

ALL EARS

146.880 - PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

February 2004

GENERAL MEETINGS

EARS meets at the Emmanuel Faith Community Church, 639 East Felicita Avenue, Escondido, at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Come early and chat!

Tuesday, February 24th Fundamentals of Spread Spectrum

Spread Spectrum technology was first developed by the military and is now widely used in commercial cellular networks. This presentation will discuss the spreading techniques of FHSS (Frequency Hop Spread Spectrum) and DSSS (Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum) as well as the multiple access technique commonly known as CDMA.

Presented by John Belstner, W9EN.

Tuesday, March 23rd GPS (Global Positioning System)

Jeff Murdock, AE6GM, will explain what's inside the black box called GPS. This presentation takes the mystery out of GPS, and presents some of the more exciting applications of the technology.

Tuesday, April 27th Annual EARS Auction

This is the big yearly event you've waited for.

Pull those boat anchors, white elephants, flotsam, jetsam and knick-knacks out of the garage and bring them down to trade for a different set!

Art McBride, KC6UQH, has agreed to do the duties as auctioneer this year - the only EARS member bold enough to stand in front of the whole club and risk not knowing what some odd little treasure is! That's because he doesn't often get tripped up.

Don't miss it!

EVENT CALENDAR

Feb 21	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Feb 24	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Feb 28	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Mar 2	Board Meeting 7 p.m. at Konrad's.
Mar 9	EARS Birthday Field Day Planning
Mar 21	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Mar 23	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Mar 27	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Apr 6	Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Apr 17	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Apr 24	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Apr 27	EARS Annual Auction
May 16	Escondido Street Faire
May 29	Valley Center Western Days Parade

Can You Find Your EARS???

Don't forget, EARS now meets at a new location due to renovation of the Chamber of Commerce building. Our new meeting place is:

Emmanuel Faith Community Church
639 East Felicita Avenue
Escondido

Come early if you not familiar with the area and we will guide you in on 146.880.

Note that VE testing has also moved to a new location at Fire Station One. See page 7 for details.

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Limited BPL Moves Forward - p. 5

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

by Nick, KK6TV

During Field Day, and most other contests, the big points are to be made with CW. Usually a CW contact will get you at least one more point than a voice contact. This is why your Field Day Captain, John, WB6UHF, really likes CW operators.

Recently, there has been a lot of discussion on the EARS Yahoo Groups page concerning a CW net. Although not quite a contest, a net would be a good place to start to get over that initial key fright.

We would like to have several net controls so if you are interested, please let me know. We are not going to limit this to one frequency, either. We are considering 2m FMCW (possibly on one of our repeaters), 2m CW, 10m CW, 40m CW and even a keyboard to keyboard internet net.

Speed will be according to check-ins and, if I am net control, speed will be slow! So, become a net control, develop those CW skills and plan on earning EARS a few extra points on Field Day!

EARS will be 31 years old this March and I hope to see all of you at the Pizza Party on March 9th. Hopefully, some of the old timers will show up. I wonder what the first EARS Field Day was like or what was it like when the first QSO was made on our 88 repeater? Why celebrate 31 years? Well, basically it's because we haven't celebrated it for the past 10 years and it's a good excuse for a Field Day meeting and a party!

I am, as usual, looking forward to John, W9EN's, presentation on Spread Spectrum this month. For those of you who missed last month's presentation on Echolink, you missed out.

Thanks to Thomas, KG6INL, for getting us use of the great facilities at Emanuel Faith Community Church.

Thomas has also been working hard on the new Web site. It really looks great and is full featured. Check in and create a profile if you haven't already. Take part in a forum or chat with a friend.

73,
Nick
kk6tv@kk6tv.com

EARS Club Officers for 2004

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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.

HODGES RETURN

by Harry, W6YOO

Jerry and I returned today from our two-week sojourn to Argentina, Brazil, and Antarctica. The Falls of Iguazu were fantastic and Antarctica has to be seen to be believed.

Ice, ice, and more ice. Icebergs as big as aircraft carriers! Penguins, penguins, penguins of all sizes from still in the egg to newborns, squawking adults and those in between. And guano, guano, and more guano! Whales, seal, birds and more birds.

Wow! Cool! Stupendous? Took lots and lots of photos. It's a long, long ways from here.

You get on the ship in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, locally known as the "End of the World". Many hours on, flying in airborne cattle cars. But worth it? Oh my Yes! Go again? You Betcha, — if we can.

Now the bad news - towards the end of the trip I started feeling some pain in my right leg, sort of a groin pull. We managed to call ahead for an appointment with my orthopedic surgeon.

Short story - the titanium rod in my right femur is broken again! This is the third time!

