

# ALL EARS

146.880 - PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

December 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, December 11th Annual Christmas Party**

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

This year's party will take place at the home of John and Lynn Belstner, 622 Via Del Campo, San Marcos from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Bring a single (approximately) \$5 gift to get in on the gift exchange. This is one of the highlights of the evening so don't forget your gift.

Also, bring a donation for the Salvation Army of a new packaged toy (unwrapped), or canned foods (vegetables, soups, tomato products, etc) or cash.

There will be lots of finger food. Also, there are raffle prizes, including gift certificates from Ham Radio Outlet and cash prizes. Please bring a donation of \$7 per person to help defray the costs. All members of the family are invited. You won't want to miss this fun time.

### **Thursday, January 13th Hi-Q Antennas**

Charlie Gyenes, W6HIQ, will demonstrate his line of "Hi-Q" mobile HF antennas.

## IMPORTANT

This issue of All EARS is the last one which will be mailed. From now on, All EARS will only be available by e-mail or from the EARS website. If you are not receiving All EARS electronically, please contact John, WB6UHF, or Marvin, WB6PKK, with your e-mail address.

## EVENT CALENDAR

<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>Escondido Christmas Parade</b>
<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>EARS Annual Christmas Party 4 p.m.</b>
Dec 28	Board Meeting at My Father's 7 p.m.
<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>First Night Escondido</b>
<b>Jan 13</b>	<b>EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b>
Jan 15	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 am.
Jan 25	EARS Board Meeting at Sam's 7 p.m.
Jan 29	VE Testing 9 a.m.
<b>Feb 10</b>	<b>EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b>
Feb 19	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 am
Feb 22	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Feb 26	50K Run at Lake Hodges

## That's why they call them Dues!

All memberships paid through 2004 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!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## PRESIDENT'S KORNER

by Nick, KK6TV

Recently it was announced that Amateur operators will probably not be supporting this year's Rose Parade. One article I read suggested that since a major sponsor of the parade is Nextel and since most of the parade officials carry Nextel phones which have the direct connect and group connect features there really is no need for Ham Operators to serve as shadows. I hate to disagree with the majority opinion on this topic but, this could be a good thing! Why should we try to help out doing something they can do just as well themselves! We shouldn't take it negatively or be disappointed but move on to something else. There's nothing worse for a volunteer to take time to support an activity and then not be needed or wanted! Start thinking about other ways to support such an event (or other events more worthy of your support). The Rose parade has become such a commercial event anyways, in my opinion, with the millions of dollars being spent by corporate sponsors, perhaps it is no longer appropriate for Hams to support a for profit event.

Along this same topic, we were recently told by the Escondido Chamber of Commerce they do not desire our support for the Street Faire. All of those booths along Grand avenue are paying two to three hundred bucks each for their space. Someone is definitely making bucks on this event. Why should we support it anyways? Let them pay the private security to handle the vendor disputes, shoplifters and lost children. We should concentrate our support on events where we are needed (and wanted)! First Night, the Christmas Parade, Grape Day, Valley Center Western Days, I Love a Clean San Diego, all of which nothing but great things have been said about EARS support!

Speaking of the Christmas Parade, I hope you have your HT batteries charged and are ready to go! It seems almost a tradition every year to lose Santa Clause. Of course every year Ham Radio has come to the rescue and some EARS operator has been able to locate him. What greater contribution could Ham Radio ever make to society!

And.. don't forget, around 4 p.m., the annual EARS Christmas party at John, W9EN, and his wife Lynn's QTH. There is sure to be great food, raffle prizes, including a few \$25 gift certificates from Ham Radio Outlet, some gift certificates for the non-hams, a five dollar (or so) gift exchange, and the traditional passing of the gavel to the next EARS President. By the way, if you happen to be at HRO, make sure to thank them for donating the certificates to EARS.

