to print them on the fly. Consider strongly making them look like a professional letter, not a personal one. Some people have made them appear to be "junk" mail.

Also consider using "Bob and Mary Jones" in the return address, again with no call letters. Use your printer to print the address right on the envelope, as

it looks more professional than printing by hand. Tape the outer envelope shut as it prevents humidity and "other factors" from "accidentally" opening the envelope.

Occasionally I will get a QSL request from overseas where one corner of the envelope has been cut away at a 45 degree angle so that one may peek inside to see that there is nothing more than paper therein. I've never used the technique so can't comment as to its effectiveness.

More on QSLing next time.

73, Harry

## BPL IN SAN DIEGO? from the CGC Communicator

### SDG&E CONFIRMS IT IS INVESTIGATING BPL

Last week, San Diego Gas & Electric Company ("SDG&E") issued a form letter providing a little more insight into its BPL program, and the heart of the letter is reproduced below and passed along without comment:

"We appreciate your interest in our plans concerning BPL, and we are, of course, concerned about any possible effect the technology may have on our customers. However, the fact is that we are now just beginning to assess the technology. That assessment may or may not include a pilot, an issue which has not been decided.

"We are aware of concerns raised in the past, and we are aware of claims that those issues have been dealt with. Other utilities are beginning tests, and we want to assess the possible benefits of BPL to our customers. We intend to analyze the issue thoroughly before proceeding. Thanks again for your interest."

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It is important to realize that SDG&E is doing what any good utility should be doing - reviewing the merits (or not) of a new technology. We hope the company will choose to work with all concerned parties now (e.g. broadcast and amateur radio) in a cooperative effort, since fundamental decisions made at the outset can have a profound influence on the outcome.



## AUGUST BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that there is \$993.90 in the checking account and \$1334.84 in the savings account.

2. John, W9EN, presented a program schedule for the remaining meetings of the year with programs for each month. The August program is the club picnic at Rod MCleod Park.

3. Marvin, WB6PKK, proposed that we sell the MCC-1000 controller and purchase one he is looking at that will control both repeaters and provide linking them together. Authorization was given to do this.

4. Sam, N6SD, reported that participation at the Ham Radio booth at the fair was poor for all the clubs and we may end up losing our place at the fair if it doesn't improve. The Red Cross will be holding Communication Classes on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of October. Negotiations are ongoing with the Marriott

and Town & Country hotels for the 2006 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention.

5. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that he has been trying to contact the local Salvation Army to firm up the meeting date but hasn't been able to so far. He will request the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month when he makes contact. Jo, KB6NMK proposed that the board meetings be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. Authorization was given to do this.

6. Konrad, N6UKO, proposed that we sell the TS-520 and purchase the TS-430, AT-240, and PS-430 from the estate of Virgil, KF6QQ, for club use. This passed on a voice vote.

7. Up to \$125 was allocated for the club picnic.

8. The next board meeting will be at Sam's QTH on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

## 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, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with this form.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**CLUB REPEATERS** - EARS operates two repeaters in Escondido. The two meter EARS repeater is on 146.88 MHz with a PL of 107.2. The 440 EARS repeater is on 449.240 MHz with a PL of 127.13. Both repeaters are local in nature and primarily serve the immediate Escondido area.

**ECHO-LINK** - The two meter repeater is tied to the Echo-Link system as node 2846. See the Club website, [www.earsclub.org](http://www.earsclub.org), for information on Echo-Link. There is also a listing of local Echo-Link codes in the members section of the website.

**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](http://www.earsclub.org).

**EARS REFLECTOR** – is a free service that keeps members up-to-date via e-mail. To get on the reflector, go to the EARS website and click on Yahoo Groups in the site map. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, e-mail Nick, [kk6tv@arrl.net](mailto: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, e-mail, etc. We want to keep our records up to date. Contact Marvin, WB6PKK, the keeper of the club database, or any club officer.

**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](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.

**SANDARC** - EARS is a member of the San Diego Amateur Radio Council, an association of San Diego area Amateur Radio clubs. Among other things, SANDARC runs the local Volunteer Examiner program (SANDARC-VEC), and manages the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention when held in San Diego every fourth year. See [www.qsl.net/n6oph](http://www.qsl.net/n6oph).

**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 8:00 a.m. at Giovanni's Restaurant, southwest corner of Clairmont Mesa Blvd and Ruffin Road. Order your breakfast at the counter and it will be brought to your table in the meeting area. The monthly ARES training session follows the breakfast meeting and takes place at the Kearney Mesa Recreation Center, 3170 Armstrong Street (near Mesa College). Training begins at 10:00 a.m. and lasts approximately one hour.

**SECTION NEWS** – The latest happenings around San Diego are available at [www.arrl.org/sections/SDG.html](http://www.arrl.org/sections/SDG.html), 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.

**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 at 9 a.m. on the last Saturday of every month at Fire Station One, 310 N Quince Street. Contact Harry Hodges, W6YOO, to schedule an appointment.

**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 HF regardless of license, now's the time. See Harry Hodges, W6YOO/AAR9LX for details.

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

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