Of course, my loving wife is worried as surgery of this sort is not quite like having your teeth cleaned but is holding up well so far. She has always said that if I ever marry again, marry a nurse.

Editor's Note - We are pleased to report that Harry survived his surgery and, although somewhat hobbled, is doing well. Harry, our best wishes.

NOW YOU KNOW

relayed from Marvin, WB6PKK

Albert Einstein, when asked to describe radio, replied:

"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

GET READY FOR FIELD DAY

by John, WB6UHF

EARS will be 31 years old on March 9 of this year.

To celebrate this event, there will be a party at My Fathers Pizza in Escondido (it's where the old Godfather's Pizza was).

This event will also be the first Field Day planning meeting as well. We will be looking to pin down the assignments for Band Captains and the captain of the GOTA station. We are also looking for volunteers who can bring motorhomes, vans, or trailers.

This year's operation will be emphasizing CW and all CW operators are invited to express their interest early.

Come on out and let us know you are ready to help. The party starts at 6:30 pm.

AMSAT ANNOUNCES LAUNCH DELAY

from AMSAT

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, has announced that due to a delay in the delivery of the primary payload to the launch site in Kazakhstan, the launch of the ECHO satellite has been delayed by some three months.

"The 'official' launch date is now June 29, 2004," Haighton said. "I assume that this new date is the start of the new launch window, which may last several weeks."

WEB MASTERY

by John, WB6UHF

If you haven't checked it out lately, you gotta see the new EARS website (earsclub.org).

Thomas, KG6INL, the EARS Webmaster, has redone the graphics and reorganized the entire site.

Now you can get information on the latest club activities, participate in club forums, look up past issues of All EARS, and scan through photos of recent club events.

Great job, Thomas!

440 REPEATER ON THE AIR

by John, WB6UHF

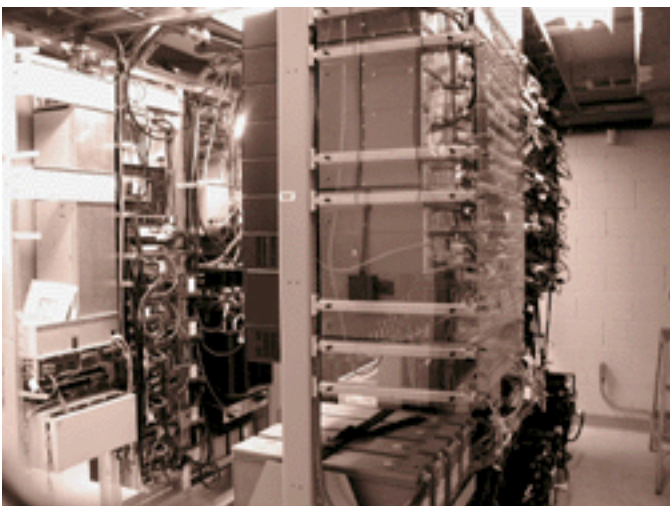


*Konrad, N6UKO, gets lost amid the towers and antennas on Hubbard Hill. Below, a look inside the equipment room.
See www.earsclub.org for more photos
-- photos by Marvin, WB6PKK.*

The new 440 repeater has been re-crystalled and is on the air. Listen for it at 449.240 MHz with a PL of 127.13. If you have any trouble, keep checking back as work is ongoing.

Thanks go out to Marvin, WB6PKK, Konrad, N6UKO, Roger, K6EQ, and John, WB6UHF. Also thanks to Roger, KB6DQO, and Sam, N6SD, for coordinating the paperwork, etc, to get this done.

Good job, Marvin and gang!



YEEEEEE -- HAAAAA!

by Nick, KK6TV

We will be supporting the Valley Center Western Days Parade again this year. I think all who helped out last year had a good time.

Its a little bit different than our Escondido parades (a little bit country!) We had around 17 volunteers last year and I would like to get around 20 this year. So if you are interested, please let me know.

"Don't know what Western Days is? It's the biggest fund-raiser for the Chamber of Commerce, and the largest community event of the year.

"It runs Memorial Day Weekend, May 28, 29, and 30, but activities begin in March when all the non-profit organizations in VC running candidates for Honorary Mayor begin fund-raising.

"Things kick into high gear the weekend before Western Days with the VC Vaqueros' traditional "Old Timers" Show at Aerie Park.

"Festivities heat up Friday evening (the 28th) with live entertainment and the Honorary Mayor's Race Showdown at VC Community Center.

"Saturday morning starts bright and early with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Rotary Club, followed by the parade along VC Road at 10am. Activities then move to the festival at the VC Community Center which will have live entertainment, vendors, food booths, exhibits, rides, games, Homesteaders 4-H Club Barbecue and a beer garden.