Consider spending the end of this year and the

## EARS Club Officers for 2004

### President

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

### Vice President

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

### 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

Willie Peloquin, N8WP  
n8wp@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  
wb6pkk@amsat.org

beginning of next year helping out at First Night. If you can help out, give Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, a call.

Well, this should be my last President's column (I've said that before). When I start thinking of individuals I should thank for their support for the last year, the list probably includes just about every member of EARS! So, instead of going on and on, I just want to say thank you to everyone for your great support in 2004. All of you are responsible for making EARS the great club it is (pat yourself on the back).

Looking forward to a even greater 2005!

Happy Holidays and 73, Nick

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### SALVATION ARMY HOLIDAY DRIVE

The Salvation Army of Escondido is asking the public for help during December. We hold our monthly meetings in their Center and this would be a nice way to show our appreciation.

They are asking for donations of new packaged toys, canned foods such as vegetables, soups and tomato products and cash. They also need volunteers to help sort and box the food and toys. The food will be sorted and boxed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on December 11, 13, and 14. The toys will be boxed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on December 15, 16, and 17.

They also need volunteers to staff the Sharing Tree at Westfield Shoppingtown North County for two to three hour shifts starting December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This would be to assist shoppers in selecting a tag from the tree and collecting the toy after it is purchased. Dress is casual.

If you want to help with the boxing of toys or food, please contact Sam N6SD at 747-9096 or [n6sd@arrl.net](mailto:n6sd@arrl.net). It would be nice if we can get several people to go in a group.

If you wish to help with the Sharing Tree contact the Salvation Army for a time and day at 745- 8616 and ask for Ryan Burke.

### DESERT LAW ENFORCEMENT

Volunteers are needed one weekend each month in Ocotillo Wells to help the Sheriff Department with the off-roading vehicles. Contact Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, at 741-2560.

### FIRST NIGHT ESCONDIDO

Volunteers are still needed to help with First Night on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Work a three-hour shift from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. or from 9 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Contact Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, at 741-2560.

### 50K RUN / I LOVE A CLEAN SAN DIEGO

Volunteers are needed to help with the 50K run at Lake Hodges on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February and I Love a Clean San Diego on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. Contact Dave, KC6YSO, for both of these events.

## New Club Officers for 2005

### President

John Belstner, W9EN, 271-8012  
[w9en@amsat.org](mailto:w9en@amsat.org)

### Vice President

Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, 743-5839  
[darcpa@att.net](mailto:darcpa@att.net)

### Secretary

Sam Bradsher, N6SD, 747-9096  
[n6sd@arrl.net](mailto:n6sd@arrl.net)

### Treasurer

Konrad Wallenda, N6UKO, 743-8826  
[n6uko@aol.com](mailto:n6uko@aol.com)

### Emergency Services Coordinator

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 743-4212  
[w6yoo@amsat.org](mailto:w6yoo@amsat.org)

### Officers at Large\*

All persons with an asterisk (\*) plus:  
Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 741-2560  
[kb6nmk@amsat.org](mailto:kb6nmk@amsat.org)  
Tony May, KG6SXY  
[kg6sxy@arrl.net](mailto:kg6sxy@arrl.net)

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[wb6pkk@amsat.org](mailto: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.

## ARE YOU READY, WILLING AND ABLE?

by Tony, KG6SXY/NNN0AFE

It's funny to look back at my welcome letter and then look at the calendar and realize how little time has gone by since I got involved with Navy-Marine Corps MARS. Things have been so busy with learning new procedures and accepting the position of NNN0GAF FOUR SCA, Assistant to the State Director for Training on top of preparing myself to be able to do what I need to in a real emergency. Last year I didn't have the opportunity to participate in supporting communications during all the fires and I really didn't hear anything about the fires until the day I wrote the test for my first license; I was too busy concentrating on studying and not paying attention to the news. Working from home also removes that opportunity to learn about what's going on around my community unless I make a concerted effort to do so.

I've listened to a number of people talking about the time they invested to keep nets running and pass messages from one place to another during an emergency. While amateur radio is an exciting hobby in itself, you can usually recognize those people who are involved for the emergency and community service aspects just by the way they talk about their experiences. It all comes down to attitude. It's hard not to feel motivated by listening to people talking about events more than the technical aspects of getting a station to perform well. You can't avoid the technical side of things but I've learned that there are so many people willing to lend a hand whenever you call out for help that not everyone has to know everything about everything. People who are just happy with operating and not understanding the intricate details of a particular station setup are just as valuable as those who can pick up a box of parts and end up with a working radio somewhere down the line.

Attitude is important regardless of how you will contribute to responding to an emergency. For some of us, there's fear of being able to do what we want to do without making mistakes. For others, there's a fear of getting sucked into a situation where we'll be asked to do more than we're capable of doing or committing more time than we have to give. Each of us has a different situation when it comes to responding to an emergency or even an exercise. I think it's unreasonable to expect that everyone will always be able to drop everything and go at the same time and I'm pretty sure that is not an expectation most people have when they pick up the phone and start asking for help. I am sure that even if people aren't available right away, it's just as valuable to let others know that you'll be available

after 7 p.m. for up to five hours. At least that way, someone else can work out a schedule that covers the situation at hand. Maybe the situation will be resolved before you become available, but at least you did the best you could and offered to help at a given time; that's a lot better than just leaving the other person hanging with no indication of when people will be available. I often sit and think about what I will say and what I'll do first if I pick up the phone and hear that MARS has been activated. It's not as scary as it used to be but it can still be a little unsettling to think that I could end up having to do what I've been practicing every day in a situation that could have a real impact on other people. It's something that always seems to be in the back of my mind now and at the strangest times I hear things that help; the other night when I turned on the TV for noise and I heard someone say that a little stress is good as long as you don't let it paralyze you. Until recently, I never thought too much about being mentally prepared as well as physically prepared to get involved but they definitely go hand in hand.

Now that I've begun spending more time trying to teach new Navy-Marine Corps MARS members how to become active participants in the traffic nets and how to get themselves on the air, it constantly reminds me to revisit my own situation at home. I've had a chance to participate in a couple of exercises now and the frantic rush to get myself to the point where I can operate from home or in the field is behind me. I still practice setting up a station in the backyard from time to time and I spend time, when I can, looking at the way I have things stacked around the house in case I need to grab things and run to another location. Just a couple of weeks ago I was volunteering to help with communications for a parade and was still trying to find my HT a few hours before the event. My house still looks a little like a tornado ripped through here, tossing everything like a salad, but it was a good reminder to me to spend a little time reorganizing things so I don't have to spend so much time hunting for things. Old habits die hard and I still catch myself putting things down somewhere where I know I'll never remember where I left it.

I really enjoy teaching and I'm glad I'm in a position where I can work one-on-one with new Navy-Marine Corps MARS members as well as running a training net every week. I had no idea when I started with Amateur Radio last fall that I was starting something that would give me so much back in return. The most important thing to me is being involved with an organization that is going to give me the opportunities to really make a difference when the time comes to help my community.

## AWARDS AND QSLING - PART X

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

Over the years, certain Amateur Radio organizations and publications have offered awards for making contacts on the air. ARRL's premier award is DXCC. The RSGB offers various awards for contacting the world's islands through the IOTA program. Now, CQ Magazine, already known for a number of awards, has announced another. This one is a one-time award, the period is abbreviated, and the award is nothing more than a certificate of no special importance except to the recipient.

The magazine is celebrating sixty years of publication and during the period January 1, 2005, to March 1, 2005, radio operators try to contact as many "CQ Gang Award" participants as possible. They will use their call signs/60 and include all members of the CQ magazine staff as well as ALL subscribers to the magazine. As I am a subscriber, I would give my exchange as: "W6YOO/60, name is Harry, QTH is California, you are 5/9 and position is Subscriber, SUB". There are points per contact and multipliers. A minimum of 60 points is required with endorsements to a maximum of 600 points. No QSL cards are required. Forms for paper logs can be obtained at [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com) or requested by mail from CQ magazine. The complete rules can be found at the same web site. There is no charge for the award certificate.