"Entertainment runs all day right into the main event Saturday night. The beer garden will be open all day. The Stampede Rodeo, also sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

"Sunday morning begins with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Lions Club, followed by festival activities starting at 10am. Sunday is a great day to visit the festival if you plan on doing some shopping and/or eating!"

For more info, check out www.vcwesterndays.org

Nick...

FCC OKAYS BPL PROPOSAL

from the ARRL Letter

The FCC has unanimously approved a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to deploy Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The NPRM is the next step in the BPL proceeding, which began last April with a Notice of Inquiry that attracted nearly 5200 comments—many from the amateur community. The FCC did not propose any changes in emission limits for unlicensed Part 15 devices, but said it would require BPL providers to apply “adaptive” interference mitigation techniques to their systems. An ARRL delegation that attended the February 12 FCC open meeting in Washington later expressed disappointment in the FCC action.

“The Commission clearly recognized that the existing Part 15 emission limits are inadequate to stop interference,” Sumner said, “but it’s placing the burden of interference mitigation on the licensed user that’s supposed to be protected,” said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Sumner said that if the FCC really believed current Part 15 emission limits were sufficient, it would not have had to require that BPL providers institute interference mitigation systems. The FCC has not yet released the actual NPRM, and a presentation by the FCC’s Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) revealed only its broad outlines. Sumner said the League would not take a formal position until it reviews the full NPRM.

Anh Wride of the OET staff spelled out the scope of the NPRM, which only addresses so-called “access BPL”—the type that would apply radio frequency energy to exterior overhead and underground low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute broadband and Internet service. She said the OET staff believes that interference concerns “can be adequately addressed.”

Wride said the FCC’s BPL NPRM:

- * Applies existing Part 15 emission limits for unlicensed carrier-current systems to BPL systems. Part 15 rules now require that BPL systems eliminate any harmful interference that may occur “and must cease operation if they cannot,” she noted.

- * Requires BPL systems to employ “adaptive interference-mitigation techniques, including the capabilities to shut down a specific device, to reduce power levels on a dynamic or remote-control basis and to include or exclude specific operating frequencies or bands.”

- * Subjects BPL providers to notification requirements that would establish a public database that would include the location of BPL devices, modulation type and operating frequencies.

- * Proposes guidelines to provide for consistent and repeatable measurement of the RF emissions from BPL and other carrier-current systems.

Mirroring his colleagues’ enthusiasm, FCC Chairman Michael Powell called BPL “tremendously exciting,” although he conceded that BPL has “a long way to go.” Powell also said the FCC’s OET has worked very hard to try to “get their hands around” the issue of interference and that the FCC would continue its vigilance in that area.

The FCC has posted additional information, including a public notice on its Web site:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243879A1.doc

The Commission is expected to issue the complete Notice of Proposed Rule Making within a few days and will invite comments on it sometime after publication.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>.

To support the League’s efforts in this area, visit the ARRL’s secure BPL Web site:

<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>.

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

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The deadline to submit material for the next bulletin is Tuesday, March 10.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported \$1225.96 in the checking account and \$1333.20 in savings. We now have 96 paid up members.

2. John, W9EN, reported that club programs are filled through August. He also reported there was a brief outage in the Echolink node, due to a hard drive failure but that the problem has been fixed.

3. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported that the 440 crystal is back and should be installed shortly and the voice ID has been reprogrammed by John, WB6UHF.

4. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that she, Konrad, N6UKO, and Tony, KG6SXY attended the SATERN seminar in Riverside.

5. John, KG6DVE, reported that he has two prospects to become members. The net is going well but last Monday's net had a small turnout.

6. John, WB6UHF, reported that photos are more than welcome for the newsletter. He also reported that the first Field Day meeting will be March 9 at the Club's Birthday celebration.

9. Sam, N6SD reported that starting in February, SANDARC meetings will be held at the Kearny Lodge Mobile Home Park. A chairman for the San Diego Fair is still needed as well as a chairman for the 2006 ARRL Convention. There will be a meeting of all VE team leaders at 7pm, 19 Feb.

10. Nick, KK6TV, reported that Thomas, KG6INL, has received approval for EARS to use a larger room for the Club Auction.

11. Konrad, N6UKO suggested having water and soft drinks for sale at meetings.

12. John, KG6DVE, passed along a request from Ted, KD6AKT for the status of the packet node and if we could get it running. Marvin, WB6PKK reported that it had a programming problem and if Ted would get with Marvin they could fix the problem and get it back on the air.

13. The results of the CW Net vote were discussed. No action was taken. There will be a T-Hunt the last weekend of February.

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 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.

ESCONDIDO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
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