Another group that has their own set of contests and awards: FISTS – International Morse Preservation Society. They sponsor contests, give out awards, operate their own QSL bureau, and publish a quarterly journal. If you think code is a dying art be it known that FISTS has over 10,000 (that's right over ten thousand) members. For membership and other information, go to [www.fists.org](http://www.fists.org). OBTW, my fists number is 5966 so membership has almost doubled since I joined a few years ago.

I tell folks that the first three rules of good DXing are to Listen, Listen, Listen! And listen some more. I guess that the first three rules of QSLing are Patience, Patience, and still more Patience. Why I bring this up is that I heard some one on the air today complaining that they worked someone a couple of weeks ago, sent out a card right away and still hadn't received one in return. If everything goes right and it's within the USA, think three weeks minimum and if overseas then six to eight weeks. And, if it is a big operation – all bets are off. They need to select a photo, pick a printer, arrange for sponsor logos, get them printed up and only then start working through the piles of incoming. T33C this year generated over 75,000 QSOs and a couple

of years ago an operation in Africa generated about 150,000. Patience is a virtue. From time to time I get a card from a QSL request I sent via the bureau system and the total round trip is 10 years!

Don't despair!

73,  
Harry, W6YOO

## FOR SALE

by Harry, W6YOO

Cushcraft WARC band 3 element beam, model A3WS with 30 meter add on kit, model A103. Covers 12, 17, and 30 meters. Total weight 26 pounds. \$150.00.

From estate of KF6QQ:

Tokyo hi power manual antenna tuner, HC-150. \$75.  
Wanze Co "Z" Match Tuner, 300 W. \$75.  
Atlas DL-300 52 ohm dummy load (It is like a small Cantenna) with cooling oil. \$15.00  
Low pass filter (great for 6 Meter operators) \$10.00  
Yaesu FL2100B linear amplifier (great table top amp) \$300.00

Call Harry, W6YOO, 760-743-4212.

## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from All EARS!!

### 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](mailto:wb6uhf@arri.net)

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The deadline to submit material for the bulletin is by the previous month's Board meeting.



## NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. There was no Treasurer's report this month.

1. \$240 was approved for the annual Christmas Party to be held at John, W9EN's, house at 622 Via Del Campo in San Marcos. Each guest is asked to donate \$7 toward the food. Dirk, N6SUN, will contact HRO about gift certificates.

2. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported the repeater is working fine. The packet node is delayed due to software incompatibility with Windows XP. John, W9EN, reported that the Echo Link node is moving from his QTH to the QTH of Steve, G0TAN.

3. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that volunteers are needed one weekend each month in Ocotillo Wells to help with the off-roading vehicles. Volunteers are needed for First Night and the 50K run at Lake Hodges and I Love a Clean San Diego.

4. Nick, KK6TV, reported that John, KG6DVE e-mailed him that there are no new members and the net is going well. John suggests that one net be

devoted to a roundtable of past presidents reminiscing, sort of a Nostalgia Net.

4. It was decided that the advertising rate for the newsletter will be \$25 per year for a business card size ad each month.

5. Sam, N6SD, reported that the 2006 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention will be held 22-24 of September at the Marriott Mission Valley Hotel. EARS will volunteer to run Exhibitor Services.

6. Nick, KK6TV, will update the website and look into a new server.

7. Sam, N6SD, passed around a drawing of the Library display case that the club has use of for March 2005 and asked for suggestions of what to display.

8. Sam, N6SD reported that the Salvation Army ran an ad asking for volunteers to help in December. He will contact them to see how our club can help.

## 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  